

Overview of Submissions:

Received by NESC in response to Shared Island Climate and Biodiversity Consultation



An Chomhairle Náisiúnta Eacnamaíoch agus Shóisialta
National Economic & Social Council

BACKGROUND PAPER

No.156/1



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Sinead Nic Coitir

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No.156/1 October 2021

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Introduction

The following submissions were submitted to NESC during March 2021 as part of a Shared Island project exploring the challenges and opportunities in climate and biodiversity on the island of Ireland. Some of the key points are outlined, but this is only indicative of the full submission.

Questions in Consultation Paper:

1. Is there one of the 5 areas identified which should be prioritised for more detailed consideration in a shared island context? If so, which one and why?

2. Is there another area not listed in the 5 identified areas that should be considered for further exploration on a shared island basis? If so, what is it and why?

3. Are there any points of clarification required in this paper or new issues which should be considered in relation to climate and biodiversity in a shared island context

Where numbers are reference in the description, these refer to the above Questions.

1 Amy O'Brien

Biodiversity - governments should work towards protection and rejuvenation through an integrated strategy plan. Rewild hedgerows and grow wildflowers along motorways. Build cities up rather than out, and reduce the amount of land that farms consume.

2 Prof. Mark Johnson, School of Natural Sciences and Ryan Institute, NUI Galway

One of the key areas is how to get climate and biodiversity information at a range of scales, so communities can get a sense of their situation, and gain agency from being able to see the effects of actions at the community scale.

1. Local Wealth Building, Resilience and a Just Transition in Rural Farming Communities.

2. Transport – dependence on cars.

3. Some of the examples of successful interventions could be expanded on.

3 Eric Conroy, Council member of An Taisce

Please produce a report based on the declaration that we have climate change & biodiversity crises in Ireland. Total consumption CO2eq. emissions should be shown in countries' performance, not production.

Give clear advice on how to cut agriculture emissions, which is the highest emitting sector, including reduction in animal numbers.

To address biodiversity loss, please bring proposals around re-wilding, native tree growing and banning hedge-cutting.

4 Hans Dubois

3. State explicitly that car-dependence/centredness should be addressed, and that coal/diesel heating systems should be pro-actively replaced.

5 Tillage Industry Ireland

There is a strong tradition for produce from tillage crops in the NE of Ireland to supply livestock producers in NI. Given the high density of ruminants, pigs, poultry and mushroom producers in the North, there is considerable opportunity for NI producers to provide animal manures to tillage producers in the NE of the country.

A recognition of the need for sustainable practices, and for minimising the travel footprint of food and feed imports, would help economic sustainability.

Traditionally the link between Northern and Southern tillage and crop production has been very strong. They both face the challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss. Solutions will depend on taking a joint approach, and the tillage industry has a lot to offer in developing these solutions.

6 Coomhola Salmon Trust Ltd

Proposal for an All-Ireland Wildlife Web – linkages or corridors between existing conservation areas, involving state agencies, farmers, community and voluntary groups north and south.

7 Dylan Murphy, DCU MSc student

1. Prioritising renewable energy, building on the collaborative work of Ireland's Single Electricity Market, would have a net positive impact on all of the other identified areas, potentially leading to fewer mitigation measures while granting us further energy security. Mai
2. A unified legislative approach towards decarbonisation measures, specifically on measures that disincentivise investment in fossil fuel intensive projects, such as fracking.
3. Coastal erosion and flooding.

8 SHARECITY

If one aspect of this document requires attention, it is in relation to the significance of unsustainable production and consumption which is driving many of the issues leading to both climate change and biodiversity loss.

We would welcome further interactions in relation to this work as it evolves.

Climate policy has been overly fixated on carbon taxation; deep and ongoing public engagement is necessary in both mitigation and adaptation of climate change; early gains through Citizens Assembly in the Republic have not been capitalised on to date; there's a need to move from ambition/rhetoric to action.

Resilience in Cities: there's a need to ensure that the social dimensions of resilience are not undervalued; need to ensure just resilience strategies, in particular relating to those who may live in rural or peri-urban environments but who work in urban centres; highlight the green space per capita WHO recommendations; food sharing – social value and appropriate governance.

Valuing Nature: research is needed to identify whether nature-based solutions (NbS) etc framing creates positive impacts; citizen engagement; a critical watching brief for protecting non-human nature.

Renewable energy developments should be also optimised for social and biodiversity benefits; demand management around energy usage is also critical.

Local wealth building etc: repurposing land use to reduce emissions from agriculture must not be at the cost of biodiversity loss or community impoverishment; potential of sharing economy and food sharing practices.

1. Better to prioritise foundational aspects of research under each heading than prioritise one.
2. It would be good to be explicit about futuring technologies and approaches which may be needed to establish anticipatory governance.
3. Engagement of citizens beyond workers in impacted sectors; articulating and exploring good practice, cross-border learnings, and future potential for societal engagement in all 5 areas; developing a cross-sectoral, holistic approach to enhance synergies and identify trade-offs; elaborating on the disadvantages of a lack of a shared island approach could enhance the case for developing a shared island approach.

9 AMBER (Advanced Materials and BioEngineering Research) & AICEP (The All-Island Circular Economy Proposal Team), TCD

1. Instead of prioritising certain areas it will be important to mainstream climate, biodiversity and environment policy across government departments to provide a holistic approach.

2. This paper should specifically identify a transition to a circular economy and bioeconomy as 6th of the key strategic areas.

3. The paper would be improved by further quantification data on eco-protection indicators and e.g. relying on the purchase of energy and carbon credits. The link between economic factors and climate change/biodiversity loss should receive more attention. There's a need to differentiate the role of the bioeconomy in the biosphere and the Technosphere.

10 Ulster Wildlife

1. Issues (1) and (3) should be addressed together as the single highest priority. All-Island targets must accommodate the shifts in species, and habitats of conservation importance, as a result of their response to climate change.

2. There are specific issues facing border counties, such as shared river catchments, and wildlife corridors. This could warrant an additional, separate area, for example "Border areas and habitat continuity".

3. Nature-based solutions (NbS) are vital in addressing both the climate and biodiversity crisis. Climate-friendly farming should be incentivised and supported, and the contribution of 'blue carbon' should be fully acknowledged. Specific consideration of habitat and landscape continuity in cross-border areas when implementing NbS requires attention.

4. Protected sites and Nature Recovery Networks – There is a need to ensure protected areas, both on land and at sea, are 'climate smart' and are part of a wider **Nature Recovery Network (NRN)**

We are concerned that Brexit might weaken the ability of universities and research institutes to maintain their long tradition of cross-border working. Wider cross-border management approaches are needed for loughs and coastal areas across the whole island.

11 EPA

Agrees there will be potential to further explore areas of synergy and divergence between the recent State of the Environment report from the EPA and the Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report from DAERA. There is scope for increased cooperation and joint research programmes, North and South, on GHGs, particularly in the agriculture sector. Existing frameworks and mechanisms to explore further knowledge sharing should be used. Outlines the areas of cooperation it's involved in with NI.

Organisations such as the EPA and counterparts in Northern Ireland must continue to work together for effective environmental decision-making post-Brexit.

1. Focusing on 'Valuing Nature' may provide significant co-benefits that also address climate, resilient cities and improved water quality; it may also be less complex economically, structurally and legally as an initial focus area.

2. The following additional areas are worthy of exploration on a shared island basis: environmental assessments; soil protection; and land-cover and land-use mapping.

3. Highlight the opportunities for all-island environmental research. Focus on climate action as part of a 'green' recovery that offers the opportunity to rebuild the all of island economy, generate new jobs and respond to climate change; and on the market opportunities presented by the circular economy.

12 Derry City & Strabane District Council Also NWRDG – see No. 13.

1. All areas should be given equal weighting.
2. No.
3. Derry City & Strabane District Council have progressed a number of key climate action initiatives. Current cross border initiatives will evolve into a wider North West Climate Action Plan, and a local authority cross border working group has been established to lead on the climate and biodiversity agenda across the region.

Additional issues which require further exploration include:

- The need for credible all island climate evidence, measurement and monitoring systems
- Increased capacity to undertake climate action
- Emphasis on the role of all island NbS, and greater adaptation collaboration, and role of wider society
- Analysis of food systems vulnerability
- Central government support, and coordinated financial and regulatory mechanisms

Other recommendations:

- The current NI Biodiversity Strategy should be aligned to the UN SDGs. DCSDC's Green Infrastructure approach should be considered throughout NI.
- NESC's consultation paper should refer to the importance of ecosystems services, and not separate this from biodiversity.
- The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan model shows that a series of small scale local actions, repeated over a large area, can meet biodiversity national & international targets & actions.
- The Northern Ireland Biodiversity Officer Forum should be built upon to ensure wider delivery for biodiversity across the island.
- DCSDC and DCC are currently developing a North West Regional Energy Strategy, which requires further analysis and benchmarking

13 North West Regional Development Group (NWRDG)

See No. 12. Also:

- Donegal County Council has for the first time provided a dedicated ring fenced budget of €100,000 in 2021 to be spent solely on biodiversity measures, to be matched by other funds.
- Buncrana has won a number of national pollinator awards over the past five years.

14 Joanne O'Connor

1. **Resilience in Cities:** Sharing Good Practice should be prioritised for more detailed consideration. It is vital that best practice around the areas of climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience is shared between cities north and south of the border.

The potential of networks such as C40 Cities, and ICLEI Europe, should be explored further. For cities on either side of the border to be able to share best practice with each other, they must first look towards the international stage – a move already taken by Belfast and Cork.

The concept of the 15-minute city also offers potential for cross-border information sharing.

15 Lia Clarke, DCU MSc student

1. **Climate Policy:** Through cooperation in the creation and implementation of climate policies the Island as a whole will become stronger and more robust in tackling climate change. Following Brexit, joint climate policies between North and South will be crucial for ensuring synergy and reducing the risk of regulatory divergence in the future. An all-Island approach towards new climate policies and legislation in relation to the agriculture sector will result in a more robust framework.
2. **Air pollution:** Through joint climate policies North and South can improve air quality at a local and national scale leading to the reduction of premature deaths.

16 Róisín Greaney, DCU MSc student

1. **Valuing Nature: Biodiversity Accounting, Policy and Engagement** should be prioritised because:
 - Northern Ireland and Ireland rank as 12th and 13th worst performing in the world in terms of biodiversity loss
 - Biodiversity regeneration should be incorporated into the Just Transition for farmers
 - Restoring biodiversity will have a positive impact on our mental health and our connectedness with nature and each other. In the context of Brexit and Covid-19, dialogue will foster the kind of meaningful collaboration which will allow us to leave our differences behind. A Citizens' Assembly on Biodiversity, including citizens from both sides of the border, would be a powerful tool for this.

17 UCD Energy Institute

One of the key challenges relates to the area of funding. Research funding on an all island basis can help deliver the ability to have integrated research programmes where the strengths of the researchers in different jurisdictions can be brought together.

There are strong linkages between the 5 areas and it is difficult to identify one as a priority.

The Energy Systems Integration Partnership Programme (ESIPP) – coordinated by the UCD Energy Institute - is delivered in partnership with industry and researchers from UCD, TCD, NUIG, the ESRI and DCU. This multidisciplinary approach to tackling decarbonisation challenges is also required for the wider biodiversity and climate challenges outlined.

Renewable energy should be considered in a shared island context since the integrated Single Electricity Market (ISEM) operates on an All Island basis.

An integrated approach to connection of offshore resources should be considered. With the level of cross border travel, charging infrastructure should be available on an all-island basis if EVs are to be considered a real solution. The development of infrastructure can provide opportunities to address biodiversity challenges, e.g. through the provision of no-fishing zones around Offshore Wind Parks.

The NexSys (Next Generation Energy Systems) research programme will focus on delivering Net Zero Carbon Energy in Ireland by 2050. It will continue to bring together researchers from various disciplines and institutions across the island to address energy research, with a focus on energy decarbonisation.

18 Prof. Pat Brereton DCU

1. **Media/communications** need to be added as core focus.

Areas such as supporting nature capital, and especially numbers four and five as listed, can be fruitfully cross-connected. There's an urgent need to make biodiversity and climate change 'local', and 'reflective' of pressing issues affecting our country. Key strategies include radically transforming the farming landscape and supporting more small-scale, diverse and sustainable agriculture. This radical transformation to protect and sustain our biodiversity needs to be underpinned by supports for a Just Transition for all involved.

Following on from Kieran Mulvey's report, PB has drafted a proposal on the possibility of supporting a Climate Change Research and Educational Centre for the Midlands.

PB has also helped set up a company called ScreenGreening to support the rolling out of a Carbon Calculator for the Irish media industry. A similar Carbon Calculator or Footprint metric system should be rolled out across Higher Education, alongside promoting the 'Greening of the Curriculum'.

The most important objective within environmental communications and the academy is to align climate change and the ongoing loss of biodiversity through the glue of media and communications, in a post-Covid context.

Ways of achieving better environmental communication include:

- Avoid focusing on negative messages and use evidence of successful actions/solutions.
- Use a constructive approach, showing how facts contribute to addressing the problem.
- Select the best and most appropriate tools to reach specific audiences and groups.
- Find ways to monitor progress and show development.

If an argument fails to generate feelings, or tap into the affective component of public engagement, then it will probably not persuade.

19 Indaver

Indaver welcomes and supports this initiative, as a cohesive joined up approach to all-island environmental issues is now critical, given the challenges with regard to climate mitigation and the sustainable and circular management of waste.

Successful all-island collaboration in managing the environment has become common place, with the Environment Sector of the North South Ministerial Council meeting regularly to collaborate on environmental protection, pollution, water quality management in a cross-border context. Numerous examples of cross-border co-operation exist, including:

- the all-island single electricity market,
- management of river basins and water quality,
- the cross-border repatriation plan established under the auspices of the EU Waste Shipment Regulation,
- implementation of the EU Habitats Directive.

Continued collaboration and regulatory equivalence between the jurisdictions must be maintained post-Brexit, as any divergence would amount to a significant barrier to trade on the island.

Waste Management - In the absence of indigenous infrastructure, there is continued reliance on the export of waste, despite significant strides in the management of municipal waste in both Ireland and NI. The requisite waste treatment infrastructure, including for hazardous waste, should be developed on an all-island basis. There should be a single strategic all-island waste strategy, as a key element of a sustainable waste management solution and the transition to a circular economy

Environmental Governance and Oversight - With Brexit and the loss of oversight from European institutions, a new system of oversight will be needed. The risks associated with divergence are acute. The existing waste shipments framework and the EU environmental protection framework should be preserved to maintain environmental equivalence between the two jurisdictions. The draft UK Environment Bill will apply in Northern Ireland - it provides for the establishment of an Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) to carry out enforcement functions previously undertaken by EU institutions. However, this legislation is not expected to be passed until autumn 2021, so there is already a governance gap in Northern Ireland with respect to environmental protection matters.

Climate and Renewable Energy - the deployment of a much greater level of renewable energy will be crucial in tackling climate change, meeting 2030 targets, and ultimately transitioning to net zero. Greater co-operation on all-island renewable energy infrastructure would greatly help societal engagement. WtE advancements in district heating, hydrogen generation, carbon capture and storage etc. have an important role to play.

Hydrogen - There are many examples of cross-border innovative trials and sharing of best practice by industry, academia and relevant government bodies. A dedicated all-island hydrogen strategy would ensure a joined-up approach to deployment and policy and regulatory challenges.

20 Marzia Doro, DCU MSc student

1. The **biodiversity crisis** represents one of the most complex aspects of tackling the climate challenge and its solution may represent an important increase in competitiveness and resilience in Ireland. With regards to policy and public funding, there is a need to rebalance the role of biodiversity compared to other facets of the environmental agenda. Prioritising investments on the natural capital represents a form of 'low-regret' strategy, with enduring economic and social benefits in the long term. A shared north-south policy connecting the conservation of natural capital and the tourism industry can help the competitiveness and uniqueness of the 'brand Ireland'. Biodiversity embraces a social dimension, too.
2. Developing an **education strategy on environmental protection and biodiversity**, for farmers, the younger generation, and the rest of the citizens, is fundamental for the societal transition. The Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Forum is a non-governmental networking organization that promotes a coordinated approach towards the delivery of environmental education within NI. An Taisce has established an Environmental Education Unit. There is potential for all-island cooperation on the educational level, maybe leading to the institution of a 'whole Island Environmental Education Council'.

Global warming may require a **radical transformation of our habits**, consumption style, and economic model. Pooling resources north and south to support people in the discovery of new lifestyles, diets, ways of producing, working and conceiving economy will build resilience in society, and help find extraordinary answers to a problem that is anything but ordinary.

21 JBC (Ibec/CBI)

The **illegal movement of waste** raises concerns in light of possible Brexit regulatory divergence, misalignment in local arrangements, and/or fragmentation in all island waste management infrastructure.

There are many challenges and opportunities for all island thinking and a joint shared island approach, within the environmental policy landscape in both jurisdictions.

1. **Water and Sustainability** - common challenges are faced by both jurisdictions in relation to shared river basins and water sources. These water resources are in part jointly managed by two cross border bodies, Waterways Ireland and the Loughs Agency, and within the EU Water Framework Directives. By comparison the infrastructure for the supply of treated water and for waste water does not have similar joined up N/S management.

2. **Waste management** - The current DECC Waste Action Plan for the Circular Economy review is a timely opportunity to assess progress over the past few years against the a range of possibilities for cooperation set out in the 2015 DOE paper Delivering Resource Efficiency to develop a shared island approach to adapting and progressing waste management and processing including those shared on a cross border basis in response to Brexit and the new N/S dynamic.

3. **Forestry** should be considered in relation to the shared climate and biodiversity challenge and opportunity, but also in the 'totality' of its economic as well as environmental contribution. The current crises in the operation of regulation for forestry has highlighted the complexity, interconnectedness and interdependency of all of these elements for their immediate and longer term sustainability. This interconnectedness includes the fact that forestry is all island.

22 Repak ELT

NESC should consider researching the establishment of an all-island Producer Responsibility Initiative for the sound environmental management of **end of life tyres (ELT)**. While tyres are traded on an all-island basis, we note no equivalent system of traceability in Northern Ireland.

An all-island Producer Responsibility Initiative would bring a synergy resulting in significant environmental benefits, including:

- Supporting our collective ambition to move towards Zero Waste where nothing is accepted as a waste and end of life tyres are managed as a resource.

- An all-island system of traceability would enhance the transparency of all tyre movements and make non-compliance easier to identify.

- Tiered funding can promote better environmental outcomes in line with the proximity principle, where waste is managed as close as possible to where it arises.

23 All -Island Local Authority Forum

1. It is impossible to prioritise one of the identified areas over the others. All aspects of the climate and biodiversity crises are interlinked and inter-dependent, and must be addressed in a holistic and integrated way. **The unique position of local government puts them at the centre of climate action**, as does their role in climate action, housing, planning and town/town centre regeneration - functions which must all address sustainability going forward.

2. (i) Community & Citizen Engagement through Local Authorities. **Communities need to be supported to be the agents for change** – investment is required at community level to ensure buy-in from communities. The local government sector and education providers should collaborate to ensure supply of essential retrofitting skills. The possibility of all LA's across the island agreeing to reflect the UN's SDGs in their new development plans should be explored.
 (ii) Building resilience to global climate shocks - this important area should be further explored, in terms of building resilience against such global shocks in a sustainable manner.

3. Area ii could usefully be **expanded to include towns across the island, or at least our larger towns**. Area v could include a Just Transition in other areas, for example energy, cities. Also, how do we climate proof our approach to future planning and development across the island, while ensuring that communities are at the centre of the decision-making process?

24 Social Justice Ireland

Areas for Further Exploration - One area which must be embedded in each of the areas identified in the paper is the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)...Although the outcome of the UK Voluntary National Review of progress towards the SDGs has not yet been finalised, it will inform policy for the NI Executive. It is important that there is similar ambition towards the SDGs on both parts of the island if there is to be real progress on Climate and Biodiversity on an All-Island basis.

A Green Recovery - Differences in strategies and incentives for farmers on both sides of the border will determine whether agriculture will be a vehicle to help us meet climate commitments. The reframing of CAP and the priorities of the EU - which may be very different to the agriculture income support system and priorities of the United Kingdom - will present challenges. The Just Transition dialogue at community level and a focus on resilience and local wealth building could be one of the key areas of addressing the potential disparities at a local level.

The UK government will determine the focus of Northern Ireland's pandemic recovery plan, whether climate issues are prioritised, and what funds are available. There is a potential for synergy if the UK recovery plan is also focussed on a green recovery.

A Just Transition - Social investment must be a top priority of transition because it will support people, communities, sectors and regions as we make the difficult transition to a carbon-neutral economy. A comprehensive mitigation and transition strategy is required to ensure there is public support. The challenge is to ensure that the local dialogue, North and South, is based on similar values and principles, with similar outcomes envisaged.

Valuing Nature - The SDGs related to natural capital and living ecosystems are the basis for achieving all other social and economic goals. Ireland needs to improve its data collection methods when it comes to biodiversity and to monitor the impact of climate change, North and South.

25 Inland Fisheries Ireland

IFI participate in many cross-border groups. For example a cross-border scientific group (NSSSCIF) was initiated in 2018 related to fisheries science and management. IFI also takes part in a Water Framework Directive north-south rivers and lakes technical sub-committee, chaired by EPA and NIEA. There is also good cooperation between IFI and other NI water and environment agencies. IFI have participated as a strategic partner in many EU funded cross-border projects and are currently a strategic partner on the Catchment Care (www.catchmentcare.eu).

The National Fisheries Resource - Recreational angling contributes more than €800 million to the Irish economy in a normal year, directly supporting over 11,000 existing Irish jobs. Climate change related pressures may seriously affect this resource.

Biodiversity - freshwater fauna have not been mentioned in section 2.2 - Biodiversity context. Additionally Section 2.2.2 - water and sustainability - is primarily concerned with water quality; however the biodiversity (ecological) element of this must be given due consideration.

There are many surface waters, not formally designated, but which support populations of Annex II species under the Habitats Directive. **Therefore biodiversity should be prioritised for more detailed consideration in a shared island context.** Freshwater, including transitional water, biodiversity and the fisheries resource should also be included. The document mentions that the statutory agency responsible for water is Irish Water; however Ireland has over 74,000 kilometres of rivers and streams, and 128,000 hectares of lakes, all of which fall under the jurisdiction of IFI.

Climate change is one of the greatest threats facing fish populations and the wider aquatic environment. IFI have initiated a national evidence-based research programme (Climate Change Mitigation Research programme – CCMRP) to assess the risk posed to fish communities by climate change and to recommend climate proofing strategies. However this research applies only to catchments entirely within the Republic of Ireland jurisdiction. A similar approach is required for cross-border catchments.

A priority action plan is required, across the island, including implementation of environmental flows (sustainable management of hydrological regimes), improving water quality, protecting and restoring critical habitats of fish and other species, manage exploitation of freshwater species (e.g. science-based fisheries management), nature-based solutions, preventing and controlling non-native species invasions and restoring freshwater connectivity and habitats.

26 An Taisce

The following should be included to support prioritisation: 1) community health and well-being 2) sustainable citizen mobility, and 3) restoring nature while reducing Ireland's overall carbon emissions.

Recommendations

Climate Policy: Regional centres require greater investment across health, education, local nature restoration and local community infrastructure. Policy makers should include both information modelling and relevant data analytics to achieve 'future cities' where residents and commuters are carbon neutral and a less transient community is nurtured. A major dietary shift to lower-carbon plant-based food production is required.

Resilience in Cities: How long can governments, for example, continue struggling with infrastructure obligations, intense public scrutiny and the critical need for innovative new ways to finance costly programs? Public sector funding will not be a longer-term option and funders will have clear climate objectives.

Valuing Nature: Reversal of biodiversity loss requires a range of actions on reversing ecosystems, habitat and species degradation; reversing pollinator decline; reducing chemical use; and enhancing marine protection.

Renewable Energy: The first consideration in energy policy should be to reduce energy use demand for industry, heating and transport.

Local Wealth Building etc: Land-use planning to be prioritised for housing, sustainable mobility, and the creation of healthy and vibrant communities, where services and employment centres are within easy cycling, walking and public transport distance from residential areas.

Overarching Sectoral Actions

- Cross-border grid linkage and electricity market
- Climate and biodiversity – the impact of industrial agriculture and industrial fishing
- Integrating all-Ireland air quality, climate and biodiversity action
- Reducing the multiple adverse impacts of car dependence: All-island rail opportunities; opposition to the Dublin-Derry N2-A5 motorway/dual carriageway scheme

27 Gas Networks Ireland (GNI)

GNI owns, operates, builds and maintains the gas network in Ireland and ensures the safe and reliable delivery of gas to its customers.

1. **Renewable Energy** should be prioritised, as increased renewable energy production can help the island of Ireland meet its climate action ambitions by 2030. This can be achieved in part through renewable

technologies such as Anaerobic Digestion (AD). Using agricultural waste products to create biogas can create employment in rural areas, while supporting circular economy principles and a just transition in farming communities.

In addition, initiatives such as micro generation schemes which encourage the creation of renewable energy using micro-CHP (Combined Heat and Power) and Photovoltaic (PV) panels will contribute to the availability of renewable energy on the all island grid. Financial incentives are urgently needed for Ireland to increase renewable energy production through AD facilities, as the biogas they produce can be upgraded to biomethane and injected into the gas network ...The Irish government is exploring the viability of a Micro Generation Support scheme which would help the growth of renewable energy generation.

2. The Consultation document should include a section **on transport, including the Heavy Good Vehicles (HGV) sector**. There are currently no viable electric solutions for this sector, and HGVs are responsible for a disproportionate amount of transport emissions. Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) offers a chance to move away from diesel and significantly reduce emissions.

Infrastructure development for CNG is already underway in Ireland - 14 fast fill CNG stations are being installed across the Core TEN-T road network via a project called the Causeway Study, supported by the European Commission. The Freight Transport Association (FTA) of Ireland, an all island organisation, has highlighted that there is no public refuelling infrastructure for CNG or hydrogen in NI. It has recommended significant investment in refuelling and recharging infrastructure, to give HGVs and LGVs certainty that they will be able to refuel when they need to. GNI believes that there is an opportunity to share knowledge between the two jurisdictions to help the development of this technology across the island.

28 Community Resources Network Ireland (CRNI) / Northern Ireland Resources Network (NIRN)

1. **Climate action and a just transition** should be prioritised for more detailed consideration. There is significant scope for exploring opportunities in the circular economy on a shared island basis, as part of the climate and biodiversity agenda. A 2020 report by Circularity Gap Reporting Initiative highlights that switching to a circular economy could reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by 39%. Policies across both Ireland and Northern Ireland go some way to support this move towards a more circular economy.

Jobs, Skills and the Circular Economy - It is estimated that more than 13,000 jobs could be created if Northern Ireland moved to a circular economy. In Ireland the social reuse and repair sector already employs over 700 people, supports 2,200 trainees or work integration positions, and works with over 7,200 volunteers. Social enterprises are ideally positioned to deliver jobs because of the level of manual labour and the diversity of skills types and levels involved. Many of these skills are associated with sectors that have gone into decline.

Supporting Local through the Circular Economy - Reuse supports local jobs and competitiveness, by protecting businesses against scarcity of resources and volatile commodity prices, and providing an opportunity for community engagement, regeneration and enhancing civic pride. For these reasons, circular economy activities are an ideal fit for the Just Transition.

Circular Economy and Biodiversity - Through prevention, reuse and repair, pressure on resource extraction and production is reduced. Preserving biodiversity is therefore another significant benefit of a circular economy.

Opportunities for collaboration - the North South Ministerial Council (October 2020) flagged opportunities for cooperation in relation to the circular economy:

- **sharing best practices and collaboration** - CRNI and NIRN held a joint meeting in February 2021, which helped participants to identify new business opportunities – at least 30 introductions were facilitated. Other areas for potential sharing include green and social public procurement, building skills and training for a circular economy and national promotions and awareness campaigns

- **policy alignment** - three potential areas are a Quality Mark, Targets for Reuse, and Producer Responsibility Scheme for Mattresses
- **infrastructure development** - There is potential for a shared island approach to reuse and repair infrastructure storage, which would offer economies of scale and/or a buffer to localised capacity shortages. Some recent examples are the expansion of a tap map network of free tap water refill stations by Refill Ireland and Refill Northern Ireland, and the expansion of the digital marketplace thrifty from Ireland into NI and the rest of the UK.

29 Colin Doyle

- Focus on practical measures supporting existing successful initiatives and which help develop the next generation of scientists, officials, policy actors – future policy champions
- Build on the existing successful north south biodiversity collaboration networks which could scale up activities with relatively modest funding (e.g. The All-Island Climate and Biodiversity Research Network, AICBRN.)
- Improve links between bodies and institutions north/south (for example CCAC, EPA, SEAI, Teagasc, NPWS and respective counterparts in Northern Ireland) to overcome the current lack of close cooperation between North/South institutions and bodies.
- Support increased contacts, cooperation and linkages between NGO's and communities north/south
- Support increased links between farm organisations to address common issues. However, climate policy on agriculture is unlikely to be amenable to all-island approach, given great differences in distances to target north/south, and the likely large difference in assigned effort shares.
- Support rational long-term all-island planning of the power grid
- Consider following UK approach to carbon taxes as simplest way to achieve all-island approach.

30 Irish Lights

An all-island body, Irish Lights has statutory responsibility for Marine Aids to Navigation (AtoN) and discharging Irish and UK government responsibilities under the Safety of Life at Sea Convention (SOLAS) 1974 in the waters around Ireland (north and south).

1. **A shared focus on climate policy should be prioritised**, to improve performance on mitigation and adaptation measures. Prioritising climate policy will provide the catalyst for mitigation measures and enable adaptation and resilience measures to develop in a more coherent manner. Opportunities exist for the integration of in situ, real-time observations from coastal deployed infrastructure assets. This enhanced situational awareness could be leveraged for both marine safety and broader environmental management applications, including monitoring the impact of marine use on the environment and ecology of a region. In terms of mitigation, a consolidation process (of our 65 lighthouses around the coast), involves replacing 1000 watts high-energy lights with 90-watt LED lights, and diesel generators with battery banks charged by solar panels. Irish Lights owns a number of coastal properties in or adjacent to areas containing a wealth of unique and important ecosystems. We are currently investigating how these valuable sites can be best used to support our biodiversity and climate change objectives.
2. **Sea Level Rise and Coastal Erosion** - Extreme precipitation and flooding poses the greatest long-term risk from climate change. There is also the growing risk of heat, storms, water scarcity and slope stability, as well as increased sedimentation of harbours from flooding, and increased intensity of storm surges.

Climate change mitigation and adaptation can bring multiple benefits to the environment, society and the economy, opening up new opportunities to promote sustainable local development. Irish Lights are carrying out a Climate Change Risk assessment of all our coastal assets which will be completed by the end of 2021, and beginning to map our historical records of storm damage, in order to build a picture for projected climate impacts.

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3. Topic V could be expanded to include ‘coastal communities’ i.e Local Wealth Building, Resilience and a Just Transition in Rural Farming and Coastal Communities. Focussing on sustainable maritime tourism & heritage initiatives can help to stimulate local economies in remote parts of Ireland north and south. Irish Lights’ Safe Seas – **Connected Coasts** Strategy sets ambitious goals around promoting its rich maritime heritage and culture. Our Great Lighthouses of Ireland initiative (www.greatlighthouses.com) is delivering results, with 13 sites, operated by 8 independent operators around Ireland, and is currently exploring a possible collaboration with Leave no Trace.

31 Dept of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

1. **Co-operation on trans-boundary air pollution** could be prioritised for more detailed consideration in a Shared Island context. While there is currently a greater focus on Ammonia emissions from agriculture, Nitrogen Dioxide and also Sulphur Dioxide are important. This should be a priority within the **Climate Policy** section but there are also significant overlaps with sections such as Valuing Nature. EPA work under the **National Ecosystem Monitoring Network (NEMN)-Design** is a useful reference source.
-
2. **Co-operation for increased animal health** on an All-Island basis; and cross-border climate change adaptation strategies (such as animal feed supply, flood water management and emergency services provision).
-
3. **Climate Policy** - current/future drainage on wetlands/peatlands needs to be examined more closely, as there are trans-boundary implications for the stability of carbon stores, with implications for National Inventory Reporting on emissions for both jurisdictions. Also important is the management of commonage areas, particularly the targeted management of cross border habitat areas, and also the notification of land management events (such as controlled burning)

Natural Capital - more information on the standardisation of the recording of natural capital infrastructure between the two jurisdictions would be useful. This would help ensure that commonalities can be exploited, and trans-boundary monitoring of changes in natural capital can be measured uniformly. The UN’s System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA) looks likely to be adopted in the Republic of Ireland, and there would be environmental and economic advantages if this system was also adopted in NI.

Renewable Energy - increased co-operation on the cross boundary movement of feedstocks, and the digestate material produced from the Anaerobic Digestion process, should be examined. Other issues such as promoting the local use of waste heat and potential for biomethane utilisation could also be explored.

Other issues include: the sharing of information on the cross border importing/exporting of fertiliser; and increased co-operation in common research areas.

NESC should examine **DAFM’s recent Ag-Climateise** document to further identify potential areas of co-operation between North-South bodies to maximise climate, water and biodiversity benefits for the island of Ireland.

32 Heritage Council

The Heritage Council agrees with much of the content and findings of the consultation document. The HC has a long and proud record in a range of all-island programmes and partnerships, from **the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan**, as well as other biological monitoring & training schemes, via the **National Biodiversity Data Centre** to cross-border partnerships through to the **Irish Uplands Forum**, EuroParc and **Woodlands of Ireland** with their membership drawn from across the

island. The Heritage Council will continue to seek such opportunities and play a significant role in achieving positive outcomes as we plot out our new future post Brexit and post Covid.

33 Road Haulage Association

The RHA's response reflects a UK perspective on how the issues discussed in the consultation paper apply to commercial vehicle operations. Within Northern Ireland, the RHA represents 200 operators with access to 3500 HGVs.

1. We note **that surface transport**, as a contributor to emissions, is not heavily referenced in the document, and we recommend that greater focus is given to this. We ask NESC to consider the following recommendations:
 - **Recommendation 1:** well-designed standards generated to govern the development of new road transport technology and infrastructure that is phased in sustainably as market supply allows.
 - **Recommendation 2:** policymakers to provide regulatory certainty to avoid future "stranded assets".

There are recognised technical challenges to decarbonise the HGV fleet whilst maintaining the customer-focussed and efficient movement of goods - for example, an electricity network able to sustain rapid charging points and/or overhead gantries; strategically-located hydrogen refuelling points. To overcome the barriers, we believe that market-driven solutions, guided by corporate social responsibility policies, framed by a public awareness, and demand for investment in green technology, are best placed to achieve freight decarbonisation.

We commend the development of the Euro VI/6 diesel standard, and also welcome the development of zero emission technology - such as hydrogen, battery or electric powered HGVs and, as appropriate, cleaner fuels such as biodiesel, compressed natural gas (CNG) and liquid natural gas (LNG).

We are however concerned over the dangers posed from "stranded assets", which are "assets that have suffered from unanticipated or premature write-downs, devaluations, or conversion to liabilities which can be caused by a variety of risks" (which includes public policy measures).

We are particularly concerned that, due to the twin hit of premature asset devaluation, plus a corresponding rise in the price of the desired technology due to shortages, perverse outcomes will now occur.

On too many occasions in recent times, the term "green" is used to justify poorly evidenced interventions (e.g. Clean Air Zones, "roadspace reallocation") without considering the societal or economic impacts of the measures implemented. The road freight sector has shown that the right frameworks can work very effectively.

34 Angela Lloyd, DCU MSc student

1. It could be argued that the climate and biodiversity crises are so inherently systemic that the adoption of a parallel approach would be more appropriate. However, **Climate Policy** can be viewed as a primary topic which warrants earlier, if not greater, focus. **Renewable Energy** also stands out as being highly relevant, and consideration should be given to the rapidly developing area of **renewable hydrogen**, which could be particularly suited to further examination on a shared island basis.
2. **'Public engagement'** is a topic worthy of distinct focus. All-island sports teams, such as rugby and hockey, could be used to promote wider participation in tackling climate and biodiversity issues. **A shared approach to the management and restoration of peatlands** is another such topic.
3. Further detail should be provided on **how success will be measured and reported**. Regular published updates and press briefings would contribute to public engagement but would help to maintain momentum.

35 Chris McGonigle, University of Ulster

1. **Valuing Nature** – see below.

2. Restoration as a concept is only mentioned four times in the consultation document and this balance should be redressed. Arguably, you could restructure this to have an entirely new section beyond valuing nature to one focused on **Mitigation and Intervention**: remediation, diversification of agricultural practices, restoring ecosystem function, what solutions there are out there and how they could be implemented in a national context.

3. There is something missing in terms of **the linkages between the island of Ireland and Scotland**. The relationship between the north coast of Ireland and the west coast of Scotland is quite unique in terms of geographic proximity, biogeographic connectivity and cultural history. The narrative in the consultation document is largely about there being no ecological borders as far as species are concerned – this is certainly true, but the same logic does apply beyond the political boundaries of NI/IE. From the perspective of much of the marine and seabird avian fauna of these coasts NI and the west coast of Scotland are all part of the same system.

It is important to consider that the east / west regional linkages may be much stronger ecologically between the north coast of Ireland and Scotland than [than?] towards political centres. Further, the situation for Climate and Biodiversity research, Marine Renewable Energy and Natural Capital in Scotland is arguably more advanced than for any other region of the UK. There needs to be much greater influence of some of these peripheral community perspectives.

36 Southern Region Waste Management Office (SRWMO)

We wish to highlight the potential to approach the Circular Economy on a shared island approach. The three RWMOs promote the Circular Economy as one of the inherent objectives of the Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021 in the Connacht-Ulster, East-Midlands and Southern Regions. A pre-draft consultation period has commenced for preparation of a National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy – which will replace the current three regional plans. There is ample scope for sharing of resources and expertise on a Shared Island approach.

37 Chambers Ireland

1. We believe that each of the five areas should be equally prioritised and adequately resourced so as to ensure that tangible results can be achieved across each area. We have set out our positions through various submissions relating to each of the five areas identified in the consultation.
Renewable Energy - Given the single all-island electricity market and the all-island gas grid, there is considerable scope for further collaboration to explore how best to build further connections between developer-led and community energy projects North and South. We would also welcome cross-border collaboration in R&D in areas such as in Carbon Capture Storage and hydrogen.

2. It is worth exploring the opportunity of engaging with business representative groups, including Chambers Ireland, through the establishment of **an advisory and implementation group** on how businesses can be best supported throughout this process. The **green skills, training and jobs shortage** is an area that merits further exploration on a Shared Island basis. Increased co-operation on mutual recognition will be important.

3. Post-Brexit, there is a risk that a divergence – or uneven enforcement resulting in de facto **regulatory divergence** – will threaten the maintenance of environmental co-operation. **An all-island environmental regulatory framework**, with transboundary consultation where potential transboundary impacts arise, could considerably advance efforts to achieve climate action goals in both jurisdictions. North-South cohesion in **carbon tax policy** can benefit the environment and economies in both regions, as it encourages alternative energy by making it cost-competitive with cheaper fuels. For **farmers**, strategic co-

operation is needed on legislation to protect the environment and biodiversity, to avoid the risk of non-tariff trading barriers, and two divergent regulatory regimes.

The **on-going application of key EU Directives across the island** should be secured, and stakeholders should be consulted so they can feed into pre-legislative scrutiny. **Common frameworks** will be needed between the UK, Northern Ireland and Ireland to safeguard agreement on co-operation.

Finally, policy-makers should continue to engage with private sector business representation.

38 Waterways Ireland

As a North South Body Waterways Ireland is ideally placed to engage with stakeholders and co-create shared initiatives.

1. **Valuing Nature** is an area which will have a direct impact on the other themes highlighted.

2. **Resilience in Cities** should be broadened to **Resilient Communities**, being mindful of the wealth of small towns and villages that do not meet city status, nor are primarily farming based. **Heritage** should be included as a theme. Our natural environment is inextricably linked with our culture, our built heritage and intangible cultural heritage elements. Our heritage is also at risk from Climate Change and must become part of this discussion.

3. As this discussion progresses, clarification or new issues will become more apparent.

39 Keep NI Beautiful (KNIB)

1. All of these identified areas are important, and all need further work, especially in the interactions and overlaps amongst them. Many individual actions, carefully thought out, will be able to contribute to two or more of these areas. Action should proceed in all of these areas, with the order of addressing being determined by the severity of the local issues crossed by the ability to implement rapid action. The research and examples of best practice exist across the world to allow for immediate action to take place in most of these areas. Delaying for further detailed research is no longer an option; identification of positive impacts should be prioritized and actioned immediately with research continuing on additional areas for action.

2. It might be useful to pull out the major policy implications in a separate 'area', e.g. what areas should be funded by public investment and which should not. **All public funding must contribute** to, among other things:
 - Supporting public and ecosystem goods and service

 - Carbon storage

 - Purification by natural processes of air, water or soil.

 - Biodiversity protection and recovery.

 - Access, recreation, aesthetics, appreciation of the natural world and its benefits.

 - Resilience

 - Prevention of damage

The vital **role of education** to stimulate appropriate behaviour change could also be separated out as a distinct Area, but could also be a cross-cutting requirement.

40 Dr Mary Dobbs, Maynooth

1. The two themes that seem most urgent and suitable for prioritisation, are those of climate policy and nature. They are clearly two areas that have cross-border impacts and considerations, requiring multilevel governance (bearing in mind the principle of subsidiarity. Leaving climate policy aside, as not my area of expertise, nature and biodiversity cannot be effectively protected or improved in one jurisdiction without cooperation and coordination with the other jurisdiction. The EU currently facilitates and requires this through its numerous environmental frameworks. However, post-Brexit, Northern Ireland will largely be free to diverge from the EU's frameworks.
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2. Other areas: water quality/governance - one of the areas where cooperation is required under EU law (transboundary river basins), but not retained for NI under the Protocol; waste - illegal transboundary waste already arises and smuggling may increase if the regulatory regimes diverge further; environmental governance - the proposals under the UK's Environment Bill are heavily flawed and also will not apply fully in NI. Irrespective, the new regime will be weaker than in the EU. DAERA's environmental strategy is a good start, but does not equate to legislating for objectives and principles. The lack of an independent environmental agency is also a significant issue. It would be highly beneficial to have an agreement between NI and ROI on environmental governance.

I would highlight DAERA's draft agricultural strategy as particularly impressive... It was co-produced by the civil servants with a wide range of stakeholders whilst the NI Assembly was collapsed. It seeks to create something that is mutually beneficial for the environment and agriculture, as well as seeking to support the wider rural community to an extent. This could prove to be a valuable learning opportunity.

41 RSPB Northern Ireland

1. Areas of 'Climate Policy' and 'Valuing Nature' should be jointly prioritised. Emissions reductions options and policies that drive emissions reductions across the island of Ireland, must deliver genuine climate benefits in harmony with nature and in-keeping with wider environmental considerations.
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2. Additional areas that would benefit from shared-island cooperation and investigation include: agriculture policy and land-use management, connecting people to nature, environmental governance, green recovery, marine, sites and species, water, and wildlife crime.
-
3. Greater clarification is needed on matters of i) how a shared-island approach will be governed and managed including political commitment to it; and ii) timings of funding to facilitate much needed co-operation across government and public authorities, academia, business sectors (e.g. agriculture, urban planners), and civil society.

42 Science Foundation Ireland (SFI)

Science Foundation Ireland, along with the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science are planning to create, with others, the all-Ireland of Ireland Research and Innovation System. We will champion major research collaborations between Ireland and Northern Ireland, in areas of opportunity, mutual interest and where gaps exist, acting as lead agency for co-funding with partners in the UK and Northern Ireland.

This paper sets out those proposed models and platforms for collaboration with a specific focus on the climate and biodiversity agenda:

- the SFI **All-Ireland Research Centre model** facilitates the coming together of the distributed expertise that exists within the Irish system in both academia and industry

- the SFI **All-Ireland Spokes Programme** enables the addition of new industrial and academic partners and cutting-edge research projects to an SFI Research Centre
- our proposal is to create an **All Island Challenge Programme** to support Ireland’s best and brightest unconventional thinkers and innovators in unison across the island to develop novel, potentially disruptive, technologies to address significant societal challenges
- We propose to establish a **funding Programme** to fund projects open to researchers cross-border to collaborate in conducting high-risk, high-reward research
- We propose to launch a **shared infrastructure call** to solicit proposals to facilitate the establishment of essential research infrastructure on an all Island basis. Such a scheme could also be considered for the development of Testbed infrastructure to help address the climate and biodiversity challenges facing us.

43 Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)

ICBAN is the local authority-led development organisation for the Central Border Region of Ireland / Northern Ireland. There are eight member Councils: Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon; Cavan; Donegal; Fermanagh & Omagh; Leitrim; Mid-Ulster; Monaghan; and Sligo.

ICBAN has recently developed the ‘Framework of Regional Priorities for the Central Border Region 2021-2017’, which advances five cross-cutting areas:

- i Economic development:
- ii Infrastructure and connectivity
- iii Human capital
- iv Liveable communities
- v Natural capital - Greening the region

ICBAN has identified a select number of emergent Catalyst Projects, that would deliver cross-cutting outputs and demonstrate impacts across the five thematic areas:

Catalyst 1: Farm to Fork

Catalyst 2: Greenways & Blueways

Catalyst 3: River catchments sustainability

Catalyst 4: A Thriving Regional Bioeconomy

Catalyst 5: International Mountain Biking Destination

1. ICBAN recognises the importance of the five areas in the NESC consultation paper. However, there are two areas that align most closely with the area’s key regional priorities:
 - Valuing Nature: Biodiversity Accounting, Policy and Engagement
 - Local Wealth Building, Resilience and a Just Transition in Rural Farming Communities

44 Local Authority Heritage Officer Network (LAHON)

Systems change is needed urgently to address the biodiversity crisis. We must fix the structural issues – joint conservation plans, mapping, data collection, mis-matched designations particularly on contiguous ecosystems.

Some of the inherent friction in the system can be addressed by employing more ecologists to balance the numbers of other technical and professional staff in local authorities. **Biodiversity staff in local authorities must increase** to help deliver local biodiversity and heritage plans and to make nature-based solutions visible. This should include links with local authorities in Northern Ireland.

Climate Policy – The Shared Island Dialogue could influence the production of an All-island statement or vision for biodiversity.

Valuing Nature – There is an opportunity to deliver a nature project that addresses a familiar habitat, which by so doing connects people and places, and forms valuable nature corridors across the island. **All-island hedgerow project and charter** – landscape and corridor connections which go from very local to all-island. There is an opportunity also to improve large biodiverse landscapes, especially the **necklace of Peatlands along the border**.

Local Wealth building etc - **An All-island rollout of Farming for Nature** may help address the post-Brexit challenge of differences in agriculture, impacts on biodiversity and marketing of agricultural products.

45 Environmental Pillar, and Northern Ireland Environment link (NIEL)

Following the TCA between the EU and the UK, and the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland, NIEL and the Pillar believe the following risks remain to be addressed:

1. **Regulatory divergence:** this includes divergence from regulatory standards, withdrawal of the UK from European regulatory bodies (e.g. European Chemical Agency) and collection of information on European environment (Eurostat).

2. **Loss of supra-national governance structures of EU:** including regulatory, monitoring and enforcement function of European Commission and the jurisdiction of the European Courts of Justice

3. **Potential loss of significant streams of funding,** with negative impacts on cross border activities and co-operation between civil society groups

4. **Potential reduction of ability to take joint action on the prosecution of Environmental crime**

We note the mention of the project on wellbeing, not specifically planned under the Shared Island theme, and agree that it would also benefit from a shared island perspective.

The Pillar and NIEL recommend that the following areas be considered further:

- Exploration of the ways in which **the public and civic society can engage with the new environmental regulatory framework and its constituent governance structures**, and the supports needed for such engagement.

- Exploration of how new North/South common environmental goals and objectives and ultimately **frameworks can be developed with the full participation of civil society/ eNGOs**.

46 Coalition 2030

We welcome NESC's focus on sustainable development, including its relevance to mitigation and adaptation policies and its importance to increasing resilience in the context of Covid-19.

The SDGs uniquely address all five policy challenges raised in NESC's research, and constitute a common framework to facilitate progress in both jurisdictions.

1. Consideration of the five areas in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals would allow for an integrated approach.

2. The failure to integrate targets and indicators across Department plans and strategies, as well as the absence of appropriate governance and accountability measures across Government, has prevented substantive progress [on the SDGs] to date. NESC's research should address constructive approaches to SDG implementation, and prioritise differences in SDG progress.

3. NESC should put forward steps to institute proper accountability and reporting measures, specifically on SDG implementation. It should also address the necessary climate and environmental conditionalities to be incorporated into Covid recovery decisions.

NESC should examine the forthcoming climate bills, North and South, and make recommendations on how joint planning and implementation can be enhanced, e.g. with regard to:

- i renewable energy and energy efficiency measures, including at household level

- ii fossil fuel phase out, including removal of fossil fuel subsidies, removal of supports for fossil gas and ending of investments in fossil gas infrastructure.

- iii the mandates and operations of relevant public bodies and semi-state companies in both jurisdictions.

Affected communities and vulnerable groups should have the opportunity to provide input on Shared Island research and policy proposals. There should also be ongoing processes for engagement in the delivery, monitoring and review of future joint measures or mechanisms by Government.

47 Jennifer Archer, DCU MSc student

1. **Biodiversity** should be at the core of all climate policies in Ireland and Northern Ireland. Globally we are at risk of entering an era of pandemics due to biodiversity collapse and the island of Ireland should strive to be an exemplar of cross-border cooperation.

2. The **logistics sector** is the backbone to both Ireland's and Northern Ireland's economy but the sector is responsible for a large amount of greenhouse gas emissions. Given the amount of trade that flows between Ireland and Northern Ireland, an all-island approach should be taken to avoid carbon leakage and to ensure that there is a comprehensive decarbonisation of the sector.

3. Ireland's **marine environment**, namely its nutrient-rich waters which allows for the growth of phytoplankton, should be highlighted. Phytoplankton are responsible for producing approximately 80% of the world's oxygen. An all-island approach should be encouraged to ensure the best possible long-term monitoring of phytoplankton.

48 Natural Capital Ireland (NCI)

1. Despite broad policy and public backing, research and policy on natural capital in Ireland lags behind the UK. There is no equivalent of the Natural Capital Committee in national government and aside from the INCASE project and the Derry Strabane natural capital survey, there are still very few case studies of how **natural capital accounting** can be applied. NCI recommends that this theme be prioritised for more detailed consideration in a Shared Island context. The widespread application of natural capital accounting would also support each of the other research areas.

49 IFA

Ireland has a wealth of natural resources that can be harnessed to provide renewable energy, yet adoption of **renewable technologies at farm level** is well below the European average.

1. **Local Wealth Building, Resilience and Just Transition in Rural Communities should be prioritised** in a shared island content. Farmers should be financially supported to adopt climate mitigating practices. Successful agricultural transformation can deliver on the other broad areas outlined in the paper; climate, biodiversity and renewable energy. The success of any agricultural transformation will rely on how well family farms can be helped to change farming practices as quickly and effectively as possible.
2. IFA would like to see a stronger focus in the paper on **collaborative programmes** such as Smart Farming and ASSAP (Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advice Programme), that foster change at farm level. Particular attention should also be paid to the **financial vulnerability** of many farms and ensure that a short-term and long-term vulnerability assessment of the sector is undertaken to determine the impact of any proposed changes.

50 Sadhbh O'Flynn, DCU MSc student

The **circular economy** is only mentioned twice in the report; it should be an entire area of exploration. The paper does not mention new, efficient, consolidated and climate-conscious **rail infrastructure**.

1. **Local wealth building, resilience and just transition:** in places where rural reliance on agriculture and EU agricultural subsidies indicates a lack of diverse economic opportunity, opportunities should be increased urgently.
2. The Northern Ireland Protocol means that the **circular economy** model will need to be examined in detail, in light of Northern Ireland's now unique position within the single market. There is now a golden opportunity to examine the enormous economic opportunities possible within a circular economy on a shared island. Rural people in the Republic of Ireland are let down by the poor quality, high cost **public transportation infrastructure**. Small rural train stations offer meaningful, long-term employment opportunities, and could be designed to be eco-friendly and multi-use. Right-of-way rail easements on farmers' properties would provide one avenue for incentivising land-use change away from livestock. Expansion of the cross-border rail network would also open up the possibility of allowing freight cargo to travel by rail across the island.
3. The shared island should commit to being held accountable for **shared targets**; "**public goods in public ownership** are central to the concept of a just, low-carbon transition"; **cross-border, partner-town, volunteer-based conservation initiatives** should be considered; Ireland's location is ideal for spearheading collaborative innovation in **wave energy**.

51 TASC

1. **Local Wealth Building, Resilience and a Just Transition in Rural Farming Communities.** The success of the empowerment of communities, through the co-creation and co-ownership of climate action, will depend on the extent to which (i) community participation is meaningful; (ii) challenges of inequity are identified and overcome.

TASC is currently conducting two pilot projects related to their work on 'The People's Transition' - in Phibsborough, Dublin and Ardara, Donegal. The following points form the basis of our engagement with these projects: people-centred action; avoiding the instrumentalization of community by using the language and knowledge of community members; and enabling meaningful participation.

52 Loughs Agency

1. **Climate Policy** - clear shared island targets should be established, with long-term funding and targets; and policy cannot be at the mercy of short political cycles. **Valuing Nature** - should involve stakeholder and public consultations within both jurisdictions. Also, sharing of "lesson learned" in the planning process and judicial review between north and south - for example, in developing regulation and policy on polluting sectors.
2. **Fish stocks and the marine environment** - freshwater and marine environment and species are not prioritised in the same level of detail as terrestrial ecosystems. **"Blue carbon" sequestration** – all-Ireland surveys and research are required to determine if shellfish could assist in the reduction of the island's carbon emissions.
3. Page 20 – "the Loughs Agency is an all-island implementation body for sea loughs" is misleading. Loughs Agency is an agency of the Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission (FCILC).

Within a shared island context, the issue of **shared emission reduction targets, reporting on progress, and funding on adaptation and mitigation measures** should be considered.

53 Maeve Thornberry

Waste management should be included in the Climate Policy piece as it's a cross-border / all-island issue that shouldn't be looked at in isolation by either Government.

54 Sinéad Loughran, DCU MSc student

1. **Valuing Nature** - Northern Ireland has made progress in recent years, while the majority of Ireland's habitats report an unfavourable status. The recent National Biodiversity Forum highlights that our 'green' status "is not borne out by the evidence" and found that the State is the biggest transgressor in environmental laws. Participation in collaborative networks at a city level, for example through the C40 Cities network and others, create a learning environment, and an environment which 'pushes and prods' national governments.
3. **Freshwater and Marine systems** - it is not clear if efforts focused on these areas will be included specifically in the Shared Island Consultation. Irish marine systems should be protected to ensure they are not exploited or degraded. To take one example, kelp forests, common (but also threatened) in Irish coastal waters, play a significant role in carbon drawdown and protection from storm surges. This discussion needs to not only be cross-jurisdictional, but also cross-departmental. The SI Consultation should outline the extent to which the range of departments responsible for certain systems will be included and responsible for actions under a shared island approach to the climate and biodiversity crises

55 Community Wetlands Forum

1. **Climate policy** - it is imperative that wetlands are considered on a shared island basis in terms of the policies underpinning their conservation, protection or wise use. Inclusion of a community voice in this planning is vital.
Valuing nature - with the emergence of means of valuation of natural capital, care will be required in ensuring that North-South systems are aligned, ideally resulting in an all-island System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA). Irish Rural Link (South) and the Rural Community Network (North) can facilitate the process of engaging with communities, potentially through an expanded CWF network of community groups.
Local Wealth-Building - A shared island approach to wetlands can contribute to a diversified and resilient rural economic system, including paludiculture and expected CAP payments associated with this.

2. The importance of **continued engagement (early and often) aimed at community integration and linkages** in border counties (North and South) should be strengthened. A '**landscape level**' treatment should be considered. This report should consider the application of **an all-island peatland code**, modelled on the best-practice shown by existing schemes; e.g. MoorFutures in Germany or the UK Peatland Code.

3. The acronym 'INTERREG' should be used, not 'INTEREG'. Also, please note that RSPB leads CABB, not BirdWatch Ireland, who are a partner.
 The inclusion of CANN (Collaborate Action for the Natura Network) as an exemplar of cross-border initiatives should also be highlighted.
 Existing funding programmes supporting community-led environmental work in the North (Heritage Lottery Fund, PEACE, etc.) should be promoted and linked to funding mechanisms in the South (e.g. LA21, LEADER, Heritage Council, EIP-AGRI, LIFE, etc).
 The Dasgupta Report of early 2021, highlighting the economic importance of biodiversity, should be referred to, as should, the findings of the Dutch central bank that biodiversity loss is now a tangible financial risk.
 The consideration of the island of Ireland as a single river basin district should be planned.

Overall, a common theme throughout this report is the repeated separation of 'nature' from 'society'. This project should frame these systems as being much more interdependent,

The importance of a shared island approach to contributing to the UN Decade of Restoration, which begins in June 2021, should be addressed.

56 Patrick Barrett, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)

2. The **circular bioeconomy** is an area that should be further considered for further exploration on a Shared Island basis.

The bioeconomy offers the opportunity to examine the alignment of natural capital for cultural, regulating and provisioning services, the development of sustainable agriculture and forestry and its alignment with new technologies to produce food, feed and other high value biobased products that can address healthy soil, land, food and people.

In addition, the bioeconomy provides for a structuring and mobilisation effect, and for the alignment of investment and innovation approaches that takes a systemic policy approach and place nature, climate action, sustainability and circularity at the heart of economic development.

57 Fórsa Trade Union

We will set out four areas which we believe should form a focus of the Shared Island initiative's work on climate and biodiversity.

An all-island commitment to high environmental standards.

Following Brexit, we must defend against pressure to follow a deregulated 'race to the bottom' approach on the environment... There is considerable potential in all-island collaboration on biodiversity loss, particularly regarding our shared coastal areas, marine protection and low levels of regulation of undersea activity. Other areas of significance in meeting our SDG ambitions in this area include nature-based solutions, wildlife corridors and pollination.

We should seek to share ambitious all-island targets and standards for strong environmental regulation, based on the highest common denominator... The Single Electricity Market (SEM), north and south, will undoubtedly be required to decarbonise, and there will be a shared necessity to scale up renewables. This calls for an all-island approach to a just transition...

We have much to learn from each other. The EPA provides robust, independent analysis that our entire island can benefit from, if adequately resourced. The response to recent public consultations in NI on Marine Protected Areas and on Environmental Plans, Principles and Governance for Northern Ireland suggests lessons for Ireland on enabling and enhancing public participation on climate and biodiversity policy.

We should build on the success of the 'Resilient City Initiative' in Belfast.

A new socio-ecological contract / The social impacts of climate policy.

There must be a new socio-ecological contract for citizens north and south... This new model should move away from using GDP, to a more comprehensive approach to wellbeing... One critical component of this new contract is the area of working time reduction... a gradual, steady and managed transition to a shorter working week could be a 'game changer' in decarbonising our economy and combating climate change.

Broadly speaking, if we are to truly deliver climate justice, we need a much greater interaction between environmental policy and general social policy.

An active, entrepreneurial State

We need to shift our thinking from that of a facilitative State, to the entrepreneurial State as envisaged in Mariana Mazzucato's writings. The kind of long-term planning, vision and scale needed to deliver the low-carbon transition calls for a driving role for the State and leading role for public institutions.

The State, local authorities and public bodies hold a great deal of influence over non-State aspects of the economy as a purchaser, consumer and funder, and can use this influence to raise environmental standards across the economy... Public ownership and State control of key utilities such as water services and household waste collection, will be critical in ensuring compliance with higher standards of environmental regulation.

We envision an expanded role for the local authority sector in tackling climate change and biodiversity loss...

All all-island just transition framework

We believe that an all-island 'just transition' framework should be developed, which clearly defines what climate justice looks like in line with the European Pillar of Social Rights...and which should be applied to our low carbon development, north and south. This framework should contain six main pillars:

- Consideration of social impacts

- Social and regional proofing
- Involving employee representatives
- Skills & training
- Ensuring social protection and security
- Global leadership

The area of retraining and reskilling is a crucial one... The transition to a low carbon economy has the potential to drive more balanced, sustainable economic development in rural and disadvantaged regions. Pilot projects should be identified north and south in target regions, for community owned micro-generation.

58 Senator Alice-Mary Higgins

As a general principle I think it could be really useful to link this analysis and our all-island cooperation to the shared ambition in the SDGs.

i. Shared Focus on Increasing Ambition for 2030.

This is the UN Decade of Action and we should not allow the goalposts to shift to 2040 or 2050. We need a frontloading of action, and 2030 targets to drive that. Ireland's new Climate Bill should put Ireland's 2030 minimum emission reduction target into primary law, as we have seen across the UK.

ii. Resilience in Cities: Sharing Good Practice.

It is really important that 'Sharing good practice' on climate and biodiversity is not limited to small scale 'pilots' or 'add-ons', but supports really ambitious new thinking about how our cities are shaped, run and experienced. Active 'public-public' partnership between cities on this island also strengthens civic capacity to form similar partnerships with other global cities.

There should be a shared goal of inclusive, intergenerational, shared green public spaces within an easy walk of every home on the island. This is not only important for urban communities, but in terms of biodiversity, wildlife corridors and pollinator pathways.

We also need to radically increase our ambition in terms of public transport links, including rail infrastructure, between all major towns/cities on the island.

iii. Valuing Nature: Biodiversity Accounting, Policy and Engagement.

It is important that the provisions in the Pollinator Plan be underpinned by statute and legislation, and stronger national legislation is also needed in terms of biodiversity... There is potential for a much stronger role for nature-based solutions in relation to both climate change mitigation and adaptation.

A crucial area is what the SDGs categorise as 'Life under water'. A shared Island approach should pay deep attention to the biodiversity in the seas that surround us. New Marine Protected Areas are needed, and stronger regulation of commercial activity in our seas, including seismic activity.

iv. Renewable Energy, Dialogue and Practice.

We have a mutual responsibility to accelerate full withdrawal from fossil fuel production and consumption, and ensure that we do not allow for any dilution of commitment or blurring of the lines in areas like hydrogen or liquified gas. Care is also needed in relation to new infrastructure like datacentres.

v. Local Wealth Building, Resilience and a Just Transition in Rural Farming Communities

Just Transitions should be an approach that seeks to get ahead of the curve, by actively supporting and empowering communities to plan for a more sustainable future. It is really important that such plans are rooted in both workers' rights and a wider human rights approach.

Diversification is important for long term resilience. Areas for development might include social enterprise, SMES, co-operatives, high- quality horticulture, cultural activity, and care as an area of quality employment, including ecological care.

59 EirGrid

EirGrid Group operates and develops the electricity system in Ireland and Northern Ireland. This comprises the grid, the wholesale electricity market (Single Electricity Market – SEM) and interconnection with other systems.

1. We urge dual focus of future all-island policy and engagement on:
 - i. Climate Policy; and
 - ii. Renewable Energy

Markets need to be more aligned to the long-term renewable energy policy objectives of Ireland and Northern Ireland. This is critical for ensuring investments by third party developers are appropriately targeted to solve the resultant all-island system challenges at an affordable cost to the consumer.

EirGrid's Delivering a Secure Sustainable Electricity System (DS3) Programme has enabled the operation of the all-island power system at world-leading levels performance. We recommend reference is made to the significant volume of further technical and policy justification underpinning the above, in EirGrid's Group Strategy 2020-20251, and in EirGrid's four draft approaches to ensuring at least 70% of Ireland's electricity comes from renewable targets by 2030 (Shaping Our Energy Future).

2. EirGrid recommends that NESC consider the establishment of an all-island education programme on climate change, particularly as the North south Ministerial Council has particular responsibilities for both Environment and Education. EirGrid has previously called for this initiative publicly.

3. EirGrid welcomes the general reference to interconnection in section 1.1.4. We would request that some additional relevant detail is provided on the status of the North-South Interconnector.

Also, we note the following comment in Section 1.1.4 – “While the focus on interconnection and infrastructure development is necessary, there is a societal engagement challenge”. EirGrid agrees with this sentiment, but requests the wording is revisited, to avoid inferring an “either /or”, vis a vis engagement and development.

We would also seek that the all-island initiative acknowledges:

- The extensive public consultation EirGrid and SONI on the North-South 400 kV Interconnection Development, and all major transmission development projects.

- EirGrid's public engagement strategy, which now places social acceptance at the heart of our decision-making.

EirGrid and SONI appreciate the imperative for island-wide biodiversity conservation. By way of evidence, we refer you to the following text in the introduction to EirGrid's Updated Guidelines for Electrical Transmission Projects:

“In Northern Ireland, it is anticipated that SONI will develop its own Ecology Guidelines for Northern Irish Electricity Transmission Projects. However the SONI and EirGrid guidelines will be complementary...”

60 Central Statistics Office (CSO)

These remarks are made from the perspective of Ecosystem Accounts within the CSO.

We endorse all efforts to share knowledge, data and statistical cooperation, especially in the following areas:

- Spatial mapping and use of GIS where methodologies and recent development need to be compared and, if possible, brought into line in order to create seamless all-island maps of habitats and various ecosystem extent accounts.
- Standardisation of concepts and measures according to the new SEEA-Ecosystem Accounts, recently adopted by the United Nations.
- Exchange of information in relation to availability of data for extent, condition and ecosystem service accounts in each jurisdiction, and identification of areas where an all-island set of accounts might be possible. This should involve a number of agencies including CSO, NISRA, DAERA, EPA, OSI to mention just a few.
- Creation of an urban green space inventory to examine the importance of household access to, and use, of urban green spaces. This could draw on the tools used in the UK People and Nature Survey.

61 Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU)

A Public Good

This consultation process provides a genuine opportunity to reframe energy policy in both jurisdictions and, in doing so, to develop a broader focus on the essential role of energy, which goes beyond that of a simple commodity, and has a deeper value as a ‘public good’. This gives rise to key considerations: energy affordability and access for citizens, security of supply, the retention of public ownership or control over key aspects of the energy generation and transmission system.

Supporting a Just Transition Across the Island

Governments and relevant authorities on both parts of the island must now move to establish the key structures and processes required, in order to implement the official commitment to a Just Transition.

Pre-Emptive Action

In the Republic, this should take the form of a National Just Transition Commission that would be tasked with developing the policy, processes and procedural framework required to deliver on this commitment.

The government should develop a coherent, overarching policy for the energy sector to maximise cooperation and synergies between key utilities and providers. This would see electricity and gas distribution and transmission networks retained in public ownership, with no repeat of the strategic blunders seen in the privatisation of critical telecoms infrastructure in the Republic, in the past.

Transition Blueprint

The state and public utility energy companies must take the lead, adopting the model of the ‘entrepreneurial state’ to drive the process of change, as has been recommended by the Nevin Institute.

The experience to date in the Republic has been poor given the clear failures in Bord na Mona, where there is no evidence of a coherent, planned approach to transition. Following on NESC’s 2020 report Addressing Employment Vulnerability as Part of a Just Transition in Ireland, the State should focus on three key drivers of the transition:

- continuous, pre-emptive workforce development;
- building resilient enterprises; and
- delivering high-impact targeted funding to support transition.

And a cornerstone of the process would be the establishment of “a social dialogue and deliberative process.....to develop a shared vision and associated mission-oriented actions for an Irish just transition.”

Challenges & Opportunities

Indeed, recent work on this issue by the Nevin Institute has emphasised the similarities in the challenges faced on this issue, in both jurisdictions.

As the NERI report concludes: “Climate legislation alone will not deliver a just transition; it will require a framework for consultation and decision-making.” Thus, there are several clear areas of common interest and where cooperation and coordination would likely prove mutually beneficial for both jurisdictions, as the low carbon transition unfolds across the island.

This is true in terms of key issues such as: tackling emissions, identifying the most vulnerable sectors and putting in place the mechanisms, supports and systems required. Equally, it also applies to the enormous job creation and employment potential in the renewable energy sector across the island.

62 Hans Visser, Biodiversity Officer, Fingal County Council

My suggestion for a shared island initiative would be to develop **an all island green infrastructure/ecological network**.

The Ulster Wildlife Trust has just started work on developing a Nature Recovery Network for Northern Ireland and the Irish National Biodiversity Plan includes action 1.1.7. Develop a Green Infrastructure at local, regional and national levels and promote the use of nature based solutions for the delivery of a coherent and integrated network.

Green Infrastructure can be broadly defined as a strategically planned network of high quality natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features. It is designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services, and protect biodiversity, in both rural and urban settings. The green infrastructure network will not only protect and enhance nature conservation, it also helps to protect floodplains & provide floodwater storage, protect drinking water supplies, provide for appropriate recreational use and low intensity farming.

In the future, farming support grants such as GLAS and EIP, or Local Authority Biodiversity and Heritage funding, can be targeted at developing and managing this network by means of result based payment schemes or community run conservation schemes.

Local authorities can lead the consultation process at local level, whereby local communities, NGO's and State Agencies can put forwards sites for inclusion within the green infrastructure network for their County. The process to develop the national ecological/green infrastructure network in Ireland should be run at the same time as northern Ireland.

The ecological network can also be used for national demonstration projects on nature-based solutions: e.g. **Living rivers project on the Shannon** for example (based on living rivers project in the Netherlands) to combine flood storage & alleviation, with nature conservation, rewilding, transport and recreational use); or an **upland management demo scheme** in terms of floodwater storage, tree planting, sustainable farming, rewilding, recreation and nature conservation.

63 Marine Institute

The Marine Institute runs an annual €7m competitive funding programme, which supports researchers throughout the island of Ireland, with an estimated €1m in grant-aid provided to NI research performers under the current funding Programme. In 2018, the Marine Institute established the Marine Research Funders Forum (MRFF). This is an all-island network that involves 25 organisations, including government departments, funding agencies and other RDI stakeholders.

With the UK no longer participating in territorial cooperation programme (Interreg), there will be a critical loss of a key funding mechanism. There is an urgent need to ensure consistency of approach to marine research supports from national funders, for researchers based in Northern Ireland. A national policy on building an all-island research community would be beneficial.

1. **Climate and biodiversity** is an area of required additional focus. Although the NESC paper provides an excellent overview, there is significant gap in information related to impacts of climate change on our oceans and coastlines.
2. A **national policy on building an all-island research community** would be beneficial. A Shared Island Research Agenda should be considered as part of the successor plan to Innovation 2020, currently being developed by the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science. Mechanisms for continued joint funding should be prioritised

A further topic for consideration is **the development of our ocean economy**. Under the 'Marine Ireland' brand, the Marine Institute is working with Enterprise Ireland and other agencies to further develop our blue economy through the Marine Ireland Industry Network.

64 Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs) (Kildare County Council)

In 2018, the Dept of Environment, Climate Action and Communications set up 4 CAROs, in collaboration with the local government sector. Their role has expanded extensively beyond the initial remit relating to adaptation. They are playing an important role in mobilising action at various levels, and drawing together entities at local, regional and national levels.

This is a model which could also be considered in an NI context, and could dovetail with existing structures. It could allow for structured interaction in the context of a whole island approach to climate action at local authority level.

Publications

Council Reports					
No.	Title	Year	No.	Title	Year
1	Report on the Economy in 1973 and the Prospects for 1974	1974	14.	Population Projects 1971-86: The Implications for Social Planning—Dwelling Needs	1976
2	Comments on Capital Taxation Proposals	1974	15.	The Taxation of Farming Profits	1976
3	The Economy in 1974 and Outlook for 1975	1974	16.	Some Aspects of Finance for Owner-Occupied Housing	1976
4	Regional Policy in Ireland: A Review	1975	17.	Statistics for Social Policy	1976
5	Population and Employment Projections: 1971-86	1975	18.	Population Projections 1973-86: The Implications for Education	1976
6	Comments on the OECD Report on Manpower Policy in Ireland	1975	19.	Rural Areas: Social Planning Problems	1976
7.	Jobs and Living Standards: Projects and Implications	1975	20.	The Future of Public Expenditure	1976
8.	An Approach to Social Policy	1975	21.	Report on Public Expenditure	1976
9.	Report on Inflation	1975	22.	Institutional Arrangements for Regional Economic Development	1976
10.	Causes and Effects of Inflation in Ireland	1975	23.	Report on Housing Subsidies	1976
11.	Income Distribution: A Preliminary Report	1975	24.	A Comparative Study of Output, Value-Added and Growth in Irish and Dutch Agriculture	1976
12.	Education Expenditure in Ireland	1976	25.	Towards a Social Report	1977
13.	Economy in 1975 and Prospects for 1976	1975	26	Prelude to Planning	1976

27	New Farms Operators, 1973 to 1975	1977	42	Report on Policies for Agricultural and Rural Development	1978
28	Service-type Employment and Regional Development	1977	43	Productivity and Management	1978
29	Some Major Issues in Health Policy	1977	44	Comments on Development: Full Employment	1978
30	Personal Incomes by County in 1973	1977	45	Urbanisation and Regional Development in Ireland	1979
31	The Potential for Growth in Irish Tax Revenues	1977	46	Irish Forestry Policy	1979
32	The Work of the NESC 1974 - 1976	1977	47	Alternative Strategies for Family Support Income	1980
33	Comments on Economic and Social Development; 1976 - 1980	1977	48	Transport Policy	1980
34	Alternative Growth Rates in Irish Agriculture	1977	49	Enterprises in the Public Sector	1980
35	Population and Employment Projections 1986: A Reassessment	1977	50	Major Issues in Planning Services for Mentally and Physically Handicapped Persons	1980
36	University and Selectivity; Strategies in Social Policy	1978	51	Personal Incomes by Regions: 1977	1980
37	Integrated Approaches to Personal Income Taxes and Transfers	1978	52	Tourism Policy	1980
38	University and Selectivity: Social Services in Ireland	1978	53	Economic and Social Policy: Aims and Recommendations	1980
39	The Work of the NESC: 1977	1978	54	The Future of the National Economic and Social Council	1980
40	Policies to Accelerate Agricultural Development	1978	55	Urbanisation: Problems of Growth and Decay in Dublin	1981
41	Rural Areas; Change and Development	1978	56	Industrial Policy and Development: A Survey of Literature for the Early 1960s to the Present	1981

57	Industrial Employment and the Regions, 1960-62	1981	72	Social Welfare: The Implications of Demographic Change	1984
58	The Socio-Economic Position of Ireland within the European Economic Community	1981	73	Health Services: The Implications of Demographic Change	1984
59	The Importance of Infrastructure to Industrial Development in Ireland: Roads, Telecommunications and Water Supplies	1981	74	Irish Energy Policy	1984
60	Minerals Policy	1981	75	Economic and Social Policy 1983: Aims and Recommendations: A Review of Recent Changes for Education, Social Welfare and the Health Services	1984
61	Irish Social Policy: Priorities for Future Development	1981	76	The Role of the Trading Sectors	1984
62	Economic and Social Policy 1981: Aims and Recommendations	1981	77	The Criminal Justice System: Policy and Performance	1985
63	Population and Labour Force Projections by County and Region, 1979-1991	1981	78	Information for Policy	1985
64	A Review of Industrial Policy	1982	79	Economic and Social Policy Assessment	1985
65	Farm Incomes	1982	80	The Financing of Local Authorities	1985
66	Policies for Industrial Development: Conclusions and Recommendations	1982	81	Designation of Areas for Industrial Assessment	1985
67	An Analysis of Jobs and Losses in Irish Manufacturing	1982	82	Manpower Policy in Ireland	1986
68	Social Planning in Ireland: its Purposes and Organisational Change	1983	83	A Strategy for Development 1986-1990	1986
69	Housing Requirements and Population Change; 1981 - 1991	1983	84	Community Care Service: An Overview	1987
70	Economic and Social Policy 1982: Aims and Recommendations	1983	85	Redistribution Through State Social Expenditure in the Republic of Ireland, 1973 - 1980	1988
71	Education: The Implications of Demographic Change	1984	86	The Nature and Functioning of Labour Markets	1988

87	A Review of Housing Policy	1989	102	Population Distribution and Economic Development: Trends and Policy Implications	1997
88	Ireland in the European Community: Performance, Prospects and Strategy	1989	103	Private Sector Investment in Ireland	1998
89	A Strategy for the Nineties: Economic Stability and Structural Change	1990	104	Opportunities, Challenges and Capacities for Choice: Overview, Conclusions and Recommendations	1999
90	The Economic and Social Implications of Emigration	1991	105	Opportunities, Challenges and Capacities for Choice	1999
91	Women's Participation in the Irish Labour Market	1992	106	Review of the Property Proofing Process	2001
92	The Impact of reform of the Common Agricultural Policy	1992	107	Benchmarking the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness	2002
93	The Irish Economy in a Comparative Institutional Perspective	1993	108	National Progress Indicators	2002
94	Association between Economic Growth and Employment	1993	109	Achieving Quality Outcomes: The Management of Public Expenditure	2002
95	Education and Training Policies for Economic and Social Development	1993	110	An Investment in Quality: Services, Inclusion and Enterprise, Overview, Conclusions and Recommendations	2002
96	A Strategy for Competitiveness, Growth and Employment	1993	111	An Investment in Quality: Services, Inclusion and Enterprise	2003
97	New Approaches to Rural Development	1995	112	Housing in Ireland; Performance and Policy	2004
98	Strategy into the 21 st Century: Conclusions and Recommendations	1996	113	The Departmental Welfare State	2005
99	Strategy into 21 st Century	1996	114	NESC Strategy 2006: People, Productivity and Purpose	2005
100	Networking for Competitiveness Advantage	1996	115	Migration Policy	2006
101	European Union: Integration and Enlargement	1997	116	Managing Migration in Ireland: A Social and Economic Analysis	2006

117	The Irish Economy in the Early 21 st Century	2008	132	Quality and Standards in Human Services in Ireland: Disability Services	2012
118	Ireland's Five-Part Crisis: An Integrated National Response	2009	133	Quality and Standards in Human Services in Ireland : A Synthesis Report	2012
119	Well-Being Matters: A Social Report for Ireland	2009	134	The Social Dimensions of the Crisis: The Evidence and its Implications	2012
120	Next Steps in Addressing Ireland's Five-Part Crisis: Combining Retrenchment with Reform	2009	135	Five-Part Crisis, Five Years On, Deepening Reform and Institutional Innovation	2013
121	The Euro: An Irish Perspective	2010	136	Ireland's Environment Data: Inventory, Assessment and Next Steps	2014
122	Re-finding Success in Europe: the Challenge for Irish Institutions	2010	137	Jobless Households: An Exploration of the Issues	2014
123	Supports and Services for Unemployed Jobseekers: Challenges and Opportunities in a Time of Recession	2011	138	Social Housing at the Crossroads: Possibilities for Investment, Provision and Cost Rental	2014
124	Quality and Standards in Human Services in Ireland: Overview of Concepts and Practices	2011	139	Wind Energy in Ireland: Building Community Engagement and Social Support	2014
125	Promoting Economic Recovery and Employment in Ireland	2012	140	Homeownership and Rental: What Road is Ireland On?	2014
126	Draft Framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland: NESC Response	2012	141	Ireland's Rental Sector: Pathways to Secure Occupancy and Affordable Supply	2015
127	Quality and Standards in Human Services in Ireland; Policing and the Search for Continuous Improvement	2012	142	Housing Supply and Land: Driving Public Action for the Common Good	2015
128	Quality and Standards in Human Services in Ireland: Residential Care for Older People	2012	143	The Dynamics of Environmental Sustainability and Local Development: Aquaculture	2016
129	Quality and Standards in Human Services in Ireland: The School System	2012	144	Moving Towards the Circular Economy in Ireland	2017
130	Quality and Standards in Human Services in Ireland: Home Care for Older People	2012	145	Urban Development Land, Housing and Infrastructure: Fixing Ireland's Broken System	2018
131	Quality and Standards in Human Services in Ireland: End-of-Life Care in Hospitals	2012	146	Moving from Welfare to Work: Low Work Intensity Households and the Quality of Supportive Services	2018

147	Climate-Change Policy: Getting the Process Right	2019	
148	Transport-Orientated Development: Assessing the Opportunity in Ireland	2019	
149	Addressing Employment Vulnerability as Part of a Just Transition in Ireland	2020	
150	Housing Policy Actions to Deliver Change	2020	
151	The Future of the Irish Social Welfare System: Participation and Protection	2020	
152	Grounding the Recovery in Sustainable Development: A Statement from the Council	2021	
153	Shared Island: Projects, Progress and Policy Scoping Paper	2021	
154	Digital Inclusion in Ireland: Connectivity, Devices & Skills	2021	
151	The Future of the Irish Social Welfare System: Participation and Protection	2020	
152	Grounding the Recovery in Sustainable Development: A Statement from the Council	2021	
153	Shared Island: Projects, Progress and Policy Scoping Paper	2021	
154	Digital Inclusion in Ireland: Connectivity, Devices & Skills	2021	
155	Ireland's Well-Being Framework: Consultation Report	2021	
156	Collaboration on Climate and Biodiversity: Shared Island as a Catalyst for Renewed Ambition & Action	2021	

Secretariat Reports					
No.	Title	Year	No.	Title	Year
1	Ireland's Economic Recovery: An Analysis and Exploration	2011	15	Cost-Benefit Analysis, Environment and Climate Change	2018
2	Understanding PISA and What it Tells us About Educational Standards in Ireland	2012	16	Multistakeholder Agreements in Climate Governance and Energy Transition: The Dutch Energy Agreement	2018
3	Towards a New Climate Change Policy	2012	17	The Framing of Climate Action in Ireland: Strategic Considerations	2019
4	Ireland and the Climate Change Challenge: Connecting 'How Much' with 'How To'. Final Report of the NESC Secretariat	2012	18	Urban Structure, Spatial Planning and Climate Emissions	2019
5	Review of Developments in Banking and Finance	2013	19	The Transition to a Low-Carbon and More Digital Future: Supporting the Needs of Vulnerable Workers and Enterprises	2020
6	Employment and Enterprise Policy	2013	20	Approaches to Transition	2020
7	Greening the Economy: Challenges and Possibilities for Integrating Sustainability into Core Government Policy	2013	21	Shared Island Consultation: Climate and Biodiversity Challenges and Opportunities	2021
8	Activation Policy	2012	22	Community Call: Learning for the Future	2021
9	Consumer Prices	2012	23	Shared Island: Projects, Progress & Policy The Good Jobs Agenda	2021
10	Review of Irish Social and Affordable Housing	2014	24	Housing and Urban Development Policy Priorities	2021
11	Financing of Social Housing in Selected European Countries	2014	25	Shared Island: Projects, Progress & Policy The Island Economy	2021
12	Reflections on Infrastructure Policy and Institutional Developments in the UK	2017	26	Building a New Relationship between Voluntary Organisations and the State in the Health and Social Care Sectors	2021
13	Land Value Capture and Urban Public Transport	2018			
14	International Approaches to Land Use, Housing and Urban Development	2018			

Research Reports					
No.	Title	Year	No.	Title	Year
1	Cluster in Ireland: The Irish Dairy Processing Industry: An Application of Porter's Cluster Analysis	1997	15	Four Case Studies on Just Transition: Issues for Ireland	2020
2	Cluster in Ireland; The Irish Popular Music Industry: An Application of Porter's Cluster Analysis	1997	16	Modelling the Zero-Carbon Transition: International Approaches and Lessons for Ireland	2020
3	Cluster in Ireland: The Irish Indigenous Software Industry: An Application of Porter's Cluster Analysis	1997	17	Energy Transition Pathways and the COVID-19 Pandemic; An analysis of the 'green recovery' responses in Denmark and Ireland	2020
4	Profit Sharing Employee Share, Ownership and Gainsharing: What can they Achieve?	2000	18	The Impacts of COVID-19 in Ethnic Minority and Migrant Groups in Ireland	2021
5	Sustaining Competitiveness Advantage: Proceedings of NESC Seminar	1998	19	Economic Resilience in Sustainable Communities: Innovative Approaches in Public Spending to Maximise Local Benefits	2021
6	Ireland's Child Income Supports: The Case for a New Form of Targeting	2007	20	Challenges and Opportunities for Rural Ireland and the Agricultural Sector	2021
7	State of Play Review of Environmental Policy Integration Literature	2015	21	Gender and COVID-19 in Ireland	2021
8	Socially Integrated Housing and Sustainable Urban Communities: Case Studies from Dublin	2016	22	Building Long-Term Resilient and Sustainable Cities	2021
9	The Burren Life Programme; An Overview	2016			
10	Nature's Values; From Intrinsic to instrumental	2017			
11	Valuing Nature; Perspectives and Issues	2017			
12	Low Work Intensity Households and the Quality of Supportive Services: Detailed Research Report	2018			
13	Advancing the Low-Carbon Transition in Irish Transport	2019			
14	Transport-Orientated Development: Assessing Opportunity for Ireland Background Case Studies	2019			



An Chomhairle Náisiúnta Eacnamaíoch agus Shóisialta
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