

Climate Change Working Group
Monday 5th December 2022 at 5.30 pm
Committee Room Dungannon
A G E N D A

1. Review of Terms of Reference (attached).
2. Update on internal actions/baselining work on Climate Change and Sustainability.
3. Presentation on the development of a Climate Change and Sustainable Development Strategy and Action Plan (Dr Francesca Di Palo, Sustainable NI).
4. Presentation on proposal for a Mid Ulster Decarbonisation Co-operative (Dr James Young, QUB).

Climate Action Working Group

DRAFT Terms of Reference

Purpose - The Group will provide a forum for discussion between politicians, business leaders, NGOs and academics, to drive forward climate action and sustainable development in Mid Ulster.

Mission - to influence policymaking and put climate action and sustainability at the centre of political decision making in Mid Ulster.

Function - to consider the potential implications of climate change for Mid Ulster and make recommendations to Council on interventions to help Mid Ulster transition to a low-carbon, climate resilient and sustainable economy.

Specific functions include:

Democratic Scrutiny of: Council input in relation to priority climate and sustainability issues, and to develop regional policy approaches on these and related issues.

Monitoring the progress of Council on climate change and sustainable development approaches, including relationships with arms-length bodies

Oversight of the partnership work between local and central government and their partners on delivery of key climate and sustainability issues impacting on citizens, and over which councils and government can influence.

Promotion of good practice: Development of collaborative approaches, development of Councillor and awareness of the issues through the provision of evidence from other parties about the risks, opportunities and solutions in relation to climate change and sustainable development. Ensuring congruence with the Councils Corporate Plan and Community Plan

Lobbying for improvements in policy and for resources to deliver this agenda

Membership

Membership of the Group will be cross party and include 10 representatives from the main political parties in Mid Ulster.

Frequency of meetings

It is proposed that the Working Group will normally meet quarterly (Late April, July, October and January).

External Groups

The Group will have a working relationship with external groups as appropriate.

Governance

That the Working Group would Report through to Council via the Environment Committee

Update on Internal Actions on Climate Change and Sustainability for Climate Change Working Group Meeting

05/12/22

1. Corporate Improvement Objective One

The Council Corporate Improvement Objective One (CIP1) is “*Mid Ulster District Council will seek to reduce the environmental impacts of our own activities and will contribute to the improvement of the wider environment through local action*”.

CIP1 is the only current mechanism used to capture and detail the present environmental, sustainability and climate change related activities carried out by Mid Ulster District Council.

There are currently 22 actions for 2022/23 being delivered across the Council with some of the major ones related to climate change summarised below:

What are we going to do?	Progress Update
1. Plant additional trees at Tullyvar Landfill Site to add to the native woodlands previously created at Magheraglass and Ballymacombs Landfills.	During May/June 2021/22 - Tree planting was completed on site offsetting approx. 1,400 tonnes of carbon and a funding claim submitted to DAERA for £20,232. During Q2 Year 1 funding of £15,834.60 was received from DAERA
2. Increase the Council recycling rate to further boost the carbon reductions associated with recycling.	Q1 recycling rate of 61.59%. The tonnage recycled in Q1 offsets approx. 7,900 tonnes of carbon equivalent. The redevelopment of Magherafelt Recycling Centre currently in progress using a capital grant from the DAERA Household Waste Recycling Collaborative Change Programme. Site expected to be re-opened in November 2022.

What are we going to do?	Progress Update
3. Manage Landfill Gas emissions at the Tullyvar, Magheraglass, Ballymacombs Landfill sites and seek opportunities for Further Renewable Energy Projects	Both LFG plants operational over 90% of the time in Q1 & Q2. Income and generation figures expected in Q3.
4. Increase participation in the Eco-Schools programme, which encourages and directs young people to think about climate action including litter, recycling, energy saving, and water conservation	100% of schools registered (123). 80 schools have achieved at least one Green Flag award since registering on programme (65% of schools). 39 (32%) schools with current Green Flag (awarded within the last two years). NI average 22%. An additional 16 schools whose Green Flags have lapsed or who have not yet achieved this level are currently preparing a Green Flag application which they hope to submit during this academic year. Recycling Officer will continue to engage with schools whose Green Flag awards are due for renewal within the academic year to encourage and assist with renewal applications. Contact will also be made with schools who have not yet achieved Green Flag status since registering on the programme to encourage them to work towards the award during this academic year if possible.
6. Number of homes helped to improve the energy efficiency of their homes - (linkages to affordable warmth).	During Q1 there were 53 homes helped by providing energy efficiency advice and 80 referrals for households eligible for Affordable Warmth scheme. During Q2 there were 38 homes helped by providing energy efficiency advice and 60 referrals for households eligible for Affordable Warmth scheme.

What are we going to do?	Progress Update
14. Introduce and pilot sustainability assessment (screening tool) for 50% capital projects (Early stages).	To be progressed once the new Sustainability Officer is in post.
16. Research the application and introduction of alternative fuelled Vehicles/Diverse Plant into Council's Fleet and develop Fossil Fuel Usage Baseline Report on Fleet/diverse plant.	Council agreed in Q1 to purchase small vehicles through direct award, including electric vans. In Q2, 4 Electric powered vans purchased and in operation and monitoring commenced.
17. Research and develop a Mid Ulster District Council's Estates Carbon Management Plan 20/21 and by 21/22 develop monitoring arrangements for MUDC properties reference the impact of : 1. Emissions. 2. Fossil Fuel Consumption. 3. Energy Usage / Source	Display Energy Certificates (DEC's) completed and reported to Committee Ongoing consideration in context of climate change baselining exercise in conjunction with Environmental Services.
18. Develop and agree Hybrid Working as part of flexible working arrangements policy - by September 2021.	Draft Hybrid Working Procedures updated following initial discussion with Trade Unions in Q2. Updated Hybrid Working Procedures to be reviewed by SMT in Q3
19. Progress to Stage 3 of the NI Climate Adaptation Planning Cycle i.e. complete Stage 3 of the NI Adapts Planning Toolkit.	Progress meeting held with ClimateNI to discuss progress. 2nd Adaptation workshop planned to take place in Q4 following the preparation of a draft risk register.

What are we going to do?	Progress Update
20. Prepare a Climate Change and Sustainable Development Strategy and Action Plan	Successfully obtained funding of £5,000 from the Live Here Love Here Climate Challenge Fund. Currently working with SustainableNI for development of a Climate Change and Sustainable Development Strategy Action Plan. Data collection continuing with focus initially on Scope 1 & 2 emissions i.e. heating, vehicle fuel & electricity usage.
21. Raise business awareness of the climate crisis and what practical measures businesses can implement to reduce their carbon footprint through the delivery of an "On the Road to Net Zero" information and networking event as part of Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2022.	Online Event took place on Wednesday 16th November 10-11am as part of Mid Ulster Enterprise Week (14th to 18th November). Jamie Delargy hosted a panel of experts: Steven Agnew, RenewableNI, Bernadette Convery, Invest NI and Mareanne Bradley, Specialist Group, who talked about the benefits of achieving Net Zero, how to get there, supports available as well as how to overcome challenges along the way.

2. Local Carbon Offset Fund

NI has set an ambitious climate target of achieving Net Zero emissions by 2050 and the Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2019-2024 includes several adaptation actions under key priority areas. Many organisations across NI have set ambitious net zero targets. Whilst these will mostly be delivered through emission reductions, it is likely that most organisations will need to off-set the emissions they cannot avoid or reduce by paying for a carbon credit, which allows them to pay for an equivalent amount of emissions to be reduced or removed elsewhere. Most off-setting projects are in developing countries but there is anecdotal evidence that there is an appetite among NI companies to off-set their emissions via local projects.

Working in partnership, a number of Councils have identified a need to carry out a desktop review to quantify the opportunity for establishing a regional Carbon Offset Fund that could be used to finance a pipeline of climate investments across NI. These could range from investments in energy efficiency, decarbonised heating supply and renewable energy to habitat restoration and other nature-based solutions that enhance resilience and sequester carbon. This project would be a collaborative exercise between Mid Ulster District Council, Derry City and Strabane District

Council, Belfast City Council, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, Ards and North Down Council, and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. The overall objective is to undertake a mapping exercise to help the partners understand the extent of the opportunity for local off-setting in NI.

This would require a joint procurement by interested Councils to identify a suitably qualified supplier with experience and expertise in climate finance and developing climate plans and programmes, to undertake a mapping exercise to help us understand the extent of the opportunity for local off-setting in NI.

This work is being aligned with ongoing work by SIB and DAERA to develop funding mechanisms to deliver against Net Zero targets. The off-setting fund would provide a source of finance to support the development and delivery of a Net Zero pipeline as well as help to deliver against targets in the Energy Strategy and the Green Growth Strategy but in a very place-specific (rather than sector or departmental based) fashion.

This is an initial piece of mapping work to develop the evidence base and provide an opportunity for the Councils, SIB, DfE and DAERA to start working together on the financing / delivery challenge. It would need to be followed up with further scoping work.

The intended outcome is that, based on a survey of emitters from key sectors, the potential for establishing a local off-setting fund will be better understood along with an estimate of the potential annual income that could be achieved by such a scheme. It is anticipated that the survey results will lead onto further preparatory work that could be used as part of a business case or funding application. In particular, the survey will determine the following:

- 1) What is the current value of the offset market in Mid Ulster District Council and more widely across NI i.e. what amount of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions are currently offset?
- 2) What level of investment is needed to satisfy GHG offset targets currently?
- 3) What is the current trend in offsetting across the organisations (increasing / decreasing)?
- 4) What is the likely value of the offset market in Mid Ulster District Council and more widely across NI through to 2030 based on trends in carbon prices and expected volume of offsetting?
- 5) Who are the largest emitters? What is their individual and combined GHG emission output?
- 6) What is the level of interest from organisations (public, private) in offsetting locally?
- 7) How much of their current offset would they be willing to channel into a local fund?
- 8) What types of projects are they interested in? Are there any restrictions on what they can and can't fund?
- 9) What are the key barriers or enablers to offsetting locally?
- 10) What type of support do they require in relation to carbon offsetting?

- 11) Highlight examples of best practice elsewhere which can be shared with others, and which highlight the opportunities for regional carbon offsetting.

The costs for this study would be divided across the eight participating Councils, with a contribution of £2,500 required from Mid Ulster District Council.

3. Climate Change Adaptation Plan

The Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP) sets out Northern Ireland's adaptation approach and actions for the period 2019 – 2024. The 2019 NICCAP report, for the first time, provided an outline of how local government will contribute to addressing these climate change risks and opportunities and featured a 'Civil Society and Local Government Adapts' chapter which included the following action (as agreed by SOLACE, NI Local Government Association, Climate NI and Sustainable NI):

Work with Local Councils to embed the adaptation cycle across council planning, with the aim of encouraging councils to complete a minimum of:

- *Step 1 by 2021 (Developing an Adaptation Planning Working Group)*
- *Step 4 by 2024 (Completing full Adaptation Plan including Risk Register).*

Since late 2021 officers from the Environment Directorate have been engaging with Climate NI which has provided carbon literacy training and a local council climate change adaptation guidance and support tool developed to aid NI Councils implement their climate change adaptation plans.

Mid Ulster District Council has completed Step 1 and 2 of the NIAdapts Adaptation Planning Toolkit and is currently on Step 3. As part of Step 1 a core working group of 6 officers from the Environment Directorate was set up. The next stage involved a wider workshop involving representatives from each service. In advance of this workshop, GIS maps showing Council assets, with layers for climate change projections from NI Flood Maps, were made available on the Council Intranet for all staff to use. The Council is now at Step 3 which involves developing drafts of the risk register in advance of holding a third workshop in early 2023.

4. Climate Change & Sustainable Development Strategy & Action Plan

Northern Ireland has passed its first Climate Bill after it was voted through at the Stormont Assembly on 9th March. The bill commits Northern Ireland to a net zero greenhouse gas emissions target by 2050. Within the Bill there is provision for DAERA to impose specified climate change reporting duties on public bodies. This will require Council to prepare reports including a statement of the authority's proposals and policies for adapting to, or mitigating the effects of, climate change in the exercise of its functions and an assessment of the progress of the authority towards implementing these proposals and policies. This will require Mid Ulster District Council to prepare a Climate Change and Sustainable Development Strategy and Action Plan and associated performance reporting framework.

In recent years Sustainable NI (SNI) has become the key instrumental body in providing expert advice to local authorities on the legislative requirements needed to comply with the Sustainable Development Duty and to keep abreast on new environmental and sustainability developments and policies. Mid Ulster District Council currently supports the work of SNI through an annual subscription payment.

In April the Council successfully obtained funding of £5,000 from the Live Here Love Here Climate Challenge Fund to help with preparing a Climate Change and Sustainable Development Strategy and Action Plan. SustainableNI was subsequently appointed to assist the Council with the preparation of this plan. Work is currently ongoing around data collection with a focus initially on Scope 1 & 2 emissions i.e. heating, vehicle fuel & electricity usage. Workshops are being planned for January 2023, to discuss potential actions and targets, and will involve representatives from each service.

Update on Baseline Work on Climate Change and Sustainability for Climate Change Working Group Meeting

05/12/22

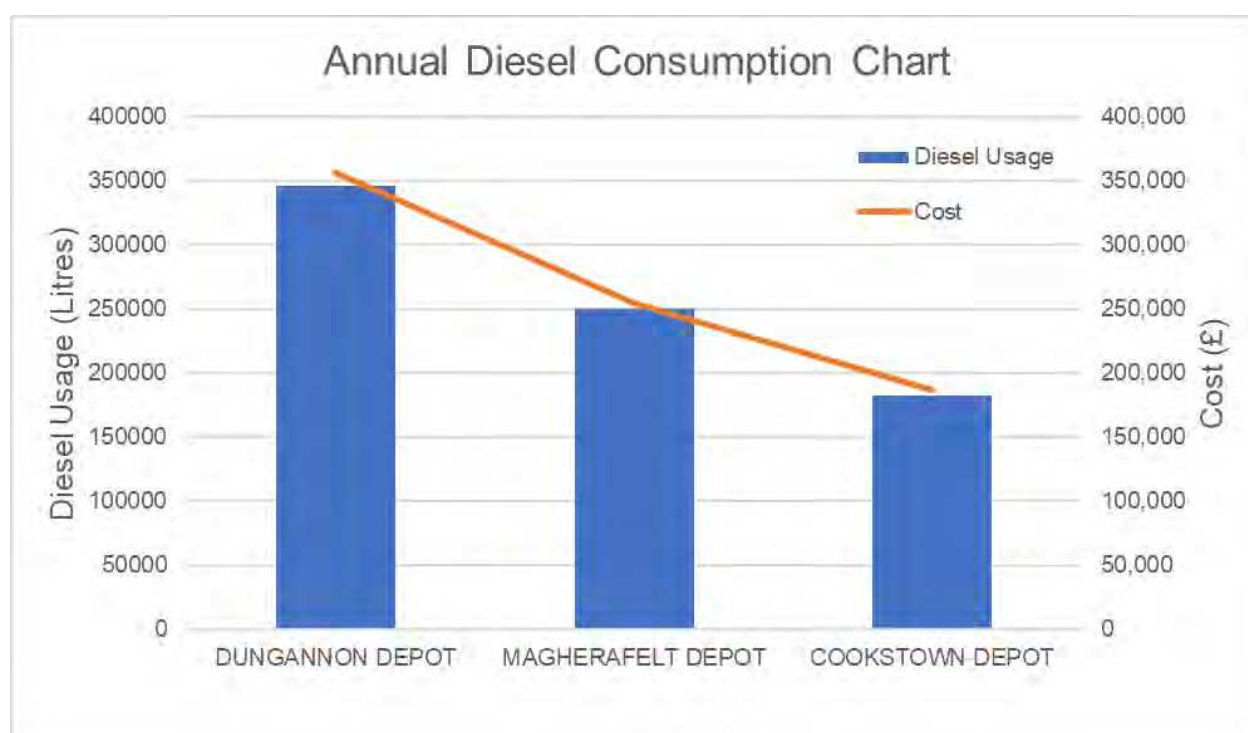
1. Baseline Data 2019 - 2020

The first stage of the Climate Change & Sustainable Development Strategy & Action Plan involves the collection of energy data for establishing a baseline for carbon emissions. The baseline year chosen was the 2019 – 2020 financial year as the 2020 – 2021 financial year would have been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The main findings of this data collection exercise are presented in the table below:

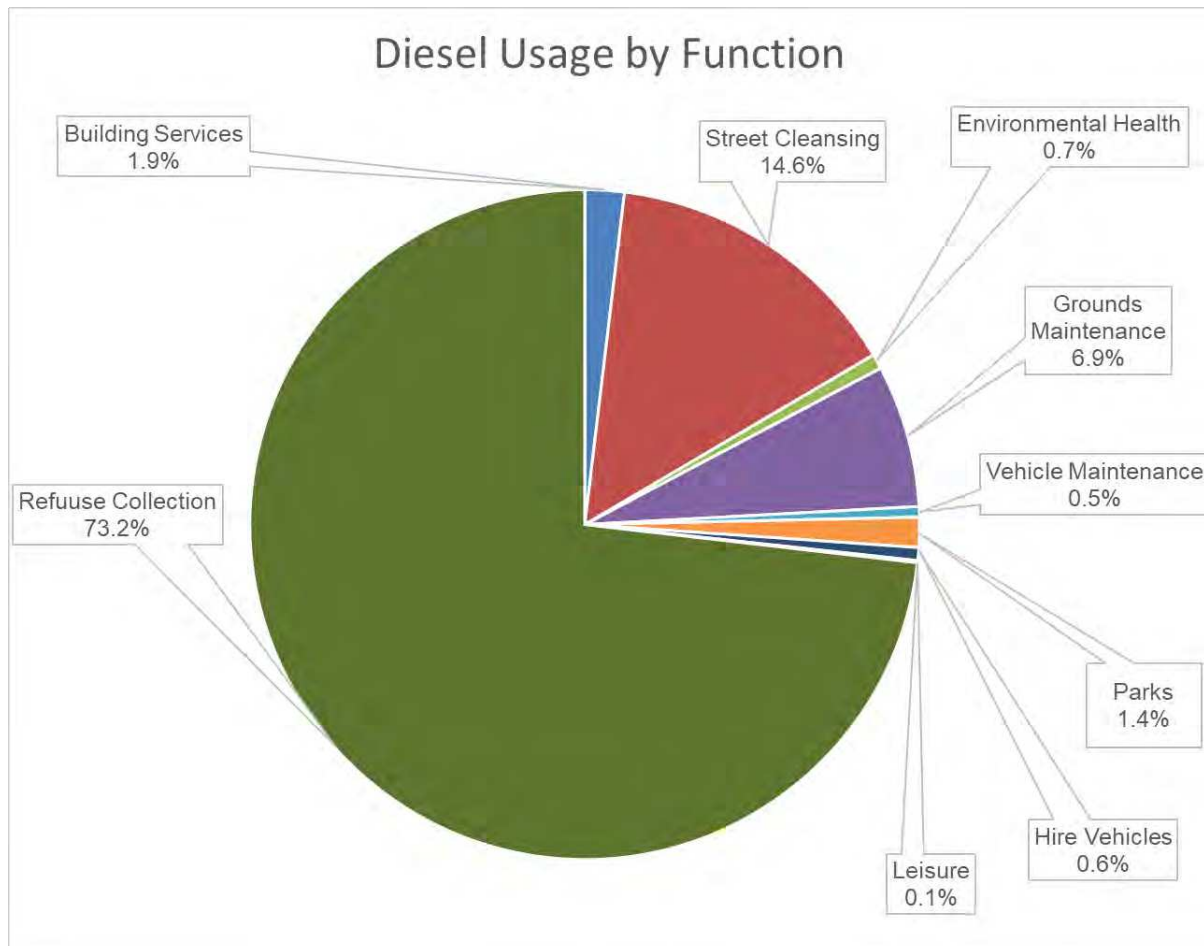
Activity	Quantity	Emissions (Tonnes CO_{2e})
<i>Vehicle Fuel (Diesel)</i>	885,506 Litres	2,297.10
<i>Electricity</i>	6,717,076 kWhrs	1,716.88*
<i>Heating (Red Diesel)</i>	460,968 Litres	1,183.58
<i>Heating (Kerosene)</i>	305,336 Litres	753.42
<i>Heating (Wood Pellets)</i>	3,879,437 kWhrs	60.64
<i>Heating (Natural Gas)</i>	8359 kWhrs	1.54
<i>Total</i>	-	6,013.16

* Some of these carbon emissions may be offset from the use of renewable energy sources by our electricity provider.

The Councils largest carbon footprint in the baseline year comes from vehicle fuel, using 885,506 litres at a cost of £855,211. The below chart shows the breakdown of diesel usage from the Council depots, which accounts for most of the Councils diesel usage.

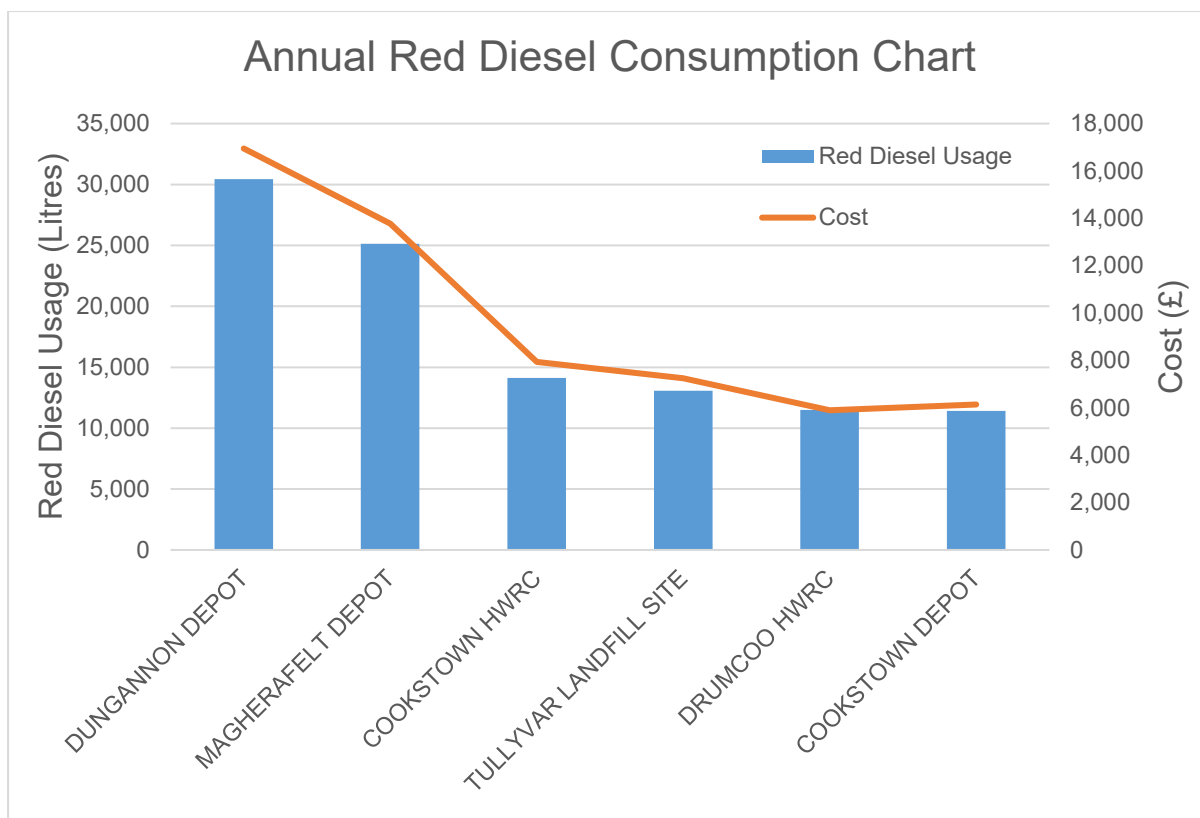


This diesel use can be further analysed in the chart below which shows the breakdown of the fuel use by Council function. Refuse collection used the most diesel with 73.2% of all usage followed by street cleansing at 14.6% and grounds maintenance at 6.9%.



In the future it will also be necessary to collect data around use of employees cars for business use through mileage and expenses claims and data from employees commute to work.

The chart overleaf shows the breakdown of red diesel usage from the major Council locations that used this in on-site plant, grass cutting equipment, generators etc... Since this is no longer permitted and clear diesel must be used the Councils current costs assuming similar usage will be considerably higher.



When the figures are combined the use of fuel oils for heating Council buildings are the next highest carbon footprint, with a combined usage of 766,304 litres of kerosene and red diesel at a cost of £370,674.

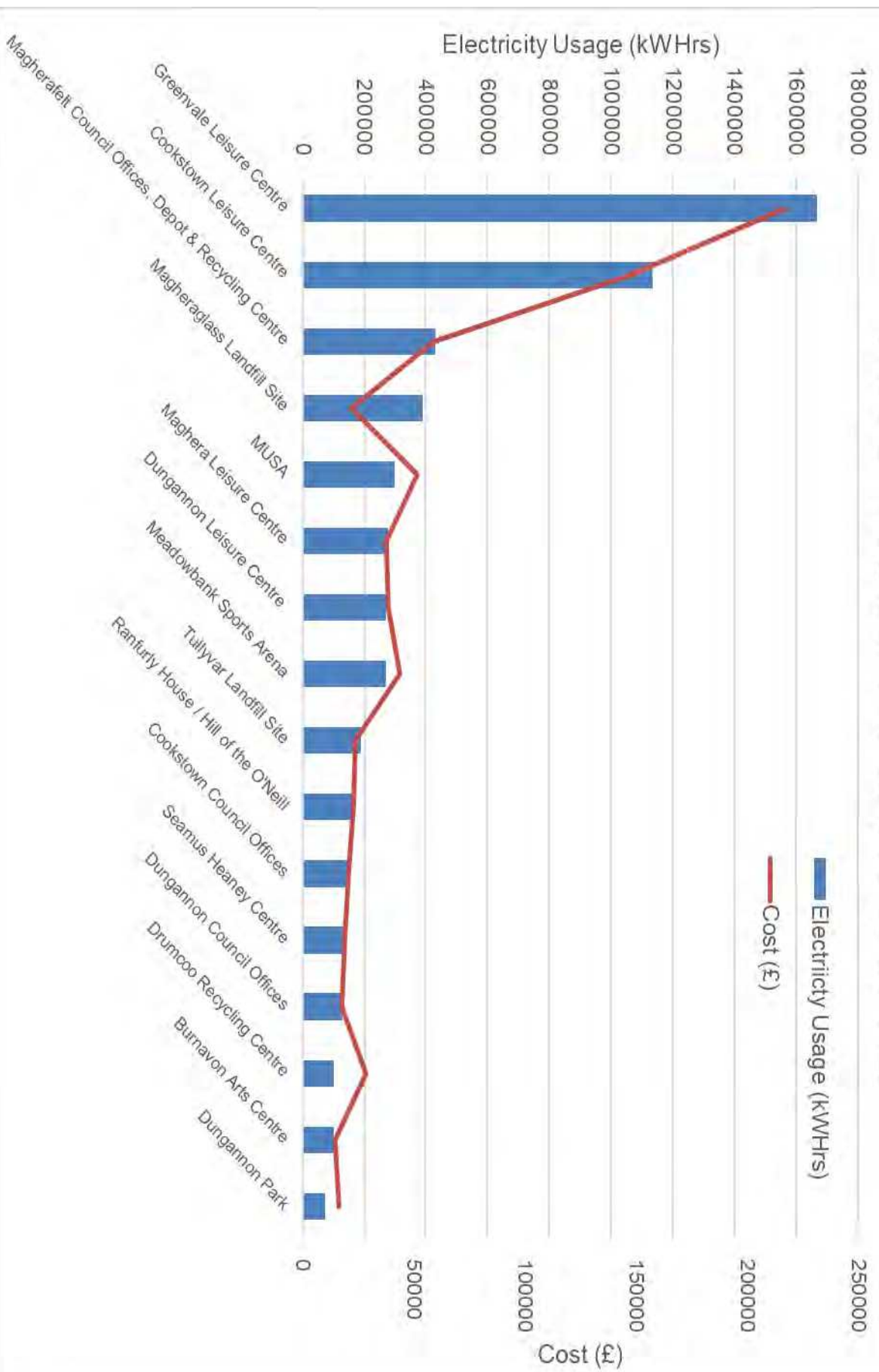
To reduce the reliance on fuel oils for heating, Greenvale and Cookstown leisure centres make use of wood pellets. Wood pellets have a much lower carbon footprint (by a factor of approx. 15 times less) per kWhr of energy than the other fuel types currently used.

The Council's third largest carbon footprint is electricity, using 6,717,076 kWhrs at a cost of £907,997.85. The chart overleaf shows the breakdown of electricity usage from the major Council locations. The largest users are the Council's leisure centres, especially those with swimming pools. It should be noted that Dungannon leisure Centre would have been in the top 3 users but in the baseline year the swimming pool was closed for refurbishment for approx. 8 months. The reduction in electricity use caused by this is approx. 300k – 400k kWhrs.

These costs are for the 2019-20 financial year so the Council's current costs, assuming similar energy usage, will now be considerably higher, further underlining the rationale for implementing energy efficiency measures and low carbon alternatives across the Council estate.

Ofgem estimates that a typical household uses approx. 2,900 kWhrs of electricity per annum and a further 12,000 kWhrs for heating. The total of the Council's usage for electricity and heat is 18,267,912 kWhrs which would be equivalent to around 1,200 houses or a town the size of Fivemiletown or Bellaghy.

Annual Electricity Consumption Chart by Building



Mid Ulster Carbon Cluster

5th December 2022

Dr. James Young

Chemical Engineer in Decarbonization & Sustainability

Decarbonization via a cross-sectoral approach through energy creation, transmission & distribution within Local Communities



supported by



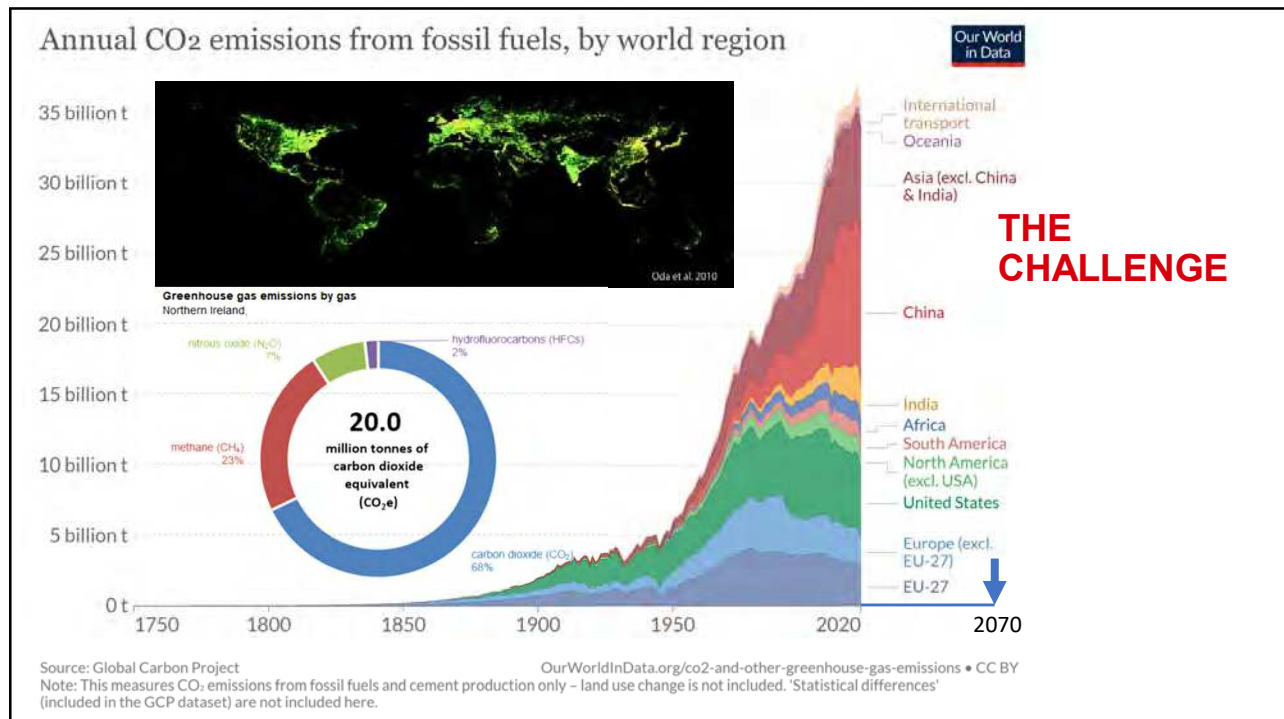
UK Government
This project is funded by the UK Government through the UK Community Renewal Fund



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

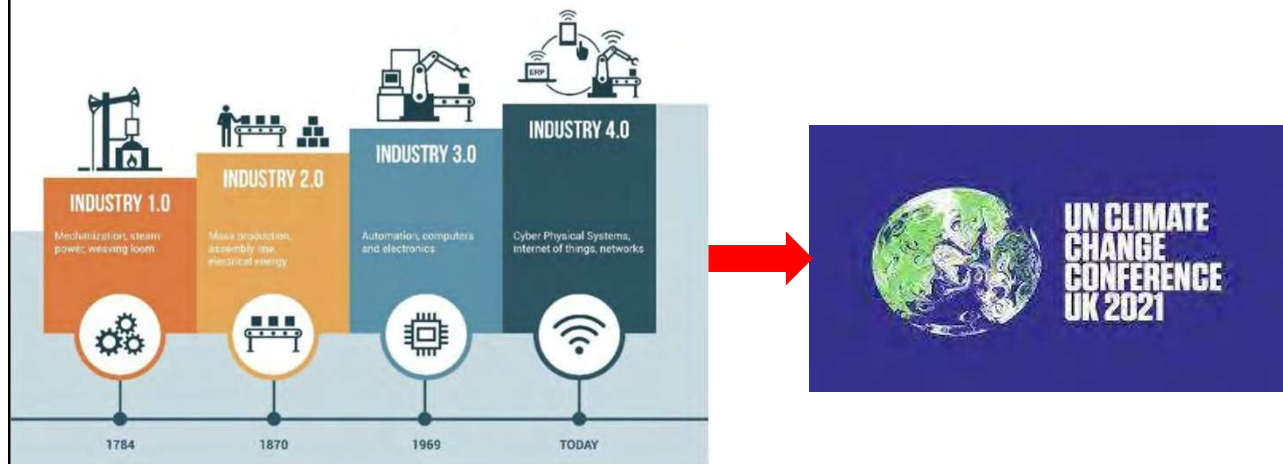


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2

Industrial Revolution- Where Next?



Industry 5.0 – The roll out of decarbonization and sustainability, growth of self sufficiency

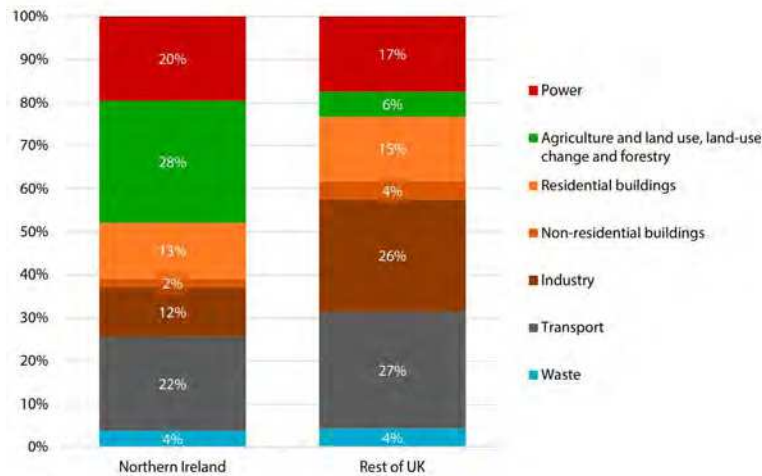
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Every Country is Different



4

Emissions in 2016 by sector in Northern Ireland compared to the rest of the UK



Reducing emissions in Northern Ireland, Committee on Climate Change February 2019

Greenhouse gas emissions by gas within sector N. Ireland (2019, DAERA)

Sector	CO ₂	CH ₄	N ₂ O
Agriculture	0.6	3.7	1.3
Business	2.0	0.0	0.0
Energy supply	2.8	0.0	0.0
Industrial process	0.2	0.0	0.0
Land use change	2.0	0.3	0.2
Public	0.1	0.0	0.0
Residential	2.8	0.1	0.0
Transport	4.2	0.0	0.0
Waste management	0.0	0.7	0.0
Total	14.6	4.8	1.7

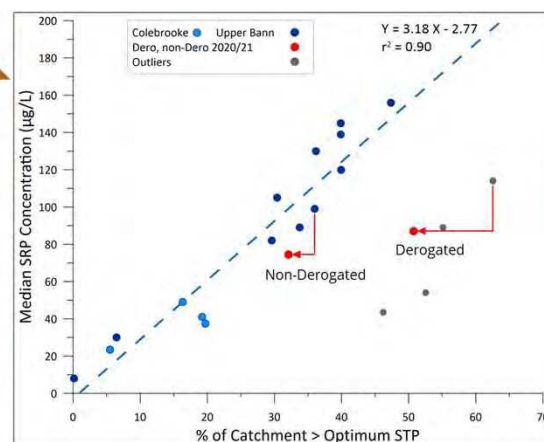
Species	Global Warming Potential (100 year time horizon, IPCC 4 th Assessment)
Carbon dioxide	1
Methane	25
Nitrous oxide	298

5

Changing Water Quality?

- High P soils and deteriorating water quality (SRP)
- By redistributing slurry P, evidence shows that water quality can improve some.
 - Increased liming – optimised nutrient utilisation
 - Reduction in soil P – less excess, less potential loss to the environment
 - Very low P soils need addressed on a farm-by-farm basis
- Still significant land with excessive P

Worsening water quality

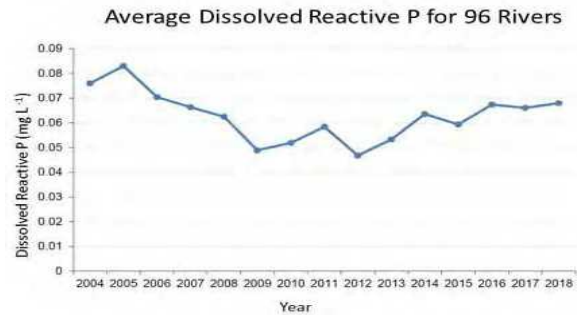
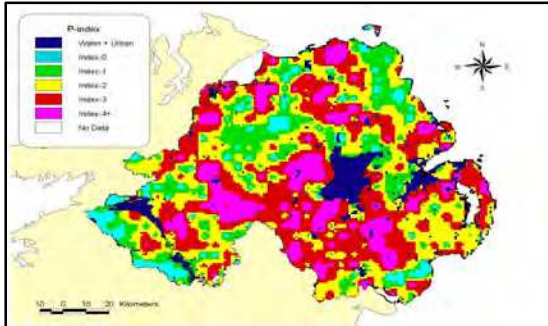


Excess Soil P

6

Impact of P Loss from Soils

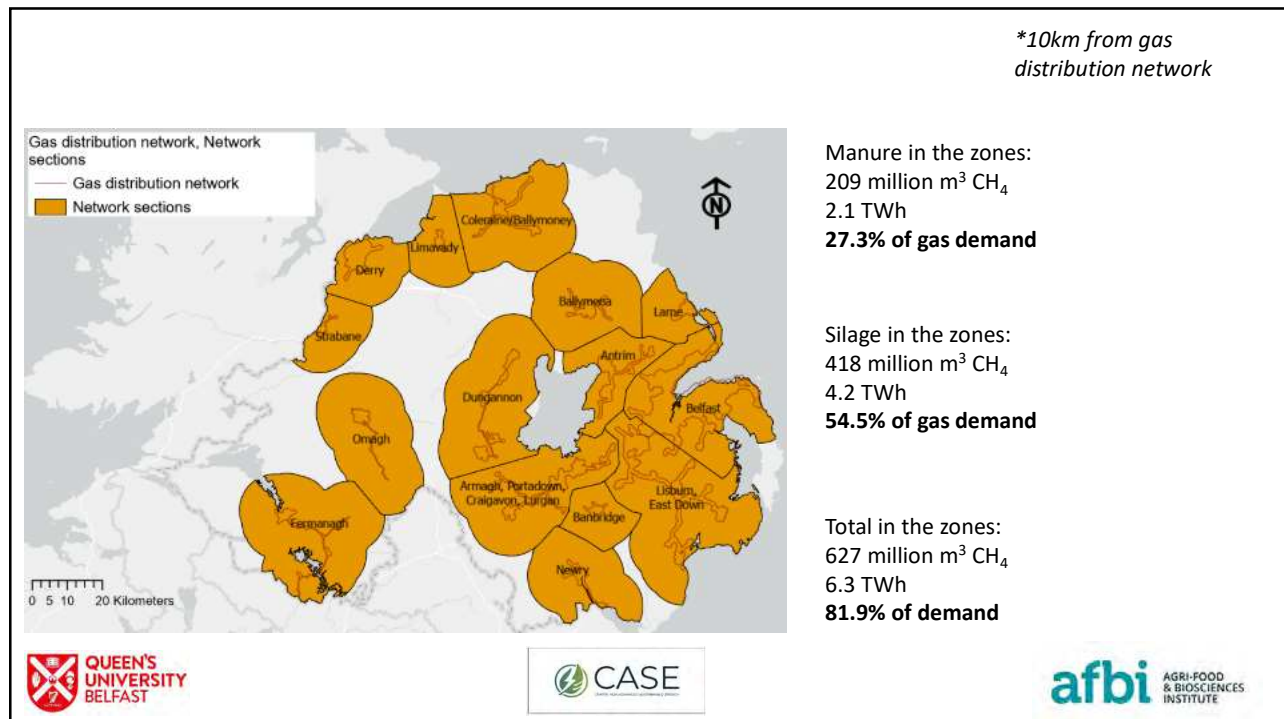
Soluble Reactive Phosphorus (SRP) (127 NI rivers, NIEA)



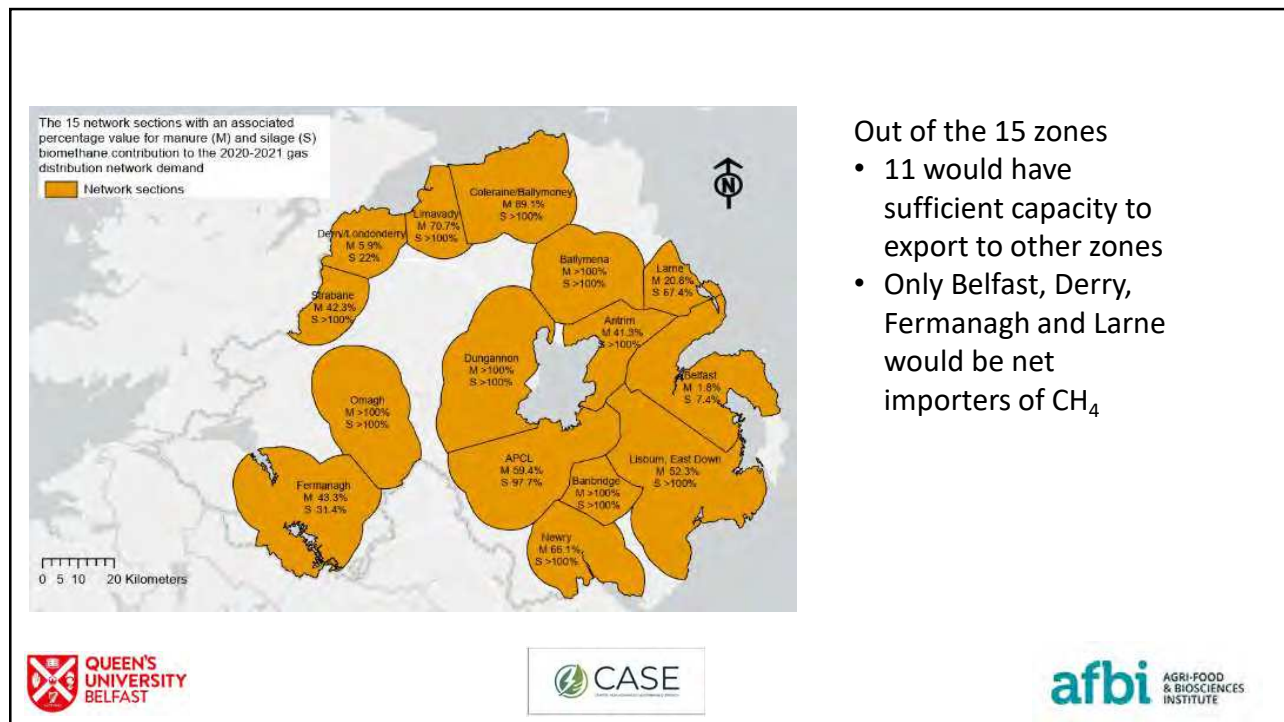
- Until recently, P concentrations in NI rivers had been declining.
- In the past 5 years, however, P levels appear to have been rising again.
- 55% of waterbodies at 'good' or high status based on DRP only

afbi AGRI-FOOD & BIOSCIENCES INSTITUTE

7



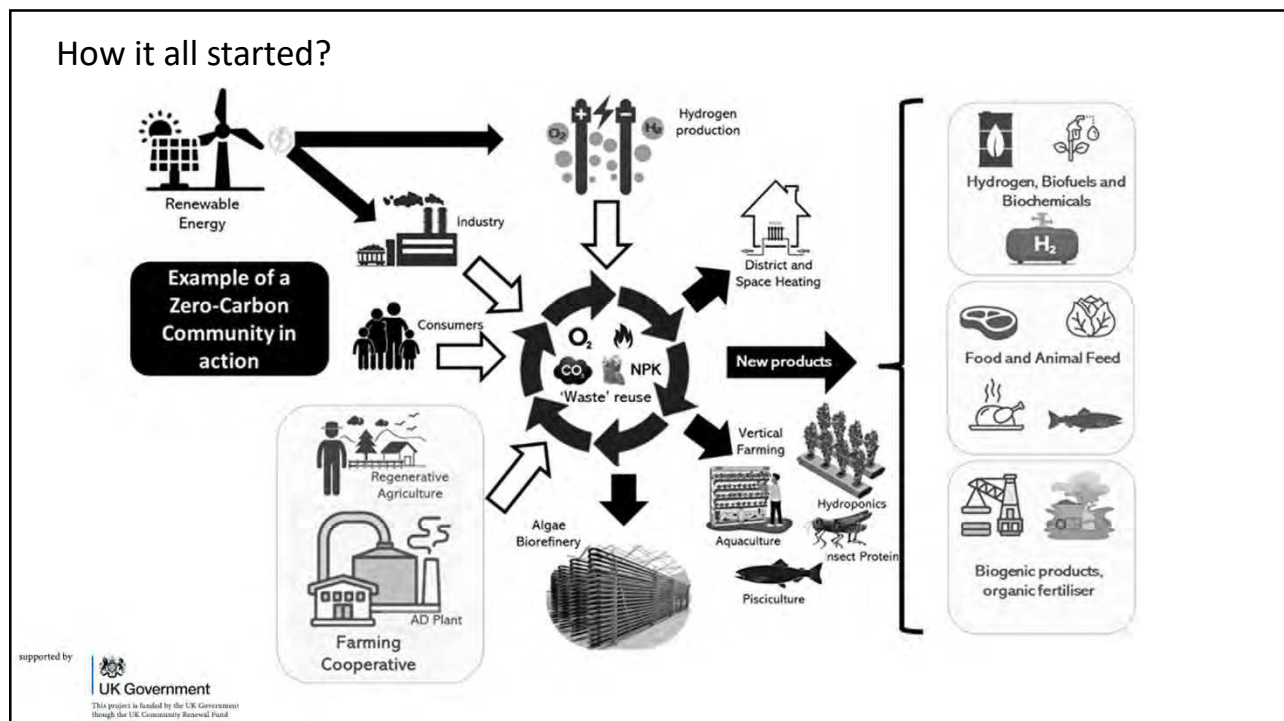
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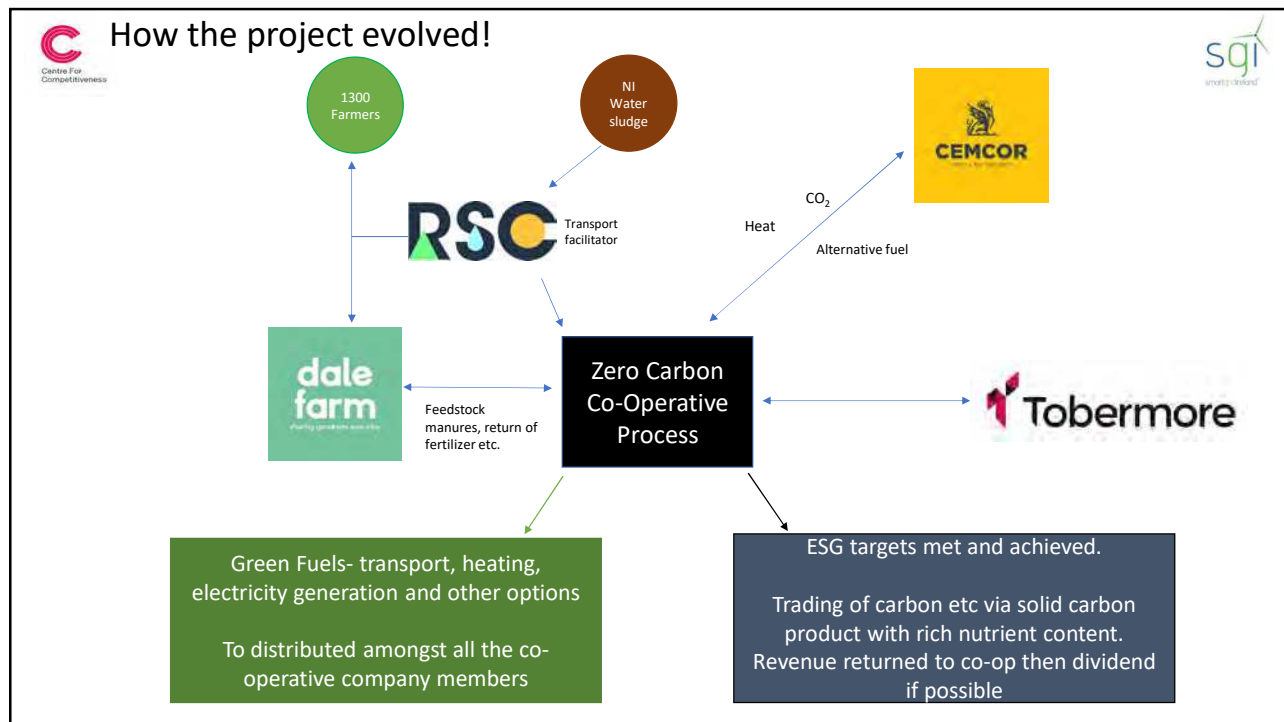
Out of the 15 zones

- 11 would have sufficient capacity to export to other zones
- Only Belfast, Derry, Fermanagh and Larne would be net importers of CH₄

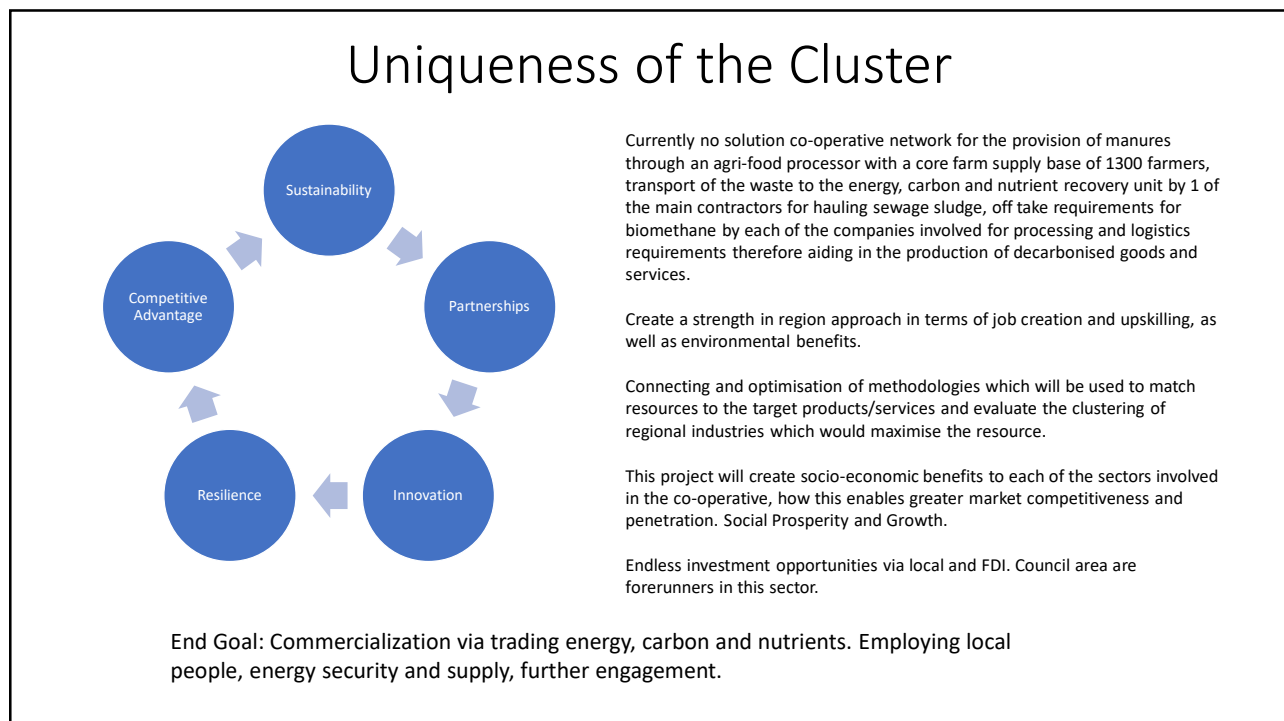
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10



11



12




SMART GRID IRELAND ENERGY CLUSTER

***Centre for Competitiveness
NI TECHNOLOGY CENTRE
CLOREEN PARK
QUEENS UNIVERSITY BELFAST***



13




Operating Principles



1. All Ireland Representation and Engagement in Smart Energy Development
2. Not For Profit, Independent Cluster of Energy Connected Organisations
3. Provides an Industry / Net-Zero Network Framework for Transformation Engaging with the Utilities, System Operators, Regulators, both Governments & Academia
3. Supports the EU Directive on Energy Security & Sustainability
4. Takes a Long-Term, Stakeholder Centric View of Decarbonisation and the Net Zero Infrastructure in Transition
5. Facilitates Potential Demonstration Project Opportunities

14





SGI Sample Membership





















































15





How do SGI Help?



COLLABORATE:

INFORM:

CONNECT:

ENABLE:

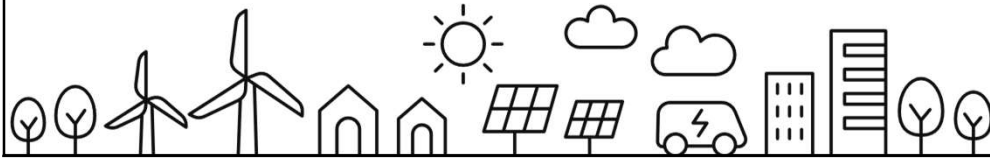
CREATE:

- **PROVIDE FRAMEWORKS FOR COLLABORATION**
- **FACILITATE COLLABORATION – Project Management**
- **ENGAGE MULTINATIONAL SUPPORTSPV'S, Investment etc..**
- **ALL ISLAND NETWORK**

16



MUDC Sustainability Strategy and Climate Action Plan



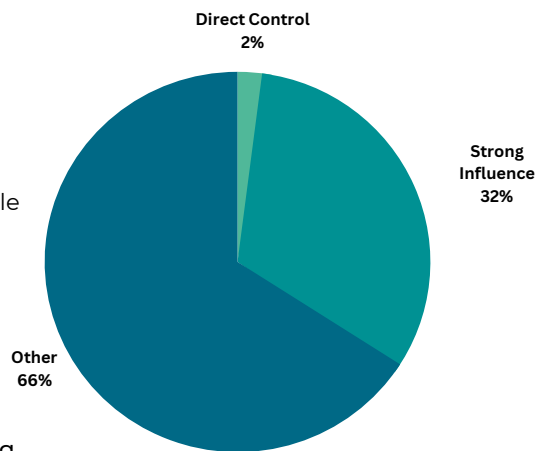
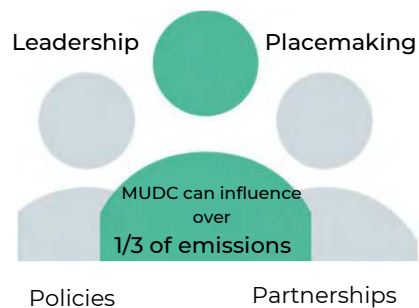
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Mid Ulster District Council SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY AND CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

SNI Work Update

Background

Local authority directly responsible
for 2-5% of local emissions



2

SNI Work Update

Background



Section 25 - Statutory duty to promote the achievement of sustainable development
 Section 42 - Departmental climate action plans, sectoral plans required to establish regulations on climate change reporting

3

SNI Work Update

Background

The Mid Ulster District Council Sustainability Strategy and Climate Action Plan 2023-2028 will

Demonstrate delivery of the agreed outcomes and actions

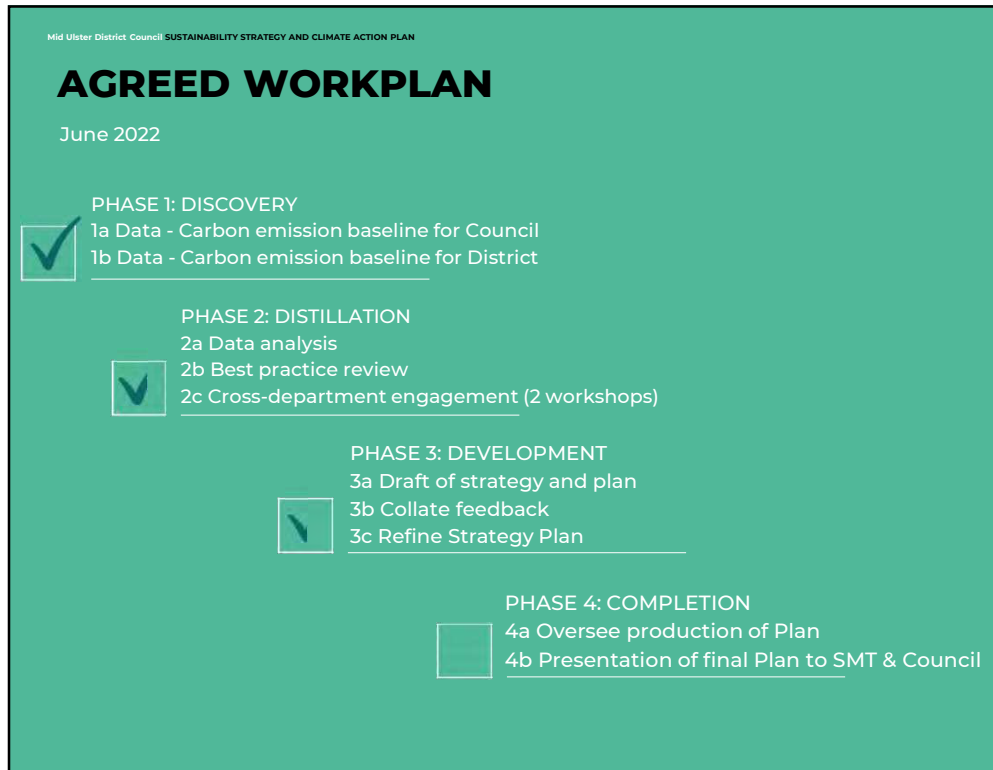
Be monitored by Performance Reporting with agreement on reporting timeframes

Be compiled with a first draft and a potential final version by March 2023

Collate data on the agreed baseline year 2019-2020

Be compatible with the Council's obligations under the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

4



5



6

AGREED WORKPLAN

November - March 2023

SNI Actions

2 Workshops Content Development

Strategy Outline and GHG emissions analysis

Delivery of two workshops and CAP first draft

CAP presentation to relevant Council Committee

Expected Outcomes

Cross-departmental audience engagement

Strategy content, key figures and design

Climate Action Plan and SM sign-off

Final Approval

7

KEY FIGURES AND PROJECTIONS

A SUMMARY CARBON ROADMAP



£ 498 million

A total of £498 million was spent in 2020 on all energy and fuel bills



19%

That means that 19% of everything that is earned leaves the area to pay the energy bill



£ 135 million

If it invested in all of the profitable energy efficiency and low carbon options, total energy bills would be cut by £135 million a year

8

KEY FIGURES AND PROJECTIONS

BEIS GHG EMISSIONS - 2020 Data



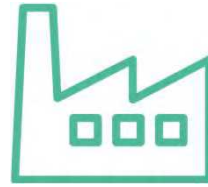
£ 6 million

Households in the area would save £6 million a year from their energy bill



£ 0.6 million

Schools, hospitals, offices, shops and restaurants in the area would save £0.6 million a year from their energy bill



£ 91 million

The area's industry could cut its fuel costs by £91 million a year

SOURCE Place-Based Climate Network - Leeds University

9

KEY FIGURES AND PROJECTIONS

BEIS GHG EMISSIONS - 2020 Data



2,969 Years

Doing this would lead to the creation of an extra 2,969 years of employment in the area



14 %

This would mean the area's carbon emissions would fall by 14% over and above what is already expected



Priceless

And that would mean a happier, healthier, more prosperous and resilient area for all!

SOURCE Place-Based Climate Network - Leeds University

10

RECOMMENDATIONS

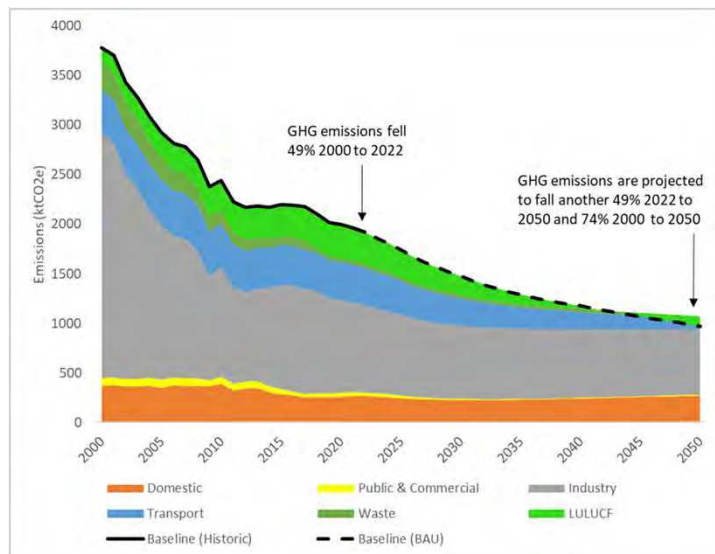
Mid Ulster District Area 'Fair' Contribution towards the Paris Climate Agreement

- 1** Stay within the calculated 8.7 MtCO₂ area's emission budget for the 2020-2100 timeframe
- 2** Immediate CO₂ mitigation programme to cut emissions by 14.1% per year
- 3** 2040 Net Zero target (95% of recommended Carbon Budget emitted)

SOURCE Tyndall Centre - The University of Manchester

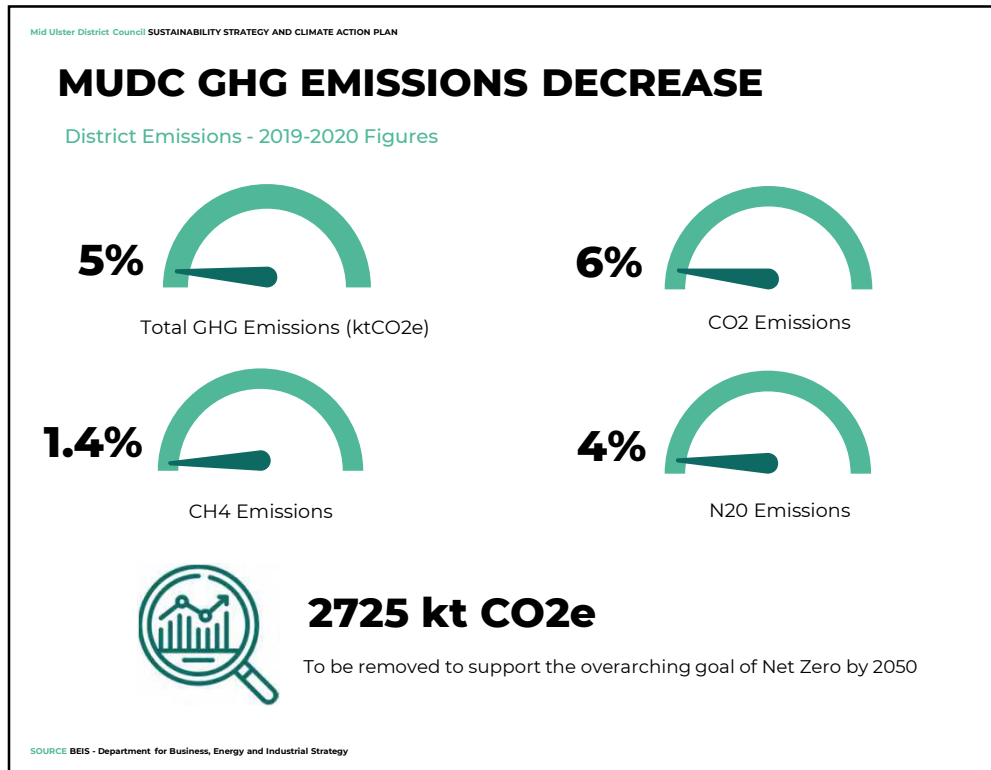
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MUDC BASELINE EMISSIONS



SOURCE Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

12



13

Sustainable
Northern Ireland

INFORM | REFORM | TRANSFORM

Sustainable NI is committed to further assisting our clients/members in understanding what they can do to help tackle climate change and make their organisation more sustainable.

SUSTAINABLENI.ORG

14

**MINUTES OF CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 5TH
DECEMBER 2022 AT 5.30 PM IN DUNGANNON COUNCIL OFFICES COMMITTEE ROOM**

PRESENT

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Corry
Councillor Graham

**OFFICERS IN
ATTENDANCE:**

A-M Campbell – Strategic Director of Environment
M McAdoo – Assistant Director, Environmental Services
K McGowan – Waste Disposal and Contracts Manager

**OTHERS IN
ATTENDANCE:**

Dr Francesca Di Palo - Sustainable Northern Ireland (SNI)
Dr James Young – Queens University Belfast (QUB)
Martin Doherty - Centre for Advanced Sustainable Energy (CASE)

APOLOGIES:

Councillor McPeake, Councillor Molloy

Meeting commenced at 5.45pm with Members and Officers only

1.0 Review of Terms of Reference – see Appendix A

A draft Terms of Reference paper was presented by A-M Campbell.

Councillor Corry asked about the option of virtual meetings considering the climate change impact of commuting to in person meetings. After discussion it was agreed to keep the Terms of Reference as per the version presented.

2.0 Update Report on Internal Actions on Climate Change and Sustainability for Climate Change – see Appendix B

M McAdoo presented 12 actions from Corporate Improvement Objective One that related to climate change, circulating copies to the members and officers present.

Following query from Councillor Graham in relation how good/bad electric vehicles are in practice. M McAdoo indicated the electrical vehicles would only be an option for smaller vehicles i.e. vans and not larger refuse vehicles.

2.1 Update on Baseline Work on Climate Change and Sustainability for Climate Change – see Appendix C

K McGowan presented the report, circulating copies to the members and officers present.

Following query on the costs outlined in the report, K McGowan indicated the figures are from Baseline Data 2019-2020 financial year as 2020-2021 figures were significantly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The figures could have risen by 30% in the current climate.

Following query from Councillor Corry regarding the implementation of solar panels on Council buildings. K McGowan indicated small solar panel arrays could be put on council buildings and larger panel arrays at landfill sites. Any future new builds could incorporate solar panels and heat pumps thus ensuring energy efficiency is implemented.

Presentations commenced at 6.10 pm from Dr Francesca Di Palo, Dr James Young and Martin Doherty.

3.0 Presentation on the development of a Climate Change and Sustainable Development Strategy and Action Plan

Dr Francesca Di Palo from Sustainable NI presented via PowerPoint (copy attached).

4.0 Presentation on proposal for a Mid Ulster Decarbonisation Co-operative

Dr James Young, QUB presented via PowerPoint (copy attached).

The Members and Officers thanked Dr Francesca Di Palo and Dr James Young for their presentations.

5.0 Any Other Business

No other business discussed

6.0 Date of Next Meeting

Next date to be confirmed

Meeting ended at 6.45pm