

# A Green New Deal for Northern Ireland

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# Who are we?

- An informal coalition of organisations which share similar concerns/interests
- Group brought together by the social partners (CBI, ICTU, NICVA, UFU and FoE) earlier this year
- Several meetings, drawing on existing research, developing ideas relevant to NI
- Overview paper plus Package 1 Housing developed to date

# Why are we interested in doing this?

- Shared concerns around
  - Economic downturn – plus what's going to drive recovery (NI's construction sector badly hit)
  - Rising unemployment, and particularly youth/graduate/college leaver unemployment
  - NI's exposure to imported fossil fuels – likelihood of price rises/spikes and impact on security of supply
  - High levels of fuel poverty need to be addressed
  - Need to achieve carbon reduction targets in a cost effective manner

# What are we proposing?

- Transformational programme to address these challenges
- Leveraging government leadership/finances/policy/regulation to secure major investment which will create thousands of local jobs, reduce fuel bills and our dependency on fossil fuels, reduce fuel poverty and reduce carbon emissions

# What are we proposing?

- Core elements of the programme include:
  - Improving the energy efficiency of our housing stock, and reducing carbon intensity
  - Improving energy efficiency, and facilitating development of renewable power in public and commercial buildings
  - Supporting the development of renewable energy supply
  - Improving the sustainability of our transportation/mobility
  - Maximising the opportunities in sustainable industries
  - Ensuring we maximise local employment by having the right skills in place

# Where and when?

- Northern Ireland – others are already doing it – features prominently in many other nations ‘recovery packages’
- Now – being left behind exposes us to fuel price hikes, missed opportunity for our sustainable industries, labour is available, delay will cost us more in the long run
- It should be an area we can build consensus, develop momentum, create competitive advantage, be famous!

# Housing

- Significant job opportunities
- Leverage of government funds to create major investment – major financial and carbon savings
- Focus on retrofitting existing housing stock – insulation, heating conversion, renewables
- Conservative technologies (and financial projections)
- Addresses wide range of Executive's PSAs/targets
- Ideas on financing being developed

# Finance and Implementation

- Public funds can be leveraged
  - Through bank borrowing, x3?
  - Through beneficiary contributions, x3?
  - In total x9?
- But this requires the correct business model
  - Cf social housing, 3<sup>rd</sup> sector delivery, other partnerships, etc.
  - Requires an implementation vehicle that is outside government, contracted for delivery
  - Governance is key

# Delivery

- Range of delivery schemes with various partners
  - Geographic spread
  - Equality ensured
  - Fuel poverty and better-off
- Ensure payback where possible, e.g.,
  - Equity unlock
  - A “pay as you save” scheme to repay grants
  - Energy services (i.e., partnering with an energy supplier)
  - Rates surcharge

# What do we need from government?

- Political leadership to maximise effort
  - Some but limited extra money
  - Commitment over time
    - Market transformation requires market players to have a 5-10 year certainty so they can invest
  - Regulation and rules (e.g., building regs, planning)
- Practical input to help the GND group construe the public sector finance rules correctly

# Current Working Groups

- Sustainable Industries
- Employment and Skills
- Housing
- Sustainable Energy
- Public Buildings
- Financing