

The image features a solid orange background. A large, irregular white shape, resembling a torn piece of paper, is positioned in the upper left and center. The text "50 Ideas for Climate Action" is written in a bold, orange, sans-serif font on this white background.

50 Ideas for Climate Action

Introduction

These ideas have emerged from an engagement process called 'Community Conversations', through which 15 people from all across the Derry City and Strabane District Council area have supported by Involve to have conversations about their communities, what climate change means to them, and how Climate Action should support and protect what matters to them and their neighbours, friends and family.

On Saturday 10 May, members of the Derry and Strabane Sustainability and Climate Commission will meet with the 15 'Conversation Starters' whose local insights have generated the 50 ideas below.

At the start of the Community Conversations process, the Council and the Commission made the following commitments to participants:

Where we support an action, we will:

- Identify the department responsible for doing it
- Be clear about things which might slow us down, or prevent us doing it
- Explore ways of finding the money, time or skills needed to deliver it

If we cannot support an action, we will:

- Explain clearly why they cannot take it forward
- Suggest alternatives which we may be able to support

The purpose of that workshop is to collaborate on connecting the 51 Ideas to the forward work plans of the Sustainability and Climate Commission. This collaboration will be facilitated by Involve, but it requires some preparation from members of the Commission in advance.

Through this survey, we are asking you to review the ideas (some will be more relevant to your work than others, so please direct your responses accordingly) and think about the following for each:

- How easy is it to do? (scale)
- How impactful will it be on... (scale)
- Who could make it happen? (Open question)

We will discuss the ideas more fully, including your recommendations for how to make them as impactful as possible, together with the Conversation Starters on 10 May.

We have thought carefully about how to make that session collaborative and constructive and we are confident that it will be a positive experience for all involved.

Thanks in advance for your time.

Themes and Ideas

Themes:

1. Waste
2. Eco-education
3. Energy
4. Planning
5. Transport
6. Biodiversity
7. Housing
8. Environmental protection

Theme: Waste

Idea 1: Make waste disposal more accessible

What: Amenity centres aren't always accessible or welcoming (for example, they are often littered with old nails and broken glass, they use high-sided skips making it hard to dispose of bulkier items) and this is a big barrier to recycling for many people.

Why: We want to encourage people to recycle, and that means having no barriers to recycling. We have heard that information regarding amenity centres is inaccurate, especially on opening times. We've heard the centres themselves aren't accessible and not often kept tidy/safe. We also heard that those without cars have struggled to bring larger items to these centres and wondered if a neighbourhood recycling scheme, larger specific bins in public areas, could be put around the district.

Difficulty: Easy

Impact: Low

Comments:

- Part of a wider conversation with a number of key stakeholders at strategic level to implement.
- Create a re-use alternative and latch on a skills academy close to or within the recycling centres - to divert useable items into re-use streams.
- The public can help by raising issues with incorrect information, barriers to recycling with relevant Council officers.
- DCSDC Daera
- Council officers, government officials, individuals (ensuring they are taking care to recycle right)

Idea 2: Information on how and where to dispose of waste

What: There needs to be clear and accessible information on what to recycle and how.

Why: We heard mixed understandings of how and what to recycle, and think there should be clearer information from the council (stickers on bins, leaflets), campaigns and also clearer supermarket packaging on how to recycle.

Difficulty: Easy

Impact: High

Comments:

- Part of a wider conversation with a number of key stakeholders at strategic level to implement.
- This needs to be policy driven with clear standardised waste symbols. Bin stickers would also be helpful...in fact, a strong comms plan and stray would significantly uplift perceptions of how and why items can be recycled.
- Manufacturers and retailers as the main source of disposable items. Councils as a trusted source of information re Council services
- DCSDC

Idea 3: Transparency on where public litter goes

What: It is not very clear where our rubbish goes and how it's being recycled.

Why: We heard messages that many want to know where our recycling is going: we want transparency and accountability. We heard that the lack of information is leading to apathy because people think that even separated waste ends up in the same place. We think bigger organisations need to take responsibility and be transparent. We think large organisations, companies, and restaurants should be accountable for food waste. Individual efforts are being undermined by lack of knowledge and lack of transparency.

Difficulty: Easy

Impact: Low

Comments:

- Everyone who wastes. More can be done on an educational level to help show where every piece goes, especially black bin waste.
- Comms strategy and campaign...and reassurance that 100% recycling means exactly that.
- Often people can feel there's no point in recycling if the big companies aren't - it's important companies and organisations, such as Councils, lead by example.
- DCSDC

Idea 4: More public bins

What: There are not enough public bins and they don't always support recycling.

Why: It should be the same rule for the street as it is the home: many public bins do not allow splitting of waste. We think there should be fines for putting things in the wrong bins, with more information shared on what is right to recycle. (see idea 2).

Difficulty: Difficult

Impact: Low

Comments:

- Again everyone who wastes. Separate bins will definitely help the cause
- Education strategy..focusing on healthy Derry environments....primRy schools, community centres, competitions etc.
- More bins, yes. Splitting bins, yes - but fines no. Have rewards been considered - such as the EU wide scheme for recycling plastic bottles at sites across cities including at transport hubs?
- DCSDC
- A recent litter bin survey by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful showed that bin provision is generally good across NI. Enforcement and fines for mistakes in recycling are very hard to enforce and can discourage people. Split bins are a huge contamination issue on street.

Idea 5: Stricter enforcement on litter from cars and fly tipping

What: Litter is being thrown out of cars and left on slip roads and roadsides in the countryside, and in back lanes in towns and cities.

Why: This is a big issue that needs to be addressed to keep vermin away, support mental well-being, pride in our communities, safer areas and a good impression of our local areas. There is a lack of signage in these areas and information campaigns on this. We think there should be more enforcement.

Difficulty: Difficult

Impact: Low

Comments:

- Key stakeholders
- Litter is a real problem! Prosecution of continuous offenders and focus on areas of ongoing littering. Involve external agencies inc. KNIB
- The public reporting cars/vans if they witness it. Neighbourhood watch schemes etc.
- PSNI DCSDC DAERA Rivers Agency etc.

Idea 6: Address dog fouling

What: It is unclear if there are deterrents and who is really monitoring dog fouling.

Why: There is a lack of knowledge on if this is really being monitored or enforced. A solution could be to offer bags near bins so there was no excuse for people, as well as creating designated dog parks, but everyone agreed that the lack of information on what is being done is leading to upset.

Difficulty: Difficult

Impact: Low

Comments:

- Local Government and public. Increased awareness of prosecution for not picking up after their dog
- Prosecutions of offenders.
- Transparency on the number of fines issued, allowing the public to be aware that they are given out (if they are) and if not address why they aren't. Part of this is down to reporting as well as limited resources.
- DCSDC

Theme: Eco-Education

Idea 7: Climate change education beyond schools

What: There needs to be better access to environmental information beyond school - including clear advice on sustainable products, local schemes, and the impact of everyday choices.

Why: People want to make better, more sustainable decisions, but they often don't have the information they need. When we make informed choices, especially about how we spend our money, we can influence big companies and push for change. The people we spoke to also highlighted that those most affected by climate issues often have the least voice, and that some of the information available is biased. They want more open, honest information about things like where the things we purchase come from, airmiles and emissions, food waste, local sustainability schemes, and the chemicals in everyday products - and how these affect both the environment and our mental health.

Difficulty: Difficult

Impact: High

Comments:

- Decision makers
- Hard to do - but hugely impactful for communities. Needs a string partnership and mentorship approach.
- People making informed choices will have an impact - there needs to be more green communities that collectively agree that their area is going to be more accountable - have a key organisation like Council take a lead would be valuable. Getting people to understand the power they have to influence government and organisations is vital.
- DCSDC DAERA

Idea 8: Climate change integration in schools

What: Climate change should be fully embedded across the school curriculum, not just taught in one class or by one teacher. All schools and educators should be connected and committed to delivering consistent, meaningful climate education.

Why: Young people are key to driving change, and education should inspire a positive, creative connection with nature. Guest speakers - independent and trusted voices, not large corporations - could help bring real-life relevance to topics like recycling, sustainability, and climate action. There should also be an option to study environmental management at A-level, and all practical courses, including apprenticeships, should include a focus on climate change and sustainability.

Difficulty: Easy

Impact: High

Comments:

- EA through tying this into learnings rather than keeping it separate.
- It will help future generations/future leaders become sustainability natives - owning the agenda from an early age.
- Education Ministers/Department, Teachers, parents, youth workers. Teaching of non-graded subjects (like 'the world around you' at primary level) should continue through secondary education.
- Dept Educ DfE

Idea 9: Improve local awareness

What: Not knowing what is happening in our local areas as well as the things that are happening failing to reach the most impacted.

Why: We heard how there is a willingness to do things, but a lack of knowledge or ability to connect to issues or create change. We think there needs to be more awareness of local schemes and what people can do: either through a social media campaign, or more engagement like this to reach more people. We think this could also look like information on practical things, like how to grow things, or why. This will build more community spirit and ownership in our communities.

Difficulty: Easy

Impact: High

Comments:

- This will really help with a collaborative effort through waste providers and local govt.
- Local interactions with community, charities, and faith groups.
- The platforms are there - but it's collating them and having one portal with all relevant events brought together - this might spark creative ideas of interesting events that share the same narrative. An organisation needs to take the lead in doing this, ensuring it's a trusted source.
- DCSDC local groups etc.

Idea 10: Gamification and local community groups

What: We want to create more spaces, like community centres, where people can come together to talk about climate issues and share ideas.

Why: There could be an incentive for people to do more to help the environment, such as buying green products or adopting sustainable practices. If these efforts are shared within community groups, it could raise awareness and inspire others to get involved too.

Difficulty: Difficult

Impact: Low

Comments:

- Councils and DEAS with facilitators
- Communities and partnerships are key here - especially involving diverse groups inc. businesses, education, govt etc.
- There are an abundance of spaces that can facilitate different events re climate issues, shouldn't just solely focus on specific events people go to, but also holding events where people are - getting the message out beyond those who would be already inclined to think green.
- Community Groups and DfC

Theme: Energy

Idea 11: Wind farms in the right place

What: Onshore wind farms, especially in sensitive areas like the Sperrins Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), are not always a fair or sustainable alternative to fossil fuels. The full environmental cost of producing and installing turbines must be considered alongside with a full understanding of the tradeoffs involved so that the move to renewables is encouraged.

Why: The Sperrins AONB must be protected. Communities living near wind turbines are often overlooked, despite the potential impacts on their physical and mental health, well-being, and quality of life. There are also concerns about biodiversity and the economic impact, such as falling house values. Proper investigations into these effects are urgently needed to ensure any transition to renewables is truly just and sustainable for both people and nature.

Difficulty: Easy

Impact: High

Comments:

- Expensive, complex, but ultimately Ireland's ability to generate energy is mainly limited to wind and solar....but key for future energy security.
- Don't know enough about it - but the Sperrins Partnership might be best placed to look at initiating some research on this.
- DAERA DfE DfI Local Council planners
- Planning Service NI Assembly

Idea 12: Support informed decision making around wind energy infrastructure

What: Improve public awareness and education around the operation and limitations of wind energy infrastructure, particularly in areas like the Sperrins AONB. There needs to be greater transparency, informed debate, and a fairer distribution of infrastructure.

Why: There is currently a low level of public understanding about the realities of wind turbine operation. This lack of transparency undermines public trust and engagement. In the context of the Sperrins AONB, where protected zones are limited, it is particularly important that any renewable energy developments are matched with clear communication and responsible energy use. Protecting the AONB while ensuring local people understand and benefit from renewable energy is essential for a fair and sustainable energy transition.

Difficulty: Difficult

Impact: High

Comments:

- This is a difficult one! An education strategy which is easy to understand with clear benefits would go a long way to getting wider buy-in.
- Don't know enough about this, but again the Sperrins Partnership would be best placed to take forward.
- DfE DfI Local councils
- NI Assembly, NIEA, Planning Service

Idea 13: More transparency and regulation of Data Centres

What: Require councils to ensure that all new data centres granted planning permission are, at a minimum, carbon neutral in operation. Planning decisions should be aligned with climate legislation, and full transparency should be required regarding the ownership, energy sources, and emissions of data centres.

Why: Data centres are major energy consumers, and while they are often marketed as powered by renewable energy, many still rely heavily on fossil fuels—for example, in the Republic of Ireland, around 50% of their energy comes from gas. Despite this, planning approvals are frequently granted without sufficient scrutiny of carbon impact or alignment with climate targets. There is also a lack of transparency around who is behind these developments, and widespread concerns about greenwashing. To ensure climate commitments are upheld and public trust is maintained, it is essential to increase awareness of the true environmental impact of data centres and ensure that planning decisions are informed, transparent, and accountable, as well as being consistent with the Climate Act and subject to departmental oversight.

Difficulty: Difficult

Impact: High

Comments:

- Clearer information required. for example, how can data centres be used to develop and support district heat networks.
- Can Councils decide this though? If planning regulations are set at Central Government level, doubtful Council planning officers can ensure this.
- DAERA DfE DfI Local authority planners
- NI Assembly, Planning Service

Idea 14: Help people to retrofit their homes and public buildings for energy efficiency

What: Everyone should be able to get grants or support to improve their homes so they use less energy and rely more on clean energy. People should be encouraged to use small-scale renewable energy like solar panels. All new homes, whether private or public, should be built to high energy-efficiency standards, like passive houses, and should include things like heat pumps or geothermal systems. Government and community buildings should lead the way and meet these standards too.

Why: Homes need to be warm, affordable to run, and not dependent on fossil fuels. While solar panels help, we need to go further, especially with new buildings. They should be built in a way that keeps heat in and uses clean energy from the start. Government and public buildings should set an example. Making sure support is available to everyone will help ensure that no one is left behind as we move to a greener, fairer energy system.

Difficulty: Difficult

Impact: High

Comments:

- Expensive, takes time, RoI in the longer term...but nonetheless vital to protect and reduce future domestic energy usage.
- Central & Local Government - across all sectors: Education | Health | Infrastructure etc. All public buildings should be leading by example. More information on the cost of retro-fitting needs to be readily available from a reliable source
- Central Government Local government
- NI Assembly, Planning Service

Idea 15: Reduce Energy Waste

What: Make sure public lighting is used in the right places, at the right times. For example, avoid leaving lights like floodlights on all day when they're not needed—especially on holidays when buildings are closed. At the same time, make sure street lighting is on in places where it helps people feel safe, especially at night.

Why: Leaving lights on when they're not needed wastes energy and money. People should know why certain lights are on and who is paying for them. On the other hand, good lighting is important for community safety—especially for people walking at night, including women. Lighting decisions should balance energy use with public safety, and be open and transparent.

Difficulty: Difficult

Impact: High

Comments:

- Sporting clubs, DFI
- Everyone's responsibility
- Individuals, Households, Communities, etc. Everyone and especially building keyholders
- DfI, building and estate owners, developers, public
- NI Assembly, DFI, DCSDC

Theme: Planning

Idea 16: Planning for Climate Change

What: Make planning a central tool for tackling climate change and promoting sustainability, especially in sensitive areas like the Foyle and Faughan flood plains and Sperrins AONB. Strengthen protections through local plans and management strategies.

Why: Planning decisions have a big impact on the environment. Areas like the Sperrins may be designated as protected but often have little real protection. Planners need to listen to local people and put climate and nature at the heart of decisions.

Difficulty: Difficult

Impact: High

Comments:

- Planning, NI Water flood specialists
- Community inclusive planning is vital here.
- Roles and responsibilities for legislated guidance should be established - does this sit with central government more so than Council level?
- DfE DAERA Local authority planners

Idea 17: Planning for Health

What: Design towns and communities in ways that support people's physical and mental health: places that are safe, walkable, green, and well connected.

Why: Where we live affects our health. Good planning helps create healthy communities where people can live, work, and play. But planning is too often influenced by politics instead of people's needs.

Difficulty: Difficult

Impact: High

Comments:

- GI Teams
- Large, complex, longer term, expensive, strategic decision making required - inc options appraisals and recommendations for public.
- There is a bigger issue here and that is the cultural mindset around cars - we do not live in a large city but people rely on cars for short journeys - need to look at image of travelling on public transport, walking etc. Well designed spaces will only work if used as intended.
- DCSDC DfI Translink, Dept Health, DfE and local lobby groups. Need to start a conversation on this which builds understanding and brings people along.

Idea 18: Greenspaces for Nature and Climate

What: Mandate wild greenspaces, green roofs, and nature-friendly infrastructure like wildlife crossings. Use public funding to support these changes.

Why: Wilder greenspaces support pollinators, absorb carbon, reduce flooding, and create healthier environments. Other countries are doing this—Northern Ireland should too.

Difficulty: Difficult

Impact: High

Comments:

- Stormont
- Quality is key - these spaces need to be user centred.
- DfI, DfC, Council Not just in public spaces, but in household gardens too.
- DfI DfC DfE Local authorities etc.
- NI Assembly, Planning Service, DCSDC, All Government Departments & Agencies

Idea 19: Better Access to Planning Consultations

What: Make it easier and safer for people to take part in planning consultations, including allowing anonymous submissions if needed.

Why: Some people feel intimidated by having to share their name and address when objecting to a planning application. This stops them speaking up, even when developments could damage local landscapes or communities.

Difficulty: Difficult

Impact: High

Comments:

- feedback is important. Making it easier and making things anonymous
- This needs to be well sequenced and strategic in overview.
- Not everyone has a legitimate reason for objecting to a new build, anonymous objections don't allow legitimate objections to be weighed. What is needed is an easy way for people to join a community objection (with thresholds set for how many required for it to be submitted) and that way individual names and addresses wouldn't be needed.
- DfE and local council planners

Idea 20: Community Involvement in Planning

What: Involve communities from the start in all planning processes, empower them and take their ideas seriously.

Why: Local people know their area best. When they are part of the planning process, decisions are better, more fair, and more sustainable.

Difficulty: Easy

Impact: High

Comments:

- Stakeholders
- Requires the building of strong trust networks - given that planning solutions are site specific with a huge number of variables.
- Local information and knowledge is underestimated by statutory bodies and should be captured through public consultations/workshops - but a significant part of this would need to be stressing the need for decisions to be made that are environmentally aware.

Idea 21: Road Design and Traffic Planning

What: Improve road planning in Derry City by fixing traffic bottlenecks, updating signs and markings, expanding cycle lanes, and developing Park & Ride options.

Why: Current road layouts create congestion, air pollution, and danger for pedestrians, especially children. Stressful driving conditions also lead to risky behaviour at junctions.

Difficulty: Easy

Impact: High

Comments:

- Cut emissions, improve air quality and quality of life for all citizens.
- DfI Roads in consultation with town planners, communities, councils, etc.
- Local and central government and their agencies

Idea 22: Stronger Zones in Local Development Plans

What: Strengthen zoning rules in Local Development Plans (LDPs) to give real protection to sensitive areas like the Sperrins and peatlands. Ensure consistent application of zones and full environmental assessments.

Why: Current zones are too weak. Important areas are being developed despite protections like ASSIs. Without stronger rules, harmful development like illegal quarrying and peatland destruction will continue.

Difficulty: Difficult

Impact: High

Comments:

- This would help people appreciate their natural environments much more - changing mindsets.
- Don't know enough about this issue
- Local authority planners and DfE DfI

Idea 23: New Environmental Legislation

What: Introduce new legislation that brings together existing environmental protections and ensures they align with the Climate Act.

Why: The current system is full of loopholes and weak enforcement. New laws are needed to protect the environment properly and make decision-makers accountable. Local voices must be heard.

Difficulty: Easy

Impact: High

Comments:

- Central Government
- Ni Assembly, DAERA, NIEA, ENGOs

Theme: Transport

Idea 24: Better bus routes and expansion of rail across Derry City and Strabane

What: Add more bus routes and improve the current ones so that communities across the council area are better connected. Consider a circular route around Derry city, not just routes going into the centre, and the expansion of rail to the Strabane area.

Why: Better public transport helps people get to services more easily, reduces the need to use cars, and helps build stronger community connections.

Difficulty: Easy

Impact: High

Comments:

- Translink & DFI

Idea 25: Make Public Transport More Affordable

What: Reduce the cost of both long and short bus journeys. Look at options for free or subsidised travel, including targeted support for certain groups.

Why: If driving is cheaper than taking the bus, people won't switch. Lower costs will encourage more people to use public transport, which helps cut congestion and pollution.

Difficulty: Easy

Impact: High

Comments:

- Translink and DFI

Idea 26: Use Smaller Buses on Less Busy Routes

What: Use smaller buses where large double-deckers aren't needed.

Why: Big buses aren't always efficient. Using the right size of vehicle helps reduce pollution and running costs, and can provide a more flexible and accessible service.

Difficulty: Difficult

Impact: Low

Comments:

- Translink & DfI

Idea 27: Tackle Congestion at Key Traffic Points

What: Fix traffic choke points like the A6 by improving and subsidising public transport and managing car parking to encourage people to leave the car at home.

Why: Congestion causes pollution, wastes time, and slows down business. It also poses a significant public health risk, as well as discouraging active travel because no-one wants to walk or cycle in dirty air. Better public transport is a key part of the solution.

Difficulty: Difficult

Impact: High

Comments:

- DfI

Idea 28: Introduce a Night-Time Bus Service

What: Provide a night bus in the city to make it easier and safer to get around after dark.

Why: A night bus would support people working or going out in the evening, help the local economy, improve safety, and reduce the need to use cars.

Difficulty: Difficult

Impact: Low

Comments:

- PSNI DfI DAERA etc.

Idea 29: Improve Cycling Infrastructure

What: Build safe dedicated cycle lanes from the suburbs into the city and provide secure places to park bikes.

Why: Cycling helps reduce pollution and traffic, supports better health, and gives people a real alternative to using the car.

Difficulty: Easy

Impact: Low

Comments:

- Translink, DfI, DCSDC

Idea 30: Raise Awareness About Cycling

What: Provide public information on why cycling matters as a healthy and environmentally friendly way to travel, as well as where to buy affordable bikes, and how to maintain and repair them.

Why: More people will consider cycling if they feel it's safe and worthwhile. Education helps shift attitudes and builds support for better cycling infrastructure.

Difficulty: Easy

Impact: High

Comments:

- DfI DCSDC

Idea 31: Offer E-Bikes and Scooters for Public Use

What: Make e-bikes and scooters available for people to rent or borrow in the city.

Why: This gives people more sustainable and flexible travel options, helps reduce congestion, and makes better use of bike lanes and other infrastructure.

Difficulty: Easy

Impact: Low

Comments:

DfI Sustrans DCSDC DfC

Theme: Biodiversity

Idea 32: Protect AONBs and Biodiversity

What: Bring AONB designation in line with stronger protections used in Great Britain. Ensure that the Sperrins Management Plan has legal status and provides real protection for these areas.

Why: AONBs should have legal protections to stop over farming and industrial development that damage biodiversity. Without protection, we risk losing vital habitats like peatlands, which are essential for biodiversity and people's health.

Difficulty: Difficult

Impact: Low

Comments:

DCSDC DfI

Idea 33: Stop the Use of Herbicides on Roads

What: Stop using harmful herbicides on roadsides and find natural alternatives to manage weeds. Recognise and address invasive species as part of this approach.

Why: Herbicides damage local ecosystems and biodiversity and harm human health. By promoting natural solutions and educating the public and contractors, we can support biodiversity and make better environmental choices.

Difficulty: Difficult

Impact: High

Comments:

DAERA DCSDC

NI Assembly DAERA Planning Service

Idea 34: Support Reforestation and Woodland Growth

What: Increase native woodland across Northern Ireland and Ireland as a whole. Focus on planting smaller woodlands in addition to large forestry plantations and commit to maintaining these areas long-term.

Why: Woodlands are crucial for both people and nature. Expanding and caring for them helps restore ecosystems and provides long-lasting environmental benefits.

Difficulty: Easy

Impact: Low

Comments:

- DAERA
- NI Assembly, DFI, DCSDC, DAERA

Idea 35: Support Pollinators and Reduce Harmful Practices

What: Encourage native pollinator species by reducing the use of pesticides and herbicides, limiting unnecessary hedge and verge cutting, and increasing native tree and shrub planting. Educate the public on the importance of pollinators and change attitudes towards garden maintenance.

Why: Pollinators are essential to our survival and the health of our ecosystems. By supporting them, we improve biodiversity, benefit from green spaces, and promote healthier environments for people and wildlife.

Difficulty: Difficult

Impact: High

Comments:

NI Assembly, Forest Service, DAERA, DCSDC, Land owners

Idea 36: Address the Impact of White LED Street Lights on Birds and Bats

What: Review and modify the use of white LED street lights, as they negatively impact birds and bats.

Why: Bright white lights disturb nocturnal wildlife like birds and bats, disrupting their natural behaviours and habitats. Adjusting street lighting can help protect these important species.

Difficulty: Easy

Impact: High

Comments:

NI Assembly, DFI, DCSDC, landowners, general public

Idea 37: Prevent the Destruction of Peatlands

What: Stop the destruction of peatlands from extraction, development, and recreational use. Create a restoration plan and strategy for peatlands in the DCSDC area.

Why: Peatlands are a critical carbon sink, home to rare plant species and endangered birds. They also play a vital role in water quality, including drinking water. We need a plan to protect and restore them before they are lost.

Difficulty: Difficult

Impact: High

Comments:

DFI, DCSDC, General Public, NI Assembly, DAERA

Idea 38: Ensure Green Space Provision in New Housing Developments

What: Ensure that new housing developments include accessible green spaces. These spaces provide health benefits and help mitigate flooding risks, while supporting biodiversity.

Why: Access to green spaces is vital for health and well-being. Including them in new developments also helps protect biodiversity and manage environmental issues like flooding.

Difficulty: Difficult

Impact: High

Comments:

NI Assemble, DAERA, Forest Service, NIEA, Water Service, Landowners, general public, DCSDC, horticultural industry,

Theme: Housing

Idea 39: Make better use of existing housing stock

What: Available housing should be suited to its use and new solutions found to bring more under-used and unused homes into use. These could include restricting AirBnb, new approaches to housing design to make homes more adaptable through people's life times, sanctions for dereliction, and creating a culture of sharing homes.

Why: Housing shortages affect everything because housing is essential for community, security and stability, and family life.

Difficulty: Difficult

Impact: High

Comments:

Planning Service, NI Assembly, NIEA, DAERA

Idea 40: Improve the Quality of Existing Homes

What: Introduce minimum standards related to climate change to renovate and retrofit all existing houses, supported by measures is affordable e.g. grants.

Why: The quality of our homes affects health and well-being, and this idea would also address what people spend, our carbon footprints and be more sustainable in the long run.

Difficulty: Easy

Impact: High

Comments:

DFC DCSDC DfI

Idea 41: Update building codes to reflect environmental standards

What: Better rules, guidance, and support for environmentally friendly buildings.

Why: To ensure that new and renovated buildings are fit for the future.

Difficulty: Difficult

Impact: High

Comments:

DFC DCSDC DfI

Idea 42: Introduce rent control

What: New legislation to cap how much rent landlords can charge.

Why: To make the housing system fairer and more affordable, and to enable communities to form by helping people stay in one place longer and put down roots.

Difficulty: Difficult

Impact: High

Comments: DfC DfI DfE DCSDC

Idea 43: More rights for tenants

What: Better conditions and more secure tenures for renters in the private rental sector.

Why: So that you don't have to buy a house to have secure housing.

Difficulty: Difficult

Impact: Low

Comments: DfC DCSDC

Theme: Environmental Protection

Idea 44: Establish an independent EPA

What: A body independent of government with the power to enforce robust standards of environmental protection, backed up with scientific evidence.

Why: There is no system at the moment to punish polluters and we can see the consequences of this in Lough Neagh and Muboy (for example).

Difficulty: Difficult

Impact: Low

Comments:

DfC DCSDC

Idea 45: Regular water testing

What: Regular water testing with transparent results, including using citizen science.

Why: To deal with water pollution early and find the causes of contamination more quickly.

Difficulty: Difficult

Impact: High

Comments:

DAERA, NI Assembly, General public

Idea 46: Joined up environmental protection across the island of Ireland

What: Shared standards and information on an all-island basis, ensuring that data is compatible and comparable.

Why: Harm to the environment anywhere affects everything around it and doesn't recognise borders.

Difficulty: Difficult

Impact: High

Comments:

NPW, NIEA, NI Assembly, Oireachtas

Idea 47: More transparent information and decision making processes

What: When a decision is made, it should be accompanied by a clear timeframe and action plan with named people who are responsible, e.g. when motions are passed at council, the public should be informed of what will happen next.

Why: People want to see changes with regard to sustainability and climate change, and need to see that action is being taken rather than just talking about it.

Difficulty: Difficult

Impact: High

Comments:

Idea 48: Special protections for AONBs

What: Restrictions on industry, developments, and extraction across the whole of the AONB.

Why: To restrict the last remaining wilderness and biodiversity.

Difficulty: Easy

Impact: High

Comments:

NI Assembly, Planning service, DAERA, NIEA

Idea 49: More prosecution for environmental crimes

What: Real accountability for those who harm the environment.

Why: The responsibility for environmental harms lies with big corporations and the government, not solely with individuals.

Difficulty: Difficult

Impact: High

Comments:

DAERA, NIEA, NI Assembly

Idea 50: Address farming practices that harm the environment

What: Address the ways in which agricultural practices are harming the environment and biodiversity and support farmers to farm in more nature-friendly ways.

Why: Intensive farming is destroying nature and Northern Ireland is a sacrifice zone.

Difficulty: Difficult

Impact: High

Comments:

DAERA, NI Assembly, Farming groups like UFU etc, Farmers