



Sustainable
Development Commission

**“Northern Ireland, Climate Change
and the Challenges**

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Sustainable
Development Commission

Who is the UK Sustainable Development Commission?

- **An independent Advisory Body, with 19 members from Businesses, NGOs, local and regional Government, and Academia.**
- **Reports jointly to the Prime Minister and the Leaders of the Devolved Assemblies.**
- **Established in late 2000**
- **Chaired by Jonathon Porritt**

What does the SDC do across UK?

- **Evidence based public Reports on contentious issues e.g. nuclear.**
- **Responds openly to Government policy initiatives e.g. climate change**
- **Invites debates on controversial subjects e.g. sustainable consumption, food miles, carbon footprints etc www.sd.commission.org.uk**
- **As Watchdog, appraises & publishes Government's progress against targets in SD strategy**

SDC role in N.I.

- **Works with Government, Business Community & wider society, in communicating, engaging and embedding Sustainable Development**
- **Advised on constructing & implementation of N.I. SD Strategy & Implementation plan**
- **Embedded within OFMDFM as a “Critical Friend” & Watchdog role to be agreed by 09/07**

“2007” The Defining Year for The UK and Climate Change

- **Mildest Spring on record**
- **Wettest Summer on record**
- **“Blue Tongue” arrives in England for 1st time**
- **Publication of draft UK Climate Change Bill**
- **Bali Agreement – Replacement for Kyoto by 2009**
- **1st Carbon footprint appears on a food label**

The Three Key Drivers – Weather, Policy & Market !



Northern Ireland and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- **3.2% of UK's total, 20.7mt of CO² equivalent**
- **Last 15 years, 16% fall in UK, only 5.6% in NI!**
- **GHG Emissions per person – NI worst in UK!**
- **Main Outputs – Energy production and consumption**
 - **Transport**
 - **Agricultural land, farming and food production**
 - **Landfill**

The Policy drivers & Targets

Northern Ireland Programme for Government

- **25% reduction below 1990 levels, by 2025**
- **PSA 22 (Protecting over Environment and reducing our Carbon Footprint)**

Draft UK Climate Change Bill

- **60% below 1990 levels, by 2050 (Scotland 80%!!!)**
- **30% below 1990 levels, by 2020 (surpassing PFG!!)**

**NB. UK International reduction targets
– currently not devolved !**

UK Climate Change Bill

- **Unique to UK (A Policy Pioneer!!)**
- **Climate Change Committee – To Advise, Scrutiny & Oversee**
- **Targets to achieve emission reductions to be legally binding!**
- **A Pathway of a series of 5 year Carbon budgets**
- **Non CO² GHG's to be included – Landfill & Agric.**
- **Royal Ascent expected by June 2008**

Northern Ireland Assembly

The Challenges??

- **Route map for GHG emission reductions in Northern Ireland needed – How & When??**
- **Devolution of UK GHG emission reduction targets is essential to focus the mind!!**
- **12% Renewables by 2012 (2008 <3%) – How??**
- **40% renewables by 2025, (25% from non wind) – How??**

Possible Solutions for Northern Ireland?

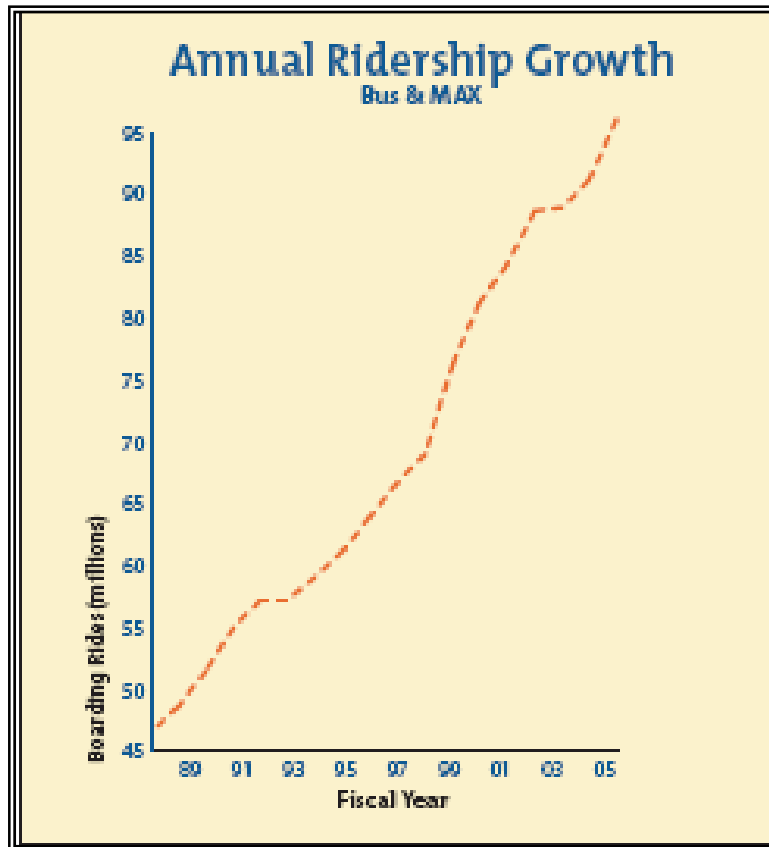
- **Political Courage and Leadership – Essential!**
- **Lead by example – The role of Gov. Estate!**
- **Northern Ireland participation in UK Climate Change Bill - Essential**
- **NI Strategies must be developed to allow UK to hit International Obligations & Agreements**
- **Creation of a NI knowledge based economy focusing on developing sustainable technologies**

Practical Solutions for Northern Ireland?

- **Mandatory introduction of Code for Sustainable Homes**
(fuel poverty, energy efficiency and renewables)
- **Extend Environment and Renewable Energy Fund**
- **Use Economic Regulation to reduce consumption and allow alternatives**
- **Develop Renewable Heat Strategy**
- **Invest in integrated Transport Systems**
- **Use flag ship projects to demonstrate the possible**

The American Experience

e.g. Portland, Oregon



Tri Met Public Transport

- More people than any other US transit system of same size
- Nos increased for last 17 consecutive years
- 8.5% increase last year
- 26% of afternoon Rush Hour commuters use it
- 70% people do it by choice
- Eliminates 199,300 daily car trips

The German Experience



City Centre Hotel – 100% Renewable

The German Experience



Sustainable Rural Communities - 160% Sufficient in Heat Power, including the use of AD!



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Northern Ireland Experience



Omagh College

Vision – 1st NI College to be 100% renewable!!



Northern Ireland Climate Change and the challenges

- **Real Challenge!**
- **Must engage!**
- **It is deliverable!**

But need vision and leadership & only when this generation realises it can NOT leave this mess to the next Generation!!