# Northern Ireland unveils NICCAP3 with over 250 actions to boost climate resilience



A comprehensive draft climate change adaptation programme is set to shape Northern Ireland’s response to the challenges posed by climate change. The Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP3) outlines more than 250 proposed actions designed to enhance resilience across various sectors over the next five years. These initiatives have emerged from a collaborative effort involving government departments, local councils, academic institutions, non-governmental organisations, businesses, and public input.

Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Minister Andrew Muir has emphasised the urgency of these measures, noting that Northern Ireland has faced unprecedented climatic events in recent years, including record-breaking temperatures, severe floods, and coastal infrastructure damage. Muir stated, “The impacts of climate change are widespread, and effective adaptation action to improve our resilience is required.” This sentiment reflects a mounting acknowledgment of climate change as an imminent threat, necessitating prompt and coordinated action.

The draft NICCAP3 will undergo an eight-week public consultation, which will solicit feedback before the programme is finalised. The final date for submissions is set for August 4, 2025. This prolonged consultation period aims to ensure that the voices of diverse stakeholders are heard, thereby enriching the programme's effectiveness.

Ciaran Fox, Director of the Royal Society of Ulster Architects and Chairman of Climate NI, remarked on the proactive nature of the draft, highlighting the inclusion of insights from various sectors, which he believes will be instrumental in building resilience to climate impacts. He noted the significance of the collaborative framework adopted in developing the draft, stating, “This approach recognises the important role key stakeholders from across all sectors can play in building and improving our resilience to climate change.” Fox's comments align with findings from the latest reports assessing Northern Ireland’s progress in climate adaptation, which underscore the necessity for an integrated approach to tackling climate challenges.

Recent assessments, including a report by the Climate Change Committee, have scrutinised the earlier initiatives under NICCAP2 and identified critical hurdles that still need addressing. They highlight the importance of continuing to evolve these strategies in the face of emerging climate challenges. The reports indicate that while progress has been made, there remains a pressing need for a more cohesive and vigorous response to the risks posed by climate change.

Furthermore, background documents reveal that the previous NICCAP2 programme aimed at improving adaptive capacity has informed the drafting of NICCAP3. The efforts made during the 2019-2024 period laid important groundwork, although further advances are crucial given the shifting climate landscape. The drafting of NICCAP3 integrates lessons learned from NICCAP2 alongside contemporary scientific assessments, such as the Met Office’s projections of future climate scenarios.

As this new draft progresses towards finalisation, its success will hinge not only on the quality of the proposed actions but also on the commitment of all stakeholders involved. The response from the public during the consultation phase will be pivotal, shaping a resilient framework aimed at safeguarding Northern Ireland’s economy, communities, and environment from the pervasive impacts of climate change.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/draft-climate-plan-proposes-hundreds-of-actions-to-protect-northern-ireland-NSPILV7PM5BIFIOVMNF7RNYIYA/), [[4]](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-climate-change-adaptation-programme-2019-2024-mid-programme-progress-review-2022)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/draft-climate-plan-proposes-hundreds-of-actions-to-protect-northern-ireland-NSPILV7PM5BIFIOVMNF7RNYIYA/), [[3]](https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/adapting-to-climate-change-progress-in-northern-ireland/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-climate-change-adaptation-programme-2019-2024-end-programme-report), [[5]](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/northern-ireland-climate-change-adaptation-programme), [[6]](https://www.niassembly.gov.uk/assembly-business/committees/2022-2027/agriculture-environment-and-rural-affairs/minutes-of-proceedings/session-2024---2025/24-october-2024/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[3]](https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/adapting-to-climate-change-progress-in-northern-ireland/), [[7]](https://www.niassembly.gov.uk/assembly-business/committees/2022-2027/agriculture-environment-and-rural-affairs/minutes-of-proceedings/session-2024---2025/27-february-2025/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/draft-climate-plan-proposes-hundreds-of-actions-to-protect-northern-ireland-NSPILV7PM5BIFIOVMNF7RNYIYA/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-climate-change-adaptation-programme-2019-2024-end-programme-report> - The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) published the 'Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2019-2024: End of Programme Report' on 30 January 2025. This report assesses the progress of the second Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP2) against its implementation plan, providing evaluations of each action and detailing new initiatives undertaken during the programme period.
3. <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/adapting-to-climate-change-progress-in-northern-ireland/> - The Climate Change Committee (CCC) released the 'Adapting to Climate Change – Progress in Northern Ireland' report, offering an independent assessment of NICCAP2. The report highlights areas where Northern Ireland has made progress in adapting to climate change and identifies key challenges that remain, emphasizing the need for enhanced adaptation strategies.
4. <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-climate-change-adaptation-programme-2019-2024-mid-programme-progress-review-2022> - In December 2022, DAERA published the 'Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2019-2024: Mid-programme Progress Review 2022'. This document provides an update on the actions outlined in NICCAP2, assessing their implementation and effectiveness, and introduces new actions to address emerging climate change challenges.
5. <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/northern-ireland-climate-change-adaptation-programme> - The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) outlines the Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme, detailing the legal framework and strategic approach to addressing climate change impacts. The programme includes the second iteration (NICCAP2) covering 2019-2024 and discusses the development of the third programme (NICCAP3) in response to the third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment.
6. <https://www.niassembly.gov.uk/assembly-business/committees/2022-2027/agriculture-environment-and-rural-affairs/minutes-of-proceedings/session-2024---2025/24-october-2024/> - On 24 October 2024, the Northern Ireland Assembly's Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee received a written briefing on the development of the third Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP3). The briefing detailed the approach taken, the next key steps, and the plan to launch an eight-week public consultation on the draft NICCAP3.
7. <https://www.niassembly.gov.uk/assembly-business/committees/2022-2027/agriculture-environment-and-rural-affairs/minutes-of-proceedings/session-2024---2025/27-february-2025/> - On 27 February 2025, the Northern Ireland Assembly's Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee discussed the launch of the public consultation on the third Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP3). The committee noted the department's intention to seek Executive approval for the consultation, which would include over 230 proposed policies and proposals in response to the third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment.