



**TED**

Tourism  
Enterprise Development  
Programme

# LEANER & GREENER

## NI Commitment to Climate Change

NI's commitment to climate  
change and how to apply this  
within your business



[tourismni.com/leanergreener](http://tourismni.com/leanergreener)

# Contents

**PART 1: INTRODUCTION**

**PART 2: HOSPITALITY & FOSSIL FUELS / USAGE**

**PART 3: RENEWABLE ENERGY OPTIONS AND BENEFITS**

**PART 4: CIRCULAR ECONOMY - TOURISM AND WASTE**

**PART 5: POLLUTION**

## PART 1: INTRODUCTION

Northern Ireland has committed to implementing climate action in all its sectors. With the growing need to deliver services in a more sustainable way, it's more important than ever to support the nation's move towards reducing its environmental impacts.

Tourism and hospitality are often at the forefront of social trends and ambitions. This toolkit will offer guidance on how your business can support NI's commitment to climate change in a way that will benefit your organisation, your community and the environment at large.

### Definition of Sustainable Tourism

“Tourism takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities.”

UN World  
Tourism  
Organisation

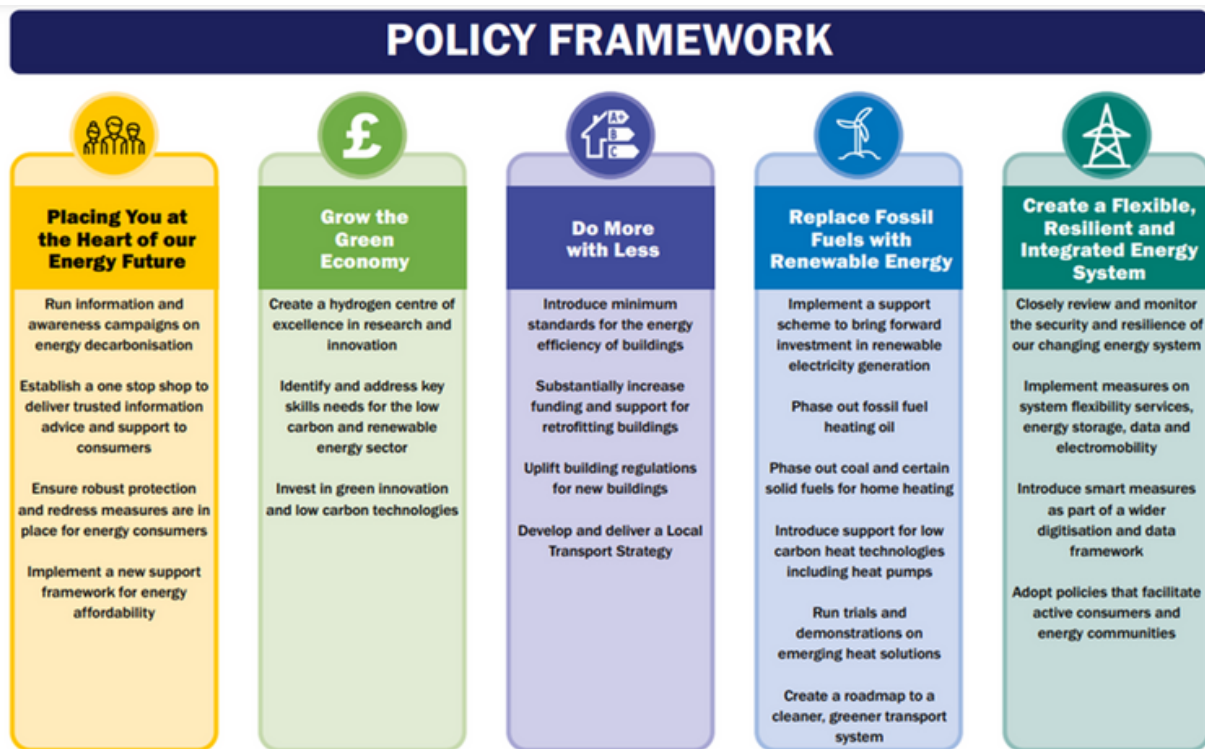
## PART 2: HOSPITALITY & FOSSIL FUELS/USAGE

The UK has taken big steps towards lowering its fossil fuel usage.

June 2019 marked the first time that a country has committed to reducing 100% of its Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 2050. The UK had done this through its amendment of the Climate Change Act.

Following this, the Northern Ireland Energy Strategy - the Path to Net Zero report was released outlining the roadmap for NI's contribution to the commitment.

the energy strategy involved 5 principles outlined below:



Graphic directly from the report <https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/articles/northern-ireland-energy-strategy-path-net-zero-energy>

Northern Ireland is progressing towards 100% renewable energy. Yet we are still far away from achieving this target. The biggest impact you can make in reducing your GHG emissions is to be more energy efficient.

**Businesses should be regularly investigating ways to be more energy efficient. A few steps to take include:**

1. Invest in more energy efficient processes
2. Switch it off
3. Reduce room temperature
4. Fix draughts
5. Use natural sunlight
6. Energy monitors
7. Installing timers and controls
  - “Heat it when you need it”
  - Use Timers
  - Use smart heating controls
8. Invest in more energy efficient appliances
9. Train staff on energy efficiency products

## PART 2: RENEWABLE ENERGY OPTIONS AND BENEFITS

As the Northern Ireland Energy Strategy - the Path to Net Zero aims to have 50% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 and 100% reduction by 2050, renewable energy is becoming more and more of a priority.

**Renewable energy has many advantages that make it better for the environment and society. These benefits include:**

- Not being a finite resource
- Produce much lower emissions
- Generate jobs (>40 million new jobs worldwide by 2050)
- Cheaper energy bills
- Self-sufficiency
- Resistant to fuel poverty
- Resistant to energy shortages
- Less pollution
- Mitigates climate change!

**Businesses are increasingly investing in renewable energy. The most popular renewable energy sources in use in Ireland include:**

- Wind power
- Solar PV
- Heat-pump
- Biofuels
- Anaerobic digesters
- Hydropower micro-stations

**Supports for renewable energy include:**

- Department for the Economy [Funding innovation for net zero e-zine](#) - 7 great resources!
- [NI Business Info - schemes](#)
- [Invest Northern Ireland - green energy support](#)
- [NI Direct - grants](#)
- [Action Renewables](#)
- [Strategic Power Connect](#)
- Signing up to [Green Energy](#). Registration will include:
  - 100% renewable energy
  - Green energy certificate
  - Window sticker to display on your premises
  - Web banner for display

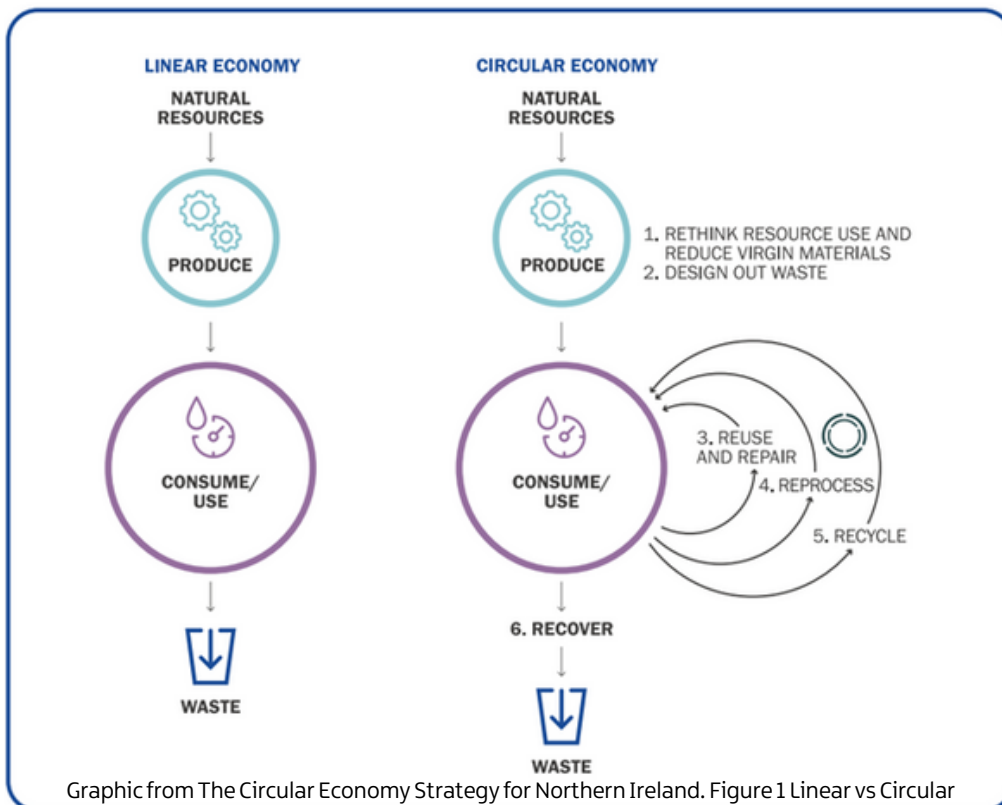
## PART 3: CIRCULAR ECONOMY - TOURISM AND WASTE

The Circular Economy Strategy for Northern Ireland is currently published in a draft version and is open to consultation. The strategy states that its vision is that:

“By 2050, Northern Ireland will have an innovative, inclusive and competitive economy where business, people and planet flourish, with responsible production and consumption at its core.”

The strategy further defines The Circular Way as an alternative model to our current “take-make-use-waste” economy, in which:

- We rethink and reduce our use of earth’s resources
- We switch to regenerative resources
- We minimise waste
- We maintain the value of products and materials for as long as possible



The circular economy model above revolves around the concept of keeping materials and products in use for as long as possible.

Businesses can incorporate circular economy strategies in many ways. These strategies often involve assessing their products' life cycles.

As shown in the current draft, the main goals of the strategy are outlined in the following graphic:

## Policy Goals

## Proposals for Change



### Collaborate for system change

1. Develop and implement a programme to support and promote behaviour change.
2. Create clusters and networks to raise awareness and assist collaboration.
3. Develop an outcome-focused Circular Economy monitoring framework.



### Design out waste

4. Embed Circular Economy principles in public procurement.
5. Work with businesses to increase circular design.



### Manage resources to retain value

6. Create and support platforms and hubs to share goods and materials.
7. Maximise the value of materials locally.



### Stimulate system change with funding, incentives and penalties

8. Establish a Circular Economy funding programme.
9. Create a regulatory framework that supports and incentivises greater circulation of goods and materials.



### Invest in innovation, research and skills

10. Invest in research and development to support the valorisation of materials.
11. Embed Circular Economy principles at all levels of education.
12. Design of future skills programmes and reviews of current programmes to support a Just Transition.

A huge part of the circular economy revolves around reducing waste. To reduce waste most effectively, businesses must assess their material usage through the lens of the waste hierarchy.



Graphic from Velenturf APM, Purnell P, Tregent M, Ferguson J, Holmes A. Co-Producing a Vision and Approach for the Transition towards a Circular Economy: Perspectives from Government Partners. Sustainability. 2018; 10(5):1401. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su10051401>

By using the waste hierarchy, an organisation can assess their material consumption in a way that prolongs the life cycle of any product the company uses.

Ways in which the circular economy strategies can be implemented in your organisation include:

**Reducing:**

- Reducing harmful, wasteful and non-recyclable products.
- Reducing food waste is a massive component of the strategy.
- Control stock - buy what you need
- Cut out single use plastic
- Reduce packaging
- Reduce energy consumption



**Repair and refurbish:**

- Upcycling products
- Repairing laptops/computers
- Repair as much as possible

**Reuse:**

- Normalise reusing - prevent “throw-away” culture
- Reusable cups/cutlery/plates
- Refill toner/cartridges
- Donate instead of throwing away
- Greywater recycling
- Reuse packaging
- Rechargeable batteries

**Recycle:**

- Organic recycling
- Strategically position the bins
- Reuse station
- Recycle as much as possible

**Eco-design:**

- Recycled material
- Plant-based plastic
- Eco-friendly cleaning products
- Bamboo products

## PART 4: POLLUTION

Pollution has plagued societies and environments since the industrial revolution. Though there has been a lot of progress in recent decades, pollution remains one of the planet's biggest burdens.

Comparable to diseases like malaria or HIV, pollution affects more than 100 million people. Furthermore, pollution is degrading the environment at a devastating rate, destroying biodiversity and destroying critical ecological systems and services.

Whether it's directly or indirectly through supply chains, tourism and hospitality businesses can reduce their impact. There are different types of pollution and we should do our best to minimise all of them.

## WATER POLLUTION

Using less water helps prevent water pollution. This can be done through many avenues like taps, showers, toilets etc.

Minimising plastic usage will prevent microplastics from entering our water systems (micro-plastics often get through treatment processes).

Disposing of chemicals properly can also reduce your impact on freshwater systems.

Reducing pesticide and fertiliser use is massively important for protecting NI's rivers and streams.

Planting trees will naturally improve water quality.

## LAND POLLUTION

By creating less waste, your organisation can minimise litter.

Organising clean-ups events is a great way to engage with your local community and grow your outreach programmes.

Properly recycle electronics and batteries.

Compost your organic matter.

Make sure there are enough bins located throughout the property.

Put up anti-litter signage.

## AIR POLLUTION

Annually, 553 deaths are attributed to air quality in NI. The most significant pollutants come out of chimneys due to solid fuel burning.

Burning less fuels in stoves and fireplaces reduces air pollution.

Minimise idling in the surrounding area.

Trees are one of the planet's best air purifying systems. Plant as many as you can!

Switch to electrical equipment instead of petrol or diesel-powered. A lawn mower running for 1 hour can equate to almost a 100 mile car trip.

## LIGHT POLLUTION

Pollution isn't always as obvious as it seems. Light pollution can be devastating for local biodiversity. Many mammals and insects (especially bats and moths) can get disoriented from artificial lighting.

Organisations should consider wildlife-friendly lighting and generally reduce lighting at night.

## PART 5: RESOURCES

Tourism NI

Growing Greener Experiences Together

<https://www.tourismni.com/business-guidance/business-support/sustainability/>

Tourism NI

Saving Energy and Reducing Waste

<https://www.tourismni.com/business-guidance/business-support/saving-energy-and-reducing-waste/>

Carbon Trust

A Guide to Carbon Footprinting for your Business

<https://www.carbontrust.com/resources/a-guide-carbon-footprinting-for-businesses>

Power NI

Green Energy - get 100% renewable electricity

<https://powerni.co.uk/business-electricity/green/green-energy/>

Power NI

Tips on saving energy

<https://powerni.co.uk/help/energy-guides/how-to-save-electricity/>

Department for the Economy

Funding for sustainable energy

<https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/publications/funding-innovation-net-zero-e-zine>

All Ireland Pollinator Plan

Advice on actions for pollinators and general biodiversity

<https://pollinators.ie/resources/>

Waste Hierarchy Guidance

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/waste-hierarchy-guidance>

Invest Northern Ireland

Waste Minimisation – Efficient Management for Cost Savings, A Guide for Businesses in Northern Ireland

<https://www.investni.com/sites/default/files/documents/static/library/invest-ni/documents/waste-Minimisation-efficient-management-for-cost-savings.pdf>

NetRegs

Environmental Guidance for your Business in Northern Ireland and Scotland

<https://www.netregs.org.uk>

Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful

Carbon Literacy Programme

<https://keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.etinu.net/cgi-bin/generic?instanceID=73>

Business in the Community

Responsible Business and Strategy

<https://www.bitc.org.uk/responsible-business-and-strategy/>