

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, 3rd 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