

TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

A Guide for Northern Area Community Network Members

Introduction:

This guide has been prepared for use by community-based organisations to help raise awareness and inform communities about simple, effective actions they can take to address climate change.

Background:

Climate change impacts every one of us, our communities, our health, our economy, and the future of our children and grandchildren. It is not a distant problem; it is happening here and now.

The Northern Ireland Executive's **Climate Change Act 2022** mandates all government departments to reduce emissions and protect our environment. **The Green Growth Strategy** is a long-term vision aimed at balancing climate action with economic and environmental sustainability.

(More information: [DAERA NI Green Growth Strategy](#))

Green Growth means recognising our environmental impact and taking steps, big or small to create a more sustainable future.

How Climate Change Affects Us:

Extreme Weather:

Recent events like Storm Éowyn (January 2025) demonstrate the increasing intensity of storms in Ireland and the UK, leading to widespread damage.

Health Risks:

Hotter temperatures contribute to heat-related illnesses, poor air quality, and the spread of diseases.

Food and Water Security:

Unpredictable weather and drought conditions impact local agriculture and water sources.

Economic Strain:

Increased costs from repairing damage, rising insurance rates, and financial stress on businesses and families.

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Practical Steps to Take Action:

Every small action adds up! Here's how individuals, families, and communities can make a difference:

At Home:

Reduce energy use - turn off lights and appliances when not in use. ✓

Switch to energy-efficient LED bulbs and consider renewable energy sources like solar panels. ✓

Reduce waste - compost food scraps, recycle properly, and avoid single-use plastics. ✓

Save water-fix leaks, take shorter showers, and collect rainwater for gardening. ✓

In the Community:

Organise tree-planting initiatives and community clean-up days. ✓

Support and shop locally to reduce transport emissions. ✓

Promote and use public transport, carpool, cycle, or walk whenever possible. ✓

Work with local groups and councils to advocate for climate-friendly policies. ✓

OUR ACTION PLAN

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Businesses & Organisations:

Implement green policies such as waste reduction, energy efficiency, and sustainable sourcing. ✓

Support staff in making eco-friendly choices -cycle-to-work schemes, paperless offices, and flexible remote working. ✓

Educate and engage employees and customers about sustainability efforts. ✓

Small Charities:

Host virtual meetings when possible to reduce travel emissions. ✓

Use second-hand or upcycled furniture and office supplies to cut waste. ✓

Partner with local businesses for sustainable fundraising events. ✓

Encourage staff and volunteers to use reusable bottles, containers, and eco-friendly products. ✓

Apply for grants and funding for sustainability projects to reduce environmental impact. ✓

✓ Adopt a Policy - Environmental Sustainability Policy accompanies this guide and is available to NACN members on <https://nacn.org/members-area> ✓

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