



time for Change

Creating a more sustainable
future for Northern Ireland

sustainableNI

SNI's plan | 2019-2024

sustainableNI



Our vision

A world where prosperity is achieved in ways that are good for people and the planet.

Our mission

Building a sustainable and resilient society by inspiring, influencing and informing.



Inspire

We inspire individuals and organisations by sharing stories of success



Influence

We influence policy and practice by providing technical and strategic support



Inform

We share knowledge about how to address common sustainability challenges

Our values

SNI aspires to excellence in everything it does. We pride ourselves on being:

Knowledgeable

we focus on understanding the global and national issues around sustainability and sharing that knowledge with key stakeholders

Collaborative

we work closely with partners to co-design and deliver solutions to common sustainability challenges

Transformative

we put sustainability at the heart of society in Northern Ireland, transforming how people think, live and work

Our status

Sustainable NI is a non-profit organisation which works with government and others to advance sustainable development in Northern Ireland.

SNI is evolving. Established in 1998, we are now a registered charity (Charity No NIC103426) as well as a company limited by guarantee in Northern Ireland (Company No NI038784). We are governed by a Board of Trustees comprising academics and representatives from the public, private and voluntary and community sectors.

We have put environmental and social goals at the heart of what we do and are diversifying our funding base. Delivering for governments and public bodies is the cornerstone of our approach.

Our partners

SNI works with and supports government, local authorities, businesses, and others; acting as a catalyst for positive action to build a sustainable and resilient society. For a full list of our partners, please see www.sustainableni.org/our-partners

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Foreword

I am immensely proud to be Chair of an organisation that has achieved so much since its inception and has such a clear vision of the future.

We approach this new phase of Sustainable NI's contribution to the ongoing pursuit of a sustainable and prosperous Northern Ireland with a refreshed energy and expertise. SNI will continue to help national and local government deliver on the ground, we will use our 20 plus years of experience of supporting national sustainable development policy and practice, building on the foundation that government funding has provided and taking our knowledge and enthusiasm to new partners and sectors.

In turn, we will provide new ways of solving problems, prioritising the areas that can have the biggest impact and contribute to achieving our vision.

Many of you have been with us on our journey and will know our strengths. We look forward to working with you and new partners in the next phase of delivery for Sustainable Northern Ireland. This plan sets out our ambitions and areas of focus that will guide our work over the next 5 years, which we believe will help inspire you to achieve your own goals and priorities and help deliver the change that is necessary to achieve our shared vision of a more sustainable, resilient Northern Ireland.



Andrew Cassells



The global challenges we face

We live on one planet with finite natural resources and a finite capacity to cope with pollution and waste. However, we currently use more natural resources than the Earth can sustain.



If everyone in the world lived like we do in Northern Ireland we would need three planets to support us.

Of course, we don't have another two planets to spare and the increasing global population means we cannot continue to consume at current levels without a change in the way we use resources.

Meeting growing demands for food, water, energy and avoiding dangerous levels of climate change will require step change in the way we use resources and moving away from the current 'take, make, use and discard' model upon which our economy is based.

Whilst economic growth is important, we cannot grow the economy at the expense of the environment, or people's health and wellbeing. Growth is a means not an end in itself.

An urgent step change is needed



Change is overdue. There is no silver bullet. No single action by a government, business or individual will suffice.

The Sustainable Development Goals, adopted in 2015 by the UK and the other 192 Member States of the United Nations, represent a unique opportunity for both people and planet, but only if all sections of society get behind them. Collective action is key.

The transition to a low-carbon, resource efficient

economy will create a range of opportunities for Northern Ireland - it will help boost economic growth through innovation, job creation and increased productivity whilst also tackling issues like climate change, energy security and fuel poverty.

Research shows that a shift to a more circular

economy in Northern Ireland could create more than 13,000 new jobs while investment in sustainable energy alone could be worth up to £1 billion and create an extra 33,124 high value jobs. This will help deliver a better quality of life for citizens and overall enhance social, economic and environmental wellbeing.



1 WRAP (2015) ReNEW report into the Circular Economy in NI. bit.ly/1PN0qIK 2 The Carbon Trust (2008) NI Renewable Energy Supply Chain. bit.ly/2Ntb1Y8



Acting to deliver change

Sustainable NI is a leading source of information and advice on sustainable development policy and practice in Northern Ireland

We have earned a valuable reputation for:

- providing authoritative guidance on strategy and policy development
- delivering effective campaigns and support tools for local government
- bringing sustainability actors together through our networks and events

SNI's overall focus is on advancing sustainable development objectives in collaboration with others. We work in partnership with governments, businesses and the community sector to deliver transformative change. We do this by providing information, tools and practical advice to help organisations adopt more sustainable policies and practices.

Over the next 5 years, we will continue to employ our skills and experience to help others deliver the change needed locally.

Our strategic aims

Our aims for the next five years are:

- 1 Comprehensive policy development - contribute to the development, promotion and delivery of policies relevant to sustainable development
- 2 Secretariat support for sustainable development forums and networks - facilitate stakeholder forums which support collaborative action on sustainable development
- 3 Increase knowledge and awareness of sustainable development - gather and share information on sustainable development policy and practice to enable partner organisations to deliver positive change
- 4 Increase action on sustainable development - encourage and support individual and sectoral action on sustainable development
- 5 Effective governance - ensure the efficient, effective and accountable operation of Sustainable NI for the delivery of the strategic plan

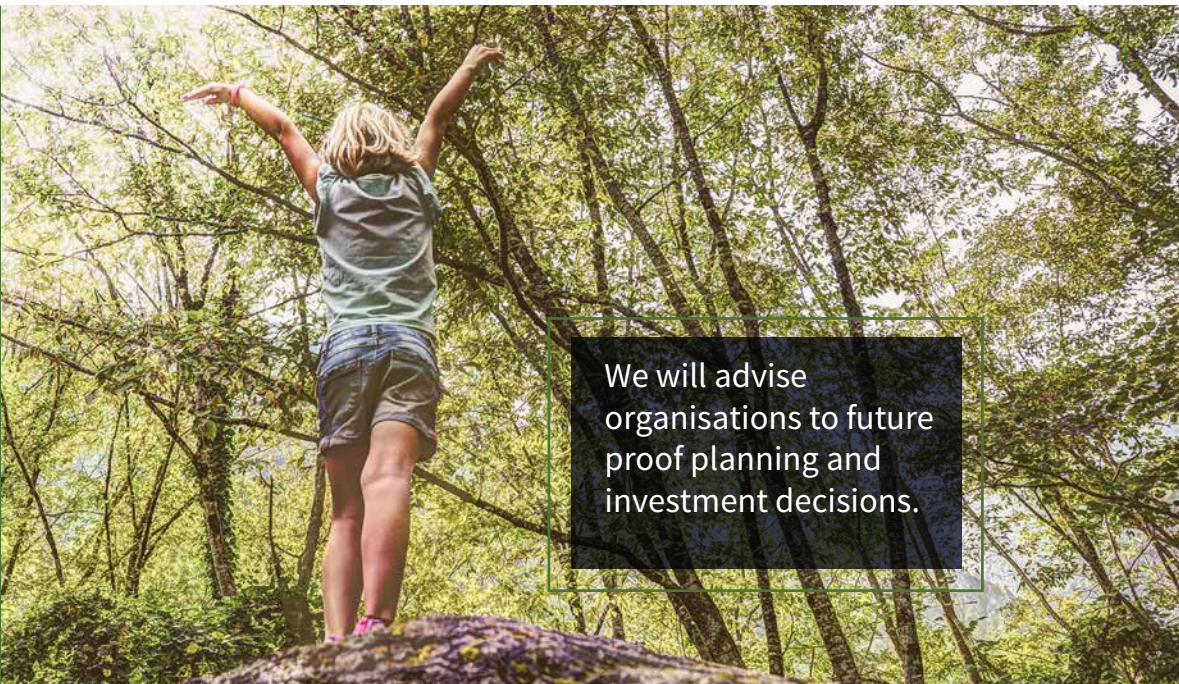
These objectives will be delivered across priority areas where we think we can make the biggest impact.

13 CLIMATE ACTION



PRIORITY 1:
Climate Action

Supporting the shift to a low-carbon climate resilient economy



We will advise organisations to future proof planning and investment decisions.



We will deliver change in this area by encouraging public authorities to embed responsible procurement as a central principle in their procurement policies and strategies through training, toolkits and sharing of good practice.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



PRIORITY 3:
Public Procurement

Promoting public procurement processes that are socially and environmentally responsible

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



PRIORITY 2:
Resource Management

Reducing waste through responsible consumption and production



We will encourage organisations to use resources more sustainably and support initiatives that contribute to the circular economy and the achievement of waste and recycling targets through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.



We will deliver change in this area by promoting the wider benefits of sustainable food systems and, where possible, supporting the establishment of sustainable food partnerships and programmes in towns and cities across Northern Ireland.

2 ZERO HUNGER



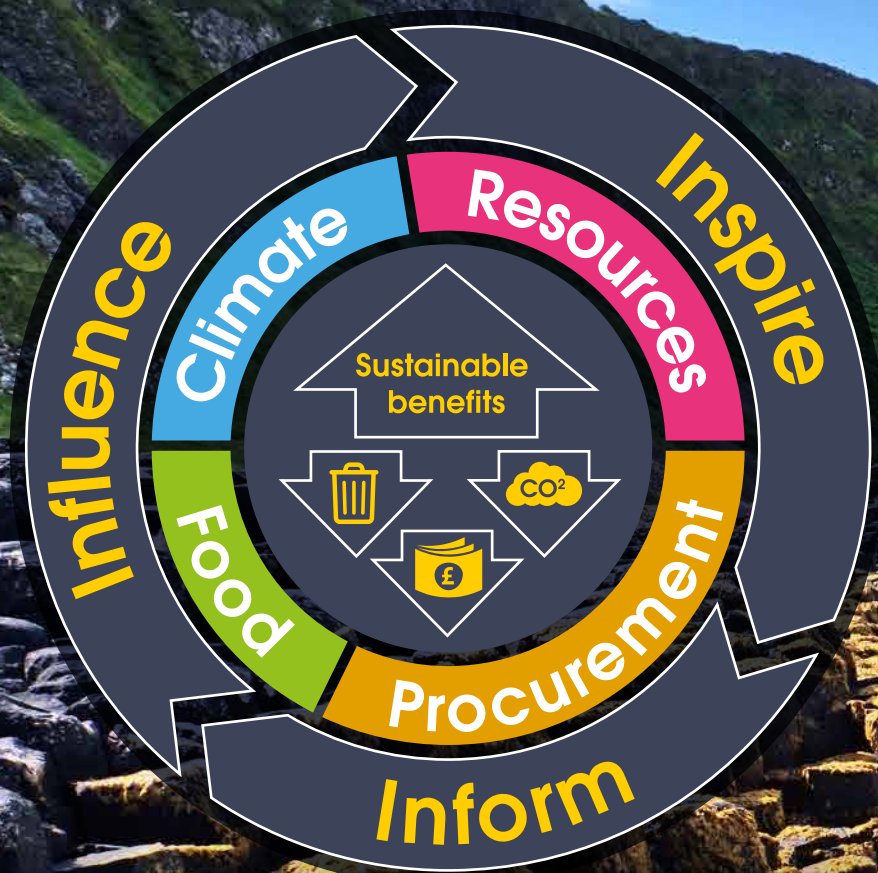
PRIORITY 4:
Sustainable Food

Making healthy and sustainable food a defining characteristic of Northern Ireland

Our priorities for action

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Our approach to delivery

We believe implementing the three I's can deliver the step change needed for the future. As illustrated, this approach can deliver improved sustainability performance, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

What we offer

We provide a wide range of services, practical guidance and creative solutions that help organisations review, improve, measure and report sustainability performance.

Advice & support



Bespoke technical and strategic advice and support for your organisation

Benchmarking



Independent assessment of sustainability performance and compliance

Tools & resources



Access to sustainability tools, case studies and templates

Networking



Events and networking opportunities to showcase your work on sustainability

Training



Access to training opportunities across a range of topics facilitated by experts

Policy & advocacy



Access to the latest news, events and policy analysis and a voice to lobby government on key policy issues

How to get involved

There are various ways you can join us in creating change, for example:

Join our network by becoming a partner organisation

Work with us to deliver change

Make a donation to further our charitable aims

Please contact us at info@sustainableni.org and let's start delivering positive change together.



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