

**DAERA Consultation on Northern Ireland's 2030 & 2040
Emissions Reduction Targets & First Three Carbon Budgets
& Seeking views on Climate Change Committee (CCC)
Advice Report: The path to a Net Zero Northern Ireland**

MAG Response

11 | 10 | 23

Question 1. Do you agree that DAERA should follow the current advice provided by the CCC and keep the current 2030 emissions reduction target in the Act of an at least 48% reduction in emissions compared to the baseline?

Yes

Question 2. Do you agree that DAERA should follow the current advice provided by the CCC and set a 2040 emissions reduction target of an at least 77% reduction in emissions compared to the baseline?

Yes

Question 3. Do you agree that DAERA should follow the current advice provided by the CCC and set the first carbon budget at a level that has a 33% average annual reduction in emissions compared to the baseline?

Yes

Question 4. Do you agree that DAERA should follow the current advice provided by the CCC and set the second carbon budget at a level that has a 48% average annual reduction in emissions compared to the baseline?

Yes

Question 5. Do you agree that DAERA should follow the current advice provided by the CCC and set the third carbon budget at a level that has a 62% average annual reduction in emissions compared to the baseline?

Yes

Question 6. Do you agree that DAERA should follow any updated advice and recommendations from the CCC (as a result of the publication of the Northern Ireland 2021 Greenhouse Gas Inventory) when setting the first three carbon budgets?

Yes

Question 7. Can you provide any information (relating to the potential financial, economic, social, rural and equality impacts) which will help inform the completion of the relevant impact assessments on the proposed carbon budgets?

Please specify:

https://www.passivhaustrust.org.uk/guidance_detail.php?gld=40

<https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/media/2ddb125k/net-zero-carbon-toolkit.pdf>

<https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/aac1c6>

<https://www.leti.uk/publications>

<https://www.leti.uk/opinionpieces>

Question 8 - 11

Question 8. Do you think that the Northern Ireland Executive should follow the advice provided by the CCC and choose the Stretch Ambition Scenario?

Yes

Question 9 (a). The Speculative DACCS Option to reach Net Zero by 2050: Do you think that the Northern Ireland Executive should choose the Speculative Direct Air Capture with CCS (DACCS) option to reach Net Zero?

No

If no, please provide your reasons and any suggested alternative:

The deployment of direct air capture of CO₂ (DAC) technology, as outlined in the advice report is expected to have high costs and it also states that it may be difficult to deliver at scale in time. For this reason, we don't think this speculative option should be pursued by the Northern Ireland Executive.

Other suggested alternatives provide very significant change but also significant opportunities for agriculture and forestry which are aligned to our rural based economy and the current 10X strategy.

Question 9 (b). The Speculative Agriculture Option: Do you think that the Northern Ireland Executive should choose the Speculative Agriculture option?

Yes

Question 9 (c). Other Speculative Options: Do you think that the Northern Ireland Executive should consider other speculative options such as (1) enhanced rock weathering and (2) addition of biochar to agricultural land?

Yes. Biochar is an interesting and realistic opportunity for the agricultural sector in NI. Enhanced rock weathering is novel to NI and would be a much more difficult adaptation.

Question 10. Agriculture Sector Contribution to Net Zero: Do you think that the Northern Ireland Executive should diverge from the CCC sector advice to deliver the required outcomes for the first carbon budget period and that these can be achieved through the actions outlined in the Agriculture sector summary?

Yes

Question 11: LULUCF Sector Contribution to Net Zero: Do you think that the Northern Ireland Executive should follow the LULUCF sector advice provided by the CCC?

Yes

Questions 12 - 14

Question 12 (a). Buildings Sector Contribution to Net Zero: Do you think that the Northern Ireland Executive should consider the CCC advice on residential buildings, and develop a plan to improve energy efficiency and reduce reliance on fossil fuels, taking account of the capacity and capability of the low-carbon heating sector in Northern Ireland?

Yes

Question 12 (b): Buildings Sector Contribution to Net Zero: Do you think that the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) should lead by example in the government estate and phase out the use of fossil fuel boilers as per the CCC advice?

Yes

Question 13. Energy Sector Contribution to Net Zero: Do you think that additional measures (over and above those in the Energy Strategy) should be taken to ensure alignment with the CCC's advice?

Yes

Question 14. Transport Sector Contribution to Net Zero: Do you think that the Northern Ireland Executive should follow the transport sector advice provided by the CCC?

Yes

Questions 15 – 17

Question 15: Business and Industrial Processes Sector Contribution to Net Zero: Do you think that the Northern Ireland Executive should follow the Business and Industrial Processes sector advice provided by the CCC?

Yes

Question 16. Waste Sector Contribution to Net Zero: Do you think that the Northern Ireland Executive should follow the Waste sector advice provided by the CCC?

Yes

Question 17. Fisheries Sector Contribution to Net Zero: Do you think that the Northern Ireland Executive should follow the Fisheries sector advice provided by the CCC?

Yes

Dr Barry McCarron, MAG Expert Advisor

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11 | 10 | 23