

Northern Ireland Environment Forum



Wednesday 20th May 2026
Europa Hotel, Belfast

An agendaNi event

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Northern Ireland Environment Forum

The Northern Ireland Environment Forum, organised by agendaNi, is Northern Ireland's major conference on environmental policy and management.

The state of Northern Ireland's environment is currently critical, with recent reports highlighting it as one of the most nature-depleted regions in the world. Climate change and the Green Growth Strategy for Northern Ireland are top of the policy agenda. The Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (Act) sets a target of net zero emissions by 2050, along with interim targets including an at least 48% reduction in net emissions by 2030.

The 2026 Forum will take stock of Northern Ireland's current environmental landscape and its future outlook. Attendees will hear from visiting experts and local key stakeholders who will focus on the challenges facing the environment and all it encompasses – climate change, nature, water, the circular economy and more.

The Northern Ireland Environment Forum provides an important opportunity for all the key players in the environment sector to come together for a day of discussion and networking – don't miss out!

Key themes for the Northern Ireland Environment Forum 2026

- ✓ Policy priorities for Northern Ireland's environment;
- ✓ Meeting the challenge of climate change;
- ✓ Biodiversity: How can nature recover?;
- ✓ Waste management and creating a circular economy;
- ✓ ESG and sustainability reporting;
- ✓ Water quality in Northern Ireland;
- ✓ The relationship between public health and the environment;
- ✓ Environmental aspects of planning;
- ✓ Sustainable development.



Sponsorship and exhibition opportunities

There are only a small number of opportunities remaining to get involved with the Northern Ireland Environment Forum as a sponsor or exhibitor. Sponsorship underlines leadership status and helps profile an organisation's activities and expertise within the sector. It is also often a springboard into the networking and informal strategic discussions from which major business opportunities arise. In exchange for sponsorship support the sponsor will receive an attractive package of benefits designed to maximise their organisation's profile in front of this senior audience and leave a lasting impression upon the key decision-makers in attendance.

Contact **Fiona McCarthy** on 028 9261 9933 or email fiona.mccarthy@agendani.com for further information on how to feature your organisation at the conference.



Conference programme

08.30 Conference registration and morning coffee

09.00 Chair's welcome and introduction: Louise Cullen, Agriculture and Environment Correspondent, **BBC News NI**

09.05 CONFERENCE PLENARY

Environmental policy priorities for Northern Ireland

Senior representative, **Department of Agriculture, Environment, and Rural Affairs**

Protecting and improving the environment

Professor Robbie McDonald, Chief Scientist and Chief Insights Officer
The Office for Environmental Protection

The UK's approach to tackling climate change

Emma Pinchbeck, Chief Executive, **Climate Change Committee** *(invited)*

Question & answer session / Panel discussion

10.45 Coffee break and exhibition viewing

11.15 CONFERENCE PLENARY

Protecting Ireland's water resources: a look back

Jenny Deakin, Programme Manager, Water Programme, **Environmental Protection Agency Ireland**

Developing a circular economy for Northern Ireland

Heidi Redmond, Circular Economy Adviser, **Strategic Investment Board**

Empowering communities for climate change

Lauri McCusker, Director, **The Fermanagh Trust**

Improving sustainability performance across the campus and community

Sara Lynch, Head of Sustainability, **Queen's University Belfast**

Question & answer session / Panel discussion

13.00 Networking lunch

14.00 AFTERNOON SESSION

Climate: Putting Northern Ireland businesses at the forefront

Keelin McCone, Head of Environment, **Business in the Community**

Waste crime in Northern Ireland

Dorinnia Carville, Comptroller and Auditor General, **NI Audit Office**

Planning and the environment: Community engagement

Paul Roberts, Chief Executive, **Community Places**

Question & answer session / Panel discussion

15.15 PANEL DISCUSSION: The Northern Ireland environment: Challenges and future outlook

This 45-minute panel discussion will take an in-depth look at the challenges facing and opportunities for the Northern Ireland environment including environmental governance, climate change, water, circular economy and more.

Gary Curran, Director of Engineering and Sustainability, **NI Water**

John Martin, Director, Northern Ireland, **The Woodland Trust**

Joanne Sherwood, Director, **RSPB Northern Ireland**

Amanda Slevin, Lecturer and Co-Director of the Centre for Sustainability, Equality and Climate Action, **Queen's University Belfast**

16.00 Conference close



Register now!

Early bird rate £245 + VAT @ 20% = £294 (ends Thursday 26th March)

Delegate rate £295 + VAT @ 20% = £354

Charity delegate rate £175 + VAT @ 20% = £210

How to register



Online

www.nienvironmentforum.com



By telephone

028 9261 9933



By email

registration@agendani.com

Scan the QR code



Terms and conditions

- Once booked places may not be cancelled.
- Payment must be received before the conference.
- If you are unable to attend, you can send a substitute participant instead, at no additional charge.
- Failure to attend requires full payment.
- Conference fees includes entry for one person per ticket.
- We intend to photograph this event. Any photographs will be used only for our own publications.
- VAT will be charged on all conferences as they are not training courses.
- By agreeing to our terms and conditions this booking creates legally binding obligations for both parties, irrespective of attendance on the day.

You can unsubscribe from receiving information at any time. Please let us know if you wish to unsubscribe by emailing registration@agendani.com or phoning 028 9261 9933.

Acknowledgement of registration

Confirmation of registration will be emailed to all delegates following receipt of registration details. If you have not received your acknowledgement within 48 hours of registering, please contact us at registration@agendani.com to confirm your booking.



Venue details

The conference takes place in the Europa Hotel, Belfast. Further details on location, including directions and public transport options are available at www.nienvironmentforum.com

Who should attend?

- Environmental policy-makers
- Environmental Managers
- Elected representatives
- Local government
- Environmental consultants and advisors
- Sustainability Managers
- Developers and construction companies
- Waste management companies
- Legal and financial advisors
- Head of ESG
- NGOs/Environmental charities
- Academics
- Regulators
- Planning professionals