

# 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](mailto: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**

### *Biodiversity projects in Galway City*

Paula Kearney, Biodiversity Officer, **Galway City Council** *(invited)*

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.

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

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

**Speakers tbc**

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](http://www.nienvironmentforum.com)



#### By telephone

028 9261 9933



#### By email

[registration@agendani.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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