



# SPORT NORTHERN IRELAND

## ENVIRONMENTAL & CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY

DOC. REF:	Environmental Policy
AUTHOR:	Operations Manager (drafted by Environmental Policy Working Group)
RESPONSIBLE OWNER:	Chief Operating Officer
LINKED DOCS:	
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DATE OF NEXT REVIEW:	February 2026
SUMMARY OF CHANGES:	New Policy
APPROVED:	March 2023

## ***DOCUMENT CONTROL***

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Reason for Update</b>
1.0	February 2023	Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 received Royal Assent on 6 June 2022. The Climate Change Act requires that all Northern Ireland Departments contribute to delivering its targets, carbon budgets and climate action plans.

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

Climate change has been described as the defining issue of this generation. Sport NI is committed to ensuring compliance with all legislative requirements in respect of protecting the environment, climate change and sustainable development. Sport NI will also ensure that it operates within the confines of any environmental policies and direction set by the NI Executive and Department for Communities.

The Northern Ireland Assembly passed its first ever Climate Change Legislation in March 2022. The Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 received Royal Assent on 6 June 2022 and sets out the legal framework for tackling climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions for decades to come in Northern Ireland. This will help to reduce global warming. The Climate Change Act legally requires that all Northern Ireland Departments contribute to delivering its targets, carbon budgets and climate action plans. Strong collaboration is needed to achieve this.

Annual climate Change action plans are developed by the Department for Communities (DfC) Climate Change Working Group. These plans set out the actions that the Department and its Arm's Length Bodies will take to address the challenge. Sport NI's response will be adjusted and updated as further information, insights and requirements become available.

Sport NI recognises its role in the Northern Ireland Public Sector's collective responsibility to tackle climate change to ensure that our children and future generations can draw benefit and enjoyment from our environment, and each of us must play a part in ensuring that happens.

Sport NI will encourage all employees to do what is possible to incorporate these commitments into practice through administration, investment, advocacy, and service provision. Sport NI will also work with our partners and suppliers to improve our environmental performance. This policy will, therefore, be communicated to all employees, partners and contractors working for, or on behalf, of Sport NI.

Sport NI will monitor its environmental performance by setting organisational objectives and targets and report on progress. In developing this Environment Policy, Sport NI is publicly setting out its commitment to continual environmental improvement.

## **POLICY AIMS**

In addressing the issues relating to the environment, climate change, and sustainable development Sport NI aims to:

- Ensure compliance with all legislative and government policy requirements in terms of environmental responsibility.
- Ensure environmental issues and climate change are considered in the development of Sport NI's Corporate and Business Plans.
- Ensure environmental issues and climate change are considered in the implementation of Sport NI's operations including (but not limited to): administration, investment (both capital and revenue), advocacy, and service provision.
- Promote responsible and efficient use of natural and recycled resources.
- Ensure that staff are able to implement the Environmental Policy by raising awareness and educating employees to ensure that all staff have the knowledge, skills and understanding to implement this Policy.

## **POLICY IMPLEMENTATION**

Sport NI will implement this Policy by:

### *Partnership Working*

Sport NI will work closely with its employees, partners and other stakeholders to further the aims of this Policy. Specifically, Sport NI will engage with DfC on current and emerging priorities in relation to environmental issues.

### *Sport NI Sites*

Sport NI operates across three sites, namely: House of Sport, Tollymore National Outdoor Centre and Sport NI's Sports Institute. This Policy applies to all Sport NI staff operating and activities delivered across these sites.

### *Environmental Action Plans*

Sport NI will set realistic but challenging objectives and targets and regularly reviewing progress. These objectives will be set out in Environmental Action Plans.

### *Legal Compliance*

Sport NI will comply with all legislative and government policy requirements in terms of environmental responsibility.

### *Policy Review*

Sport NI will keep this policy under review. The Policy will be reviewed every three years or earlier if new and emerging priorities are identified.