



<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>DAERA Consultation – Rethinking our Resources: Northern Ireland Resources and Waste Management Strategy</b>
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	<b>Environmental Services Committee</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> April 2026</b>
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	<b>For Information</b>
<b>To be discussed In Committee YES/NO</b>	<b>No</b>

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)</b>	
Strategic Theme	Climate Change and our Environment
Outcome	Increasing proportion of domestic and commercial waste recycled
Lead Officer	Head of Operations

<b>Estimated Timescale for Completion</b>	
Date to be Completed	N/A

<b>Budgetary Considerations</b>	
Cost of Proposal	N/A
Included in Current Year Estimates	
Capital/Revenue	
Code	
Staffing Costs	N/A

<b>Legal Considerations</b>	
Input of Legal Services Required	<b>NO</b>
Legal Opinion Obtained	<b>NO</b>

<b>Screening Requirements</b>	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	N/A	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	N/A	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:

Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	N/A	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:

## 1.0 **Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members on the DAERA consultation entitled ‘Rethinking our Resources: Northern Ireland Resources and Waste Management Strategy’.

## 2.0 **Background**

- 2.1 Consultation opened on 15<sup>th</sup> January and closes on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026.
- 2.2 This consultation process covers a range of issues relevant to the development of an updated Northern Ireland Resources and Waste Management Strategy. This new strategy aims to maximise the potential for better use of the resources consumed in Northern Ireland, to prevent them becoming waste, or where generated, to ensure they are captured and processed into products that minimise environmental pollution. The strategy builds on previous plans by broadening the range of sectors obligated, presenting new actions to achieve higher targets, and setting out the greater ambition necessary to meet net zero.
- 2.3 In proposing considerable improvements to the management of all Northern Ireland’s waste, the strategy provides a wider range of drivers and support based on the recognition of the different levels of potential from all stakeholders in the value chain. The actions within the strategy are designed to help Northern Ireland achieve both the Circular Economy Package targets and the recycling target set out in the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 that will require contributions from a wide range of sectors.
- 2.4 The draft Rethinking Our Resources: Northern Ireland Resources and Waste Management Strategy aims to integrate policy reforms, modern technology, and partnerships to ensure long-term sustainability and adaptability. It focuses on controlled wastes from households, commercial and industrial premises, and category 3 animal by-products, contributing to recycling targets and Net Zero commitments. The strategy provides both long-term plans and short-term actions to drive significant environmental change.
- 2.5 The strategy outlines 10 targets and 63 actions to help Northern Ireland achieve its vision. These actions include new support programmes, statutory and best practice guidance, campaigns, data refinements, and

cross-departmental collaboration. The strategy provides a long-term plan for significant environmental change, alongside clear, effective, and realistic short-term tactics and actions necessary to drive the required outcomes.

2.6 Consultation and associated documentation can be viewed at <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/rethinking-our-resources-northern-ireland-resources-and-waste-management-strategy>.

2.7 Response to consultation can be found at appendix 1.

### **3.0 Recommendation(s)**

3.1 It is recommended that the Environmental Services Committee notes the consultation entitled 'Rethinking our Resources: Northern Ireland Resources and Waste Management Strategy' and the accompanying response.



# Rethinking Our Resources:

**Northern Ireland Resources and Waste  
Management Strategy - Questions**



Department of  
**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn  
**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil  
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department of  
**Fairmin, Environment  
an' Kintra Matthers**

[www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)

**January 2026**

## Contents

Purpose	3
Layout of the Resources and Waste Management Strategy	3
Making a Submission	4
Question Summary and Response Required	5
Data Protection	5
Introduction and Respondent Details	6
<b>Part 1: The Need for Change</b>	<b>8</b>
The Aim of the Resources and Waste Management Strategy	8
The Scope of the Resources and Waste Management Strategy	8
Vision	9
Our Targets	10
Objectives	11
<b>Part 2: Enabling Change and Empowering Action</b>	<b>12</b>
Climate Change	13
Household waste	13
Non-household municipal waste	16
Commercial and industrial waste	18
Construction and demolition waste	19
Hazardous waste	21
Agricultural waste	23
Litter and fly-tipping	24
Overall	25
<b>Part 3: Making It Happen</b>	<b>26</b>
Infrastructure and capacity	26
Working Together to Achieve Shared Goals	28
Communication and engagement	29
Research, Innovation and Skills for the Future	31
Enforcement	32
<b>Part 4: Monitoring Progress</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Part 5: Supporting Documentation</b>	<b>34</b>

<b>Part 6: How To Respond</b>	<b>37</b>
What we will do with your responses	37
<b>ANNEX 1 Publication of Responses</b>	<b>38</b>
Confidentiality	38
Data Protection	38
Freedom of Information	38

## Public Consultation: Rethinking Our Resources - Northern Ireland Resources and Waste Management Strategy

### Purpose

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) is seeking views on the draft Resources and Waste Management Strategy for Northern Ireland.

This consultation process covers a range of issues relevant to the development of an updated Northern Ireland Resources and Waste Management Strategy. This new strategy aims to maximise the potential for better use of the resources consumed in Northern Ireland, to prevent them becoming waste, or where generated, to ensure they are captured and processed into products that minimise environmental pollution. The strategy builds on previous plans by broadening the range of sectors obligated, presenting new actions to achieve higher targets, and setting out the greater ambition necessary to meet net zero. In proposing considerable improvements to the management of all Northern Ireland's waste, the strategy provides a wider range of drivers and support based on the recognition of the different levels of potential from all stakeholders in the value chain. The actions within the strategy are designed to help Northern Ireland achieve both the Circular Economy Package targets and the recycling target set out in the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 that will require contributions from a wide range of sectors.

The Circular Economy Package targets include a municipal waste recycling target of 65% and a 10% cap on the amount of municipal waste going to landfill by 2035.

The Climate Change Act requires that at least 70% of waste must be recycled by 2030 in Northern Ireland.

### Layout of the Resources and Waste Management Strategy

The draft Northern Ireland Resources and Waste Management Strategy is divided into four parts.

1. **Part 1: The Need for Change** - Outlines the vision, targets, and objectives driving the strategy.

- 2. Part 2: Enabling Change and Empowering Action** - Details actions for seven significant waste categories to drive the required change.
- 3. Part 3: Making it Happen** - Discusses the necessary conditions for effective resource management, including infrastructure, collaboration, communication, research, and enforcement.
- 4. Part 4: Monitoring Progress** - Explains how success will be measured and reported.

## Making a Submission

This consultation is organised around thematic areas. Respondents are requested to consider 27 questions, of which four are mandatory. Mandatory questions only relate to the respondent details. It is acknowledged that not all aspects of the strategy are relevant to all respondents.

**Part 1** - The Need for Change, sets the scene, outlining the overall vision, targets and objectives of the Resources and Waste Management Strategy. Questions in this section are optional.

**Part 2** - Enabling Change and Empowering Action, details actions again seven significant waste categories. Throughout this section respondents can choose which questions they wish to respond to and may choose to respond only to the questions or thematic areas relevant to them. Questions in this section are optional.

**Part 3** - Making it Happen, focusses on how we turn the Resources and Waste Management Strategy into reality and make it happen in Northern Ireland. Questions in this section are optional.

**Part 4** - Monitor and Evaluation, focusses on measuring progress through monitoring and evaluation. The question in this section is optional.

**Part 5** - Supporting Documentation, concentrates on the supporting documentation, specifically the Waste and Contaminated Land (NI) Order 1997 Requirements (WCLO), Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA), Equality Screening Assessment (EQIA) and Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA). Questions in this section are optional.

All submissions are welcome and will be considered in developing the new Northern Ireland Resources and Waste Management Strategy.

Responses to this consultation are to be submitted online through Citizen Space. The consultation can be accessed following this link:

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/rethinking-our-resources-northern-ireland-resourcesand-waste-management-strategy>

## Question Summary and Response Required

Below is a summary of how the consultation is structured on Citizen Space.

There are a total of **27 questions** to be answered, with **four** of them mandatory.

## Rethinking Our Resources: Northern Ireland Resources and Waste Management Strategy - Questions

Response Required	No of Questions	Mandatory	Optional
Introduction and respondent details	4 questions	3	
<b>Part 1 - The Need for Change</b>			
Sets the scene and provides background to this strategy	3 questions		3
<b>Part 2 - Enabling Change and Empowering Action</b>			
Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022	1 question		3
Household waste	1 question		3
Non-household municipal waste	1 question		3
Commercial and industrial waste	1 question		3
Construction and demolition waste	1 question		3
Hazardous waste	1 question		3
Agricultural waste	1 question		3
Litter and fly-tipping	1 question		3
Summary	1 question		3
<b>Part 3 - Making it Happen</b>			
Infrastructure and capacity	1 question		3
Working Together to Achieve Shared Goals	1 question		3
Communication and engagement	1 question		3
Research, Innovation and Skills, for the Future	1 question		3
Enforcement	1 question		3
<b>Part 4 - Monitoring Progress</b>			
Monitoring and Evaluation	1 question		3
<b>Part 5 - Supporting Documentation</b>			
Waste and Contaminated Land (WCLO)	1 question		3
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	1 question		3

## Rethinking Our Resources: Northern Ireland Resources and Waste Management Strategy - Questions

Habitat Regulatory Assessment (HRA)	1 question		3
Equality Screening Assessment (EQIA)	1 question		3
Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA)	1 question		3

### Data Protection

DAERA is committed to engaging with stakeholders in a clear, open, and transparent manner. Any person or organisation can make a submission in relation to this consultation via Citizen Space. Guidance is provided on the 'Confidentiality' of responses under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, in Annex 1 for your reference. Also, if you require any further information, please contact a member of the consultation team on [WastePolicyTeam@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:WastePolicyTeam@daera-ni.gov.uk)

### Introduction and Respondent Details

Northern Ireland has enormous opportunities to put the resources flowing through its economy to better use, increasing their value to the economy, offering scope for social gain, such as job creation, and reducing their impact on the environment. While the beginnings of a circular economy have emerged in recent years, with much higher recycling rates, there is potential to go further in realising value from the materials arising as waste at the end of their life. The strategy sets out the government's vision for a more progressive approach to managing waste in Northern Ireland and this consultation document is designed to capture your thoughts on the strategy.

Everyone uses resources and creates waste, whether at home as a householder, in the workplace, or out and about. Equally, most organisations generate or handle waste to a greater or lesser extent.

The range of stakeholders generating and handling resources includes citizens, councils and diverse business types including retail, hospitality, education, healthcare, transport and manufacturing. All these sectors produce varying quantities and types of waste, reflective of their size and current business operating models. Each stakeholder faces different levels of challenge in making the transition, and so to be effective the strategy aims to deliver actions that resolve burdens, designing and tailoring new support to each sector so that improvements can be made and further opportunities identified.

This consultation is open to anyone, but we expect it to be of greatest interest to:

- Councils
- Waste management companies
- Reprocessors
- Trade bodies
- Business and industry
- The agricultural sector

## Rethinking Our Resources:

### Northern Ireland Resources and Waste Management Strategy - Questions

- The construction and demolition sector
- Environmental organisations and
- Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO)

Please complete questions 1 to 4, to allow us to capture the background and geographical location of respondents.

#### Question 1: What is your name?

*Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council*

#### Question 2: What is your email address?

*aidan.mullan@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk*

#### Question 3: What local Council area do you live in?

- Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

#### Question 4: Which category best represents you from the list below?

- Local Government

## Part 1: The Need for Change

Part 1, The Need for Change, provides the background to the Resources and Waste Management Strategy, explaining how it relates to previous strategy documents, relevant legislation at national, UK and international level, and the drivers for change.

Over the last two decades in Northern Ireland, we have made significant improvements in how our waste is managed, but new legal commitments and targets mean we now have a unique opportunity to put Northern Ireland's resources to better use, increasing their value to the economy, offering job creation and reducing their impact on the environment. Waste management is not just about how we treat waste but how we are able to manage our valuable resources throughout their full lifecycle by influencing how we consume, how we prevent waste, how we capture it for recycling and how we treat it at the end of its useful life. This is a core aim of the strategy.

Improving how resources and waste are managed will require action from all sectors. We recognise that everyone living and working here uses resources and creates waste. Equally, most organisations generate or handle waste to a greater or lesser extent. Some, such as councils, waste management companies and recyclers, have a particular interest in this strategy. Given this broad audience, the strategy has been written to be accessible to all. This means that some of the more detailed and technical areas of waste management will be found within the appendices, rather than the main document. A glossary is also available in the appendices.

## The Aim of the Resources and Waste Management Strategy

There is ambition to drive more waste diversion from sectors traditionally in scope of waste management plus new, previously underrepresented, areas. Achieving this will require the adoption of innovative and effective interventions.

The aim of this strategy is to outline a comprehensive framework to guide these interventions over the next 6 years (the lifetime of this strategy). By taking a proactive and robust approach, the proposed targets and actions aim to ensure long term sustainability, maximising their positive impact even beyond the initial span of the strategy.

This will involve the integration of modern technology, collaborative partnerships and policy reforms to deliver measurable outcomes. By focusing on both immediate and enduring solutions the strategy seeks to establish a transformative shift in resource efficiency and waste diversion practises ensuring resilience and adaptability to future demands.

## The Scope of the Resources and Waste Management Strategy

The proposed scope of this strategy is for controlled wastes generated by households, commercial and industrial premises and category 3 animal by products as defined in Article 10 of Regulation (EC) 1069/2009. Managing these specific, yet widely generated resources, will make key contributions to the Climate Change Act recycling target and Net Zero commitments.

Whilst there are clear improvements in how Northern Ireland has managed its waste over time, international strategies show that, because of diminishing returns associated with the earlier drivers, improving both resource use and waste diversion will require even more innovation and a redesign of policy measures to drive the necessary change. This strategy provides the long term plan to drive significant environmental change, but it also provides clear, effective and realistic shorter-term tactics and actions necessary to drive the required outcomes.

Over the next few pages, we ask for your thoughts regarding our proposed vision, targets and objectives for the waste management strategy.

## ***Vision***

*Our vision is for a resource efficient country where we rethink how we deal with resources and waste, reducing and diverting overall*

*waste, extracting the maximum value from recycling materials to deliver a low-carbon circular economy, with recovery and landfill as methods of last resort.*

**Question 5: Do you agree with the vision for the draft Resources and Waste Management Strategy? If your answer is no, please explain why.**

**Yes**

*CCGBC agree with the principle of the vision. It is a high level statement that will require significant discussion and agreement on resource and funding at a local government level. The vision, groups recovery and landfill together, whereas the Waste Hierarchy puts recovery as the more desirable option.*

## **Our Targets**

**Achieve a waste recycling rate of at least 70% by 2030.**

**Achieve a municipal waste recycling rate of 55% by 2025.**

**Achieve a municipal waste recycling rate of 60% by 2030.**

**Achieve a municipal waste recycling rate of 65% by 2035.**

**Achieve a 10% cap on the amount of waste going to landfill by 2035.**

**DAERA will continue to tackle the problem of littering and will continue to work with stakeholders to advance our anti-litter agenda including the introduction of bans or levies on certain materials.**

**DAERA will continue to lead the development of multi-year, integrated Communications and Engagement for waste and recycling.**

**DAERA will continue to support updating skills and training needs to facilitate a shift to a more Circular Economy in Northern Ireland.**

**DAERA will work with Devolved Administrations to develop and implement the first phase of mandatory Digital Waste Tracking across the UK by October 2026.**

## Rethinking Our Resources:

### Northern Ireland Resources and Waste Management Strategy - Questions

DAERA will continue to develop a greater understanding of Serious and Organised Crime's involvement in environmental crime, to enhance capabilities in tackling this issue.

**Question 6: Do you agree with the targets for the draft Resources and Waste Management Strategy? If your answer is no, please explain why.**

Yes

*Recycling rates have remained stagnant over the last number of years. This shows that the targets will be difficult to achieve within current operating procedures, education and capacities.*

*Urgent details and clarifications on the waste recycling rate of 70% by 2030 are required such as sector details and expectations.*

*The last 5 targets have no measurables.*

### Objectives

#### 1. Increase waste diversion

- Reduce reliance on landfill and recovery, reduce loss of valuable resources, reduce littering and reduce instances of waste crime.

#### 2. Enhance Resource Efficiency

- Increase the quantity and quality of recycling to improve the environment, grow a low-carbon circular economy and to meet our legal targets.

#### 3. Improve Communications and Skills

- Invest in comprehensive communication campaigns and behaviour change to improve resource and waste management. Work with the relevant sectors to ensure the right skills are in place to enable a transition to a circular economy.

#### 4. Strengthen Partnerships and Collaboration

- Work with businesses, industries, communities and the waste sector to develop shared responsibility for waste management and sustainable resource use.

**Question 7: Do you agree with the objectives for the draft Resources and Waste Management Strategy? If your answer is no, please explain why.**

Yes

*Discussions are required for the objectives to be realised particularly around service provision, education and infrastructure. The implication for rate payers in terms of cost and role must be understood. Waste reduction is not mentioned in the objectives.*

## Part 2: Enabling Change and Empowering Action

Part 2, Enabling Change and Empowering Action, addresses the seven categories of waste that either form a significant part of Northern Ireland's waste stream, such as household waste, or that warrant specific consideration because of their impacts, for example hazardous waste.

The proposed scope of the Resources and Waste Management Strategy is for controlled wastes generated by households, commercial and industrial premises and category 3 animal by products, as defined in Article 10 of Regulation (EC) 1069/2009.

This part of the strategy sets out seven categories of waste:

1. Household waste
2. Non-household municipal waste
3. Commercial and industrial waste
4. Construction and demolition waste
5. Hazardous waste
6. Agricultural waste
7. Litter and fly-tipping

Specific sections in the strategy, for each of the seven categories of waste, summarise the:

- sector background,
- key challenges for managing this waste,
- proposed targets, and
- proposed actions necessary to drive the required change.

### Climate Change

Section 18 of the [Climate Change Act \(NI\) 2022](#) states that the Department must ensure that at least 70% of waste is recycled by 2030, and it must also develop and publish sectoral plans for the waste management sector setting out how the sector will contribute to the achievement

of the targets in the Act. Using this consultation, DAERA aim to define the scope of the 70% recycling target and identify the contributions.

**Question 8: Do you agree that the sectors in scope of the draft Resources and Waste Management Strategy, which are controlled wastes consisting of household waste, non-household municipal waste, commercial and industrial waste, construction and demolition waste, hazardous waste and agricultural waste, should be the sectors in scope of achieving the Climate Change Act (NI) 2022 70% recycling rate target for Northern Ireland?**

#### **Agree**

*Councils should not be unduly or disproportionately burdened with higher expectations than other sectors to achieve the 70% recycling target. Council plays an important role but the achievement of this target depends on contributions from all sectors in scope. A clear and transparent understanding is required of what each sector will contribute to the 70% target including responsibilities and performance mechanisms.*

## Household waste

The Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 incorporates several requirements for the decarbonisation of the waste sector. It is important to note that the 70% recycling target in this Act potentially relates to all waste generated in Northern Ireland, not specifically household waste.

Amendments made in 2020 to the Waste and Contaminated Land (NI) Order 1997 (WCLO) introduced new municipal recycling targets – for households and businesses who produce waste similar to that from households.

The targets and actions relevant to each are set out below.

### Targets

1. Achieve a waste recycling rate of at least 70% by 2030;
2. Achieve a municipal waste recycling rate of 55% by 2025;
3. Achieve a municipal waste recycling rate of 60% by 2030;
4. Achieve a municipal waste recycling rate of 65% by 2035; and
5. Achieve a 10% cap on the amount of waste going to landfill by 2035.

### Actions

DAERA commits to the following actions:

#### ***Increase our recycling rates and improve material quality***

- 1) Define what is to be included in the waste recycling 70% target and identify the contributions required from the household, business, commercial and industrial sectors by the end of December 2026.
- 2) Introduce an EPR scheme for household packaging by end of December 2025.
- 3) Flexible plastic packaging to be collected for recycling from households by 31 March 2027.
- 4) Develop reform of the Producer Responsibility Schemes for WEEE and Batteries by 2027, and End of Life Vehicles in line with Windsor Framework requirements and UK ambition.
- 5) Introduce DRS for single use drinks containers in Northern Ireland by the end of December 2027.
- 6) By 31 March 2027, conduct an up-to-date waste compositional analysis to determine the composition of household waste in Northern Ireland.
- 7) Develop guidance to ensure all councils in Northern Ireland collect a core set of materials that includes glass bottles, paper and card, plastic bottles, plastic pots tubs and trays, cartons and metal packaging. Plastic film will be introduced to the core set by the end of March 2027. The core set will be reviewed regularly.
- 8) Develop guidance to set out minimum service standards for local councils on delivering household recycling collections, in collaboration with all councils and wider stakeholders by the end of March 2027.
- 9) Develop plans to ensure that all councils provide food waste collection services to all households in Northern Ireland and enhance their existing food waste collections to increase capture of food waste.
- 10) Administer the Household Waste Recycling Collaborative Change Programme (HWRCCP) as a funding mechanism for Councils to transform kerbside recycling and Household Recycling Centre infrastructure and services to realise the economic potential of recycling to the economy. Final applications by 31st March 2026.

#### ***Reduce waste going to landfill***

- 11) Implement measures to divert more biodegradable waste from landfill by the end of December 2027.
- 12) Develop guidance for all councils in Northern Ireland to assist in reducing residual waste collected from households, reflecting the move towards the collection of more recyclables, reuse and waste prevention by the end of March 2027. Household circumstances will be considered and exemptions provided where appropriate.

#### ***Promote waste prevention and reuse***

- 13) Implement and review the activities in the Waste Prevention Programme by the end of December 2026.

## Rethinking Our Resources:

### Northern Ireland Resources and Waste Management Strategy - Questions

14) Review the feasibility of setting waste prevention targets for Northern Ireland.

#### *Promote more sustainable and efficient use of our resources*

15) Continue to promote the MyRecyclingNI website and encourage councils to improve their end destination data reporting to ensure households understand where their recyclable materials are being processed.

**Question 9: Do you support the following actions set out for household waste in the draft Resources and Waste Management Strategy? If your answer is no, please explain why.**

Actions	Yes, support	No, do not support	No opinion	If no, why?
<b>Increase our recycling rates and improve material quality</b>				
Actions 1 to 10 proposed to increase recycling rates and improve recycling quality of household waste	<b>X</b>			
<b>Reduce waste going to landfill</b>				
Actions 11 to 12 proposed to reduce the amount of waste arisings from households going to landfill	<b>X</b>			
<b>Promote waste prevention and reuse</b>				
Actions 13 to 14 proposed to promote household waste prevention and reuse in Northern Ireland (These actions are in conjunction with those in the Waste Prevention Programme)	<b>X</b>			
<b>Promote more sustainable and efficient use of our resources</b>				
Action 15 proposed to promote more sustainable and efficient use of our resources generated from household waste	<b>X</b>			

*Action 1 - already answered in previous questions*

*Action 2 - Date has passed and the EPR scheme has been introduced.*

*Action 3 - This has contractual, operational and infrastructure implications. This will have cost implications to Council. Therefore the timeframe may be unrealistic.*

*Action 5 - Clarification on infrastructure required. How this will impact Council recycling targets and contracts required.*

*Action 6 - This has already commenced. Should be reflected in this consultation.*

*Action 7 - Clarification required as to what is meant by guidance. Any statutory changes will require discussion and agreement with Council.*

*Action 8 - Clarification required as to what is meant by guidance. Any statutory changes will require discussion and agreement with Council.*

*Actions 9 - Under the Food Waste Regulations (2015) Council provided all households with a food waste collection. Any plans require discussion and agreement with Council.*

*Action 10 - The date for final application of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026 is now irrelevant. A new agreed funding mechanism is required.*

*Action 11 - Council does not send waste to landfill - all to contract. Council is unaware of the measures to be implemented and what the financial or operational impact would be.*

*Action 12 - Clarification required as to what is meant by guidance. Any statutory changes will require discussion and agreement with Council and an understanding of financial or operational implications.*

*Action 15 - Council currently provide information via Waste data flow. Any changes will have a resource impact.*

## Non-household municipal waste

The Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 incorporates several requirements for the decarbonisation of the waste sector. It is important to note that the 70% recycling target in this Act potentially relates to all waste generated in Northern Ireland, not specifically non-household waste.

Amendments made in 2020 to the Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 (WCLO) introduced new municipal recycling targets - for households and businesses who produce waste similar to that from households.

The targets and actions for each are set out below.

### Targets

The targets for each are set out below.

1. Achieve a waste recycling rate of at least 70% by 2030;
2. Achieve a municipal waste recycling rate of 55% by 2025;
3. Achieve a municipal waste recycling rate of 60% by 2030;

## Rethinking Our Resources: Northern Ireland Resources and Waste Management Strategy - Questions

4. Achieve a municipal waste recycling rate of 65% by 2035; and
5. Achieve a 10% cap on the amount of waste going to landfill by 2035.

### **Actions**

To increase NHM recycling rates, DAERA commits to the following:

#### ***Communications and behaviour change***

- 16) By the end of March 2027, to deliver a targeted national campaign to raise awareness in advance of the introduction of any new workplace recycling practices.

#### ***Guidance and support to businesses and workplaces***

- 17) Work with councils and service providers to develop a minimum service standard for non-household waste and recycling services by the end of March 2027.
- 18) Develop guidance, tools and resources to support workplaces to implement effective recycling practices by the end of December 2027.
- 19) Work with Invest NI, trade bodies, councils and other stakeholders to ensure businesses are aware of the requirements and the support available to them.

#### ***Regulation and policy development***

- 20) Undertake a review of the Food Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 with a view to extending the scope to all businesses by the end of December 2027.
- 21) Develop regulations requiring businesses and other non-household organisations to present a consistent core list of materials for recycling. The core list of materials will mirror the core list of materials collected by household waste and recycling services to achieve consistency across sectors by the end of December 2028.
- 22) Progress actions to reduce or eliminate the disposal of NHM biodegradable waste to landfill by the end of December 2027.
- 23) Review, with councils, the potential for household recycling centres (HRCs) to be adapted to accept, measure and monitor non-household waste and recycling by the end of December 2029.

#### ***Data, performance targets and reporting***

- 24) Through waste composition analysis, establish overall and sectoral baseline nonhousehold waste compositions and arisings by the end of June 2027.
- 25) Establish a reporting framework to capture non-household waste and recycling performance data, including end destinations for materials by the end of March 2027.

**Question 10: Do you support the following actions set out for non-household municipal waste in the draft Resources and Waste Management Strategy? If your answer is no, please explain why.**

Actions	Yes, support	No, do not support	No opinion	If no, why?
<b>Communications and behaviour change</b>				
Action 16 in relation to communications and behaviour change relating to non-household municipal waste	<b>X</b>			
<b>Guidance and support to businesses and workplaces</b>				
Actions 17 to 19 in relation to the provision of guidance and support to business and workplaces in relation to non-household municipal waste recycling and best practice	<b>X</b>			
<b>Regulation and policy development</b>				
Actions 20 to 23 in relation to the development of policy and regulation pertaining to non-household municipal waste	<b>X</b>			
<b>Data, performance targets and reporting</b>				
Actions 24 and 25 relating to data, performance targets and reporting of non-household municipal waste	<b>X</b>			

*Council do not currently have the resources or capacity to deal with points 17-19.*

*Point 17 - When requested Council offer collections and disposal to NHM Waste organisations. This is carried out on a cost recovery basis for residual and recycling waste only. The service offered matches Council household services therefore is operationally feasible.*

*Action 23 - Further details and discussion is required in relation to action 23. This action will require funding, details on charging, recording, reporting and any statutory obligation placed on Council such as types of material. Many Council sites are not suitable for the acceptance of NHM Waste.*

*Actions 24 & 25 - It is not clear what Councils role will be in these actions. Further discussion on funding and resources is required. Any reporting mechanism should align with existing Waste Data Flow reporting. Details regarding business size, exemptions and how waste disposed of entirely by the private sector need evaluated. What role will digital waste tracking have.*

## Commercial and industrial waste

Robust data on commercial and industrial waste arisings is not on a par with household and non-household municipal waste data due to the lack of mandatory reporting.

The Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 incorporates several requirements for the decarbonisation of the waste sector. It is important to note that the 70% recycling target in this Act potentially relates to all waste generated in Northern Ireland, not specifically commercial and industrial waste.

The target and actions for this waste stream are set out below.

### Targets

1. Achieve a waste recycling rate of at least 70% by 2030.

### Actions

DAERA commits to the following:

#### *Obtaining improved data on C&I waste*

- 26) For industrial sectors outside the scope of NHM waste, gather baseline data on C&I arisings, composition and recycling performance by the end of June 2027.

#### *Providing guidance and support tools for businesses*

- 27) Work with Invest NI and business sector groups to maintain awareness of the technical advisory support available to businesses and organisations in scope of future industrial recycling targets.

**Question 11: Do you support the following actions set out for commercial and industrial waste in the draft Resources and Waste Management Strategy? If your answer is no, please explain why.**

Actions	Yes, support	No, do not support	No opinion	If no, why?
<b>Obtaining improved data on C&amp;I waste</b>				
Action 26 proposed to increase recycling by obtaining improved data on C&I waste.	x			
<b>Providing guidance and support tools for businesses</b>				
Action 27 proposed to provide guidance and support tools to producers of commercial and industrial waste.	x			

*Council supports action 26, the timeframe to a 70% recycling target by 2030 is difficult if the baseline data for C&I is only complete by June 2027. Data on C&I is not near the standard of household data. The 70% target relates to all waste in Northern Ireland and clear information on sector specific performance is required such as interim targets. Will there be reuse or waste prevention targets for this sector.*

*Action 27 - More details required if Council are to be involved.*

## Construction and demolition waste

The Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 incorporates several requirements for the decarbonisation of the waste sector. It is important to note that the 70% recycling target in this Act potentially relates to all waste generated in Northern Ireland, not specifically construction and demolition waste.

Under the revised [Waste Framework Directive](#), C&D waste is a priority waste stream. It sets the following objectives:

- Promote selective demolition to enable removal and safe handling of hazardous substances and facilitate reuse and high-quality recycling by selective removal of materials and to ensure the establishment of sorting systems for construction and demolition waste at least for wood, mineral fractions (concrete, bricks, tiles and ceramics, stones), metal, glass, plastic and plaster.
- Reduce waste generation in processes related to industrial production, extraction of minerals, manufacturing, construction and demolition, taking into account best available techniques.

The targets and actions for this waste stream are set out below.

### Targets

1. Achieve a waste recycling rate of at least 70% by 2030.

### Actions

#### *Increasing and improving C&D waste treatment*

To increase and improve C&D waste treatment, DAERA commits to the following:

- 28) Undertake a review of C&D waste data to identify improvements in how it is captured, the treatment routes utilised and the overall composition of C&D waste to identify reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery opportunities by the end of June 2027.
- 29) Based on these data improvements, develop a baseline for C&D waste arisings and current reuse, recycling and recovery rates by the end of June 2027.

**Question 12: Do you agree with the following actions proposing to improve construction and demolition waste recycling and diversion from landfill and ensuring better data collection in the draft Resources and Waste Management Strategy? If your answer is no, please explain why.**

Actions	Yes, support	No, do not support	No opinion	If no, why?
<b>Construction and demolition waste</b>				
Actions 28 and 29 proposed to improve construction and demolition waste recycling and diversion from landfill and ensure better data collection.	<b>x</b>			
<p><i>DAERA have stated that C&amp;D waste is a priority waste. The only target for this sector is the NI 70% recycling target. The 70% target relates to all waste in Northern Ireland and clear information on sector specific performance is required such as interim targets. Will there be reuse or waste prevention targets for this sector.</i></p>				

## Hazardous waste

Hazardous wastes are those that are deemed dangerous to human health or the environment and are difficult to handle. Hazardous waste is being generated by households and across multiple industrial sectors, and there is scope to reduce the amount through targeted waste prevention programmes.

The Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 incorporates several requirements for the decarbonisation of the waste sector. It is important to note that the 70% recycling target in this Act potentially relates to all waste generated in Northern Ireland, not specifically hazardous waste.

The target and actions for this waste stream are set out below.

### Targets

1. Achieve a waste recycling rate of at least 70% by 2030.

### Actions

To reduce the use of and exposure to hazardous substances, and to increase the reuse, recycling and correct handling of hazardous wastes in Northern Ireland, DAERA commits to:

- 30) Continue to monitor the issues of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in waste and engage with and update stakeholders on their legal requirements and any other issues arising.
- 31) Ensure all sites accepting hazardous waste codes have been fully trained in Technical Guidance WM3.
- 32) In collaboration with industry, the third sector and councils, build on existing schemes to establish widespread collection platforms via HRCs for surplus paint from household and commercial waste streams by the end of December 2027.
- 33) Undertake effective regulation of the movement and management of hazardous waste.
- 34) Eliminate the use of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) by the end of December 2025, in line with commitments under the Stockholm Convention.

## Rethinking Our Resources:

### Northern Ireland Resources and Waste Management Strategy - Questions

**Question 13: Do you agree with the following actions proposing to increase the reuse, recycling and correct handling of hazardous wastes in Northern Ireland, in the draft Resources and Waste Management Strategy? If your answer is no, please explain why**

Actions	Yes, support	No, do not support	No opinion	If no, why?
<b>Hazardous waste</b>				
Actions 30 to 34 proposed to reduce the use of and exposure to hazardous substances, and to increase the reuse, recycling and correct handling of hazardous wastes in Northern Ireland	<b>X</b>			

*Further discussion is required regarding the collection of paint from commercial waste streams. The date for action 34 has already passed.*

## Agricultural waste

Given the large agricultural sector tonnage generated in Northern Ireland and the high concentration of both organic and plastic waste within the arisings, there appears to be great potential for the sector to contribute to the 70% recycling target, if deemed within scope of the definition.

The Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 incorporates several requirements for the decarbonisation of the waste sector. It is important to note that the 70% recycling target in this Act potentially relates to all waste generated in Northern Ireland, not specifically agricultural waste.

The targets and actions for this waste stream are set out below.

### Targets

1. Achieve a waste recycling rate of at least 70% by 2030.

### Actions

***Support farmers move up the waste hierarchy and improve recycling of waste materials.***

- 35) Work with key stakeholders to improve information on waste arisings in the agricultural sector by the end of December 2028.
- 36) Work with stakeholders to establish and celebrate the good resource and waste management practice already in existence in the agricultural sector in Northern Ireland and provide new support tools and guidance to enable the sector to manage waste more effectively by the end of December 2028.
- 37) Review existing data sources, opportunities to improve data capture and options to share information useful for the sector to improve performance by the end of December 2028.

**Question 14: Do you agree with the following actions proposing to increase recycling of materials arising from the agricultural sector in the draft Resources and Waste Management Strategy? If your answer is no, please explain why.**

Actions	Yes, support	No, do not support	No opinion	If no, why?
<b>Agricultural waste</b>				
Actions 35 to 37 proposed to increase recycling of materials arising from the agricultural sector	x			

*There is no obligation on Council to collect or accept agricultural waste.*

## Litter and fly-tipping

Litter causes negative local environmental impacts, is unsightly and costs local ratepayers money to be removed. Fly tipping is generally defined as the illegal dumping of rubbish or bulky items on land without a licence or permit to accept waste. It pollutes the land and waterways and can be dangerous to human and animal health.

The Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 incorporates several requirements for the decarbonisation of the waste sector. It is important to note that the 70% recycling target in this Act potentially relates to all waste generated in Northern Ireland, not specifically litter and fly tipping. The targets and actions for this waste stream are set out below.

### Targets

6. DAERA will continue to tackle the problem of littering and will continue to work with stakeholders to advance our anti-litter agenda including the introduction of bans or levies on certain materials.

### Actions

DAERA commits to the following:

#### Litter

- 38) Legislate for beverage containers and bottles to have lids and caps that will remain attached (tethered) to reduce commonly littered bottle caps by the end of December 2026.
- 39) Prepare regulations to restrict the sale or supply of ten commonly littered single-use plastic items by the end of December 2026.
- 40) Prepare regulations to implement clearer labelling of products that contain single use plastic to allow customers to make informed choices by the end of December 2026.

**Rethinking Our Resources:  
Northern Ireland Resources and Waste Management Strategy - Questions**

- 41) Prepare regulations to set a requirement for 25% average recycled content in PET bottles by 2025 and 30% average recycled content in all beverage bottles by 2030 to reduce the amount of virgin plastic that is used in manufacture by the end of December 2026.
- 42) Prepare regulations to restrict the supply and sale of wet wipes containing plastic to help tackle plastic & micro-plastic pollution by the end of December 2025.
- 43) Develop a proposal for a consumption reduction plan and targets for single use plastic takeaway cups and food containers to reduce unnecessary waste and tackle plastic pollution by the end of December 2026.

***Fly-tipping and Illegal Waste Disposal***

- 44) Work to implement a consistent approach to data collection across Northern Ireland regarding fly-tipping and illegal waste disposal.
- 45) Aim to sign up all district councils to the Fly-Tipping Protocol by the end of March 2026.
- 46) We will continue to collaborate with the voluntary producer responsibility scheme for chewing gum.

**Question 15: Do you agree with the following actions proposed to reduce litter and flytipping in the draft Resources and Waste Management Strategy? If your answer is no, please explain why.**

Actions	Yes, support	No, do not support	No opinion	If no, why?
<b>Litter</b>				
Actions 38 to 43 propose to reduce litter	x			
<b>Fly-tipping and Illegal Waste Disposal</b>				
Actions 44 to 46 propose to reduce fly-tipping				

## Overall

**Question 16: Do you agree that the draft Resources and Waste Management Strategy covers the main issues and key considerations for all seven waste streams detailed in Part 2?**

Agree

*The findings of this consultation are important as are the concerns regarding support both financial and statutory for Council*

## Part 3: Making It Happen

Part 3, Making it Happen, Discusses the necessary conditions for effective resource management, including infrastructure, collaboration, communication, research, and enforcement.

This part of the strategy covers five areas of action to deliver the strategy and build on the waste stream specific actions.

- Infrastructure and Capacity
- Working Together to Achieve Shared Goals
- Communication and Engagement
- Research, Innovation and Skills for the Future
- Enforcement

National reviews show that Northern Ireland does not have sufficient capacity to process all the potentially available mixed recyclables from household and commercial sources, nor does it have the medium-term landfill capacity to dispose of residual waste. It is therefore important that we put additional focus on the other four areas within this section.

The multi-faceted nature of the waste sector means there is a diverse range of stakeholders and having due regard to the impact new policy and legislative decision making has on the sector is of key significance. Working together with the sector is the only way to achieve this.

### Infrastructure and capacity

Waste management infrastructure is needed to make sure that waste and recyclables generated are handled safely, managed and processed into new products. A robust infrastructure is needed to respond to the changing volume and composition of waste and ideally treated or disposed of within the region in which it is produced. Planning and development decisions must be based on robust and up to date data and are evidence based.

**Rethinking Our Resources:  
Northern Ireland Resources and Waste Management Strategy - Questions**

**Actions**

***Enabling improved waste infrastructure capacity***

- 47) DAERA will respond to all input requests that are submitted to DAERA for planning of waste infrastructure.
- 48) To continue to monitor non-hazardous landfill capacity and continue to assess the level of permitted and planned landfill infrastructure.
- 49) Engage with each of the three local council waste management groups to identify how their waste management plans may need to be updated regarding waste management infrastructure by the end of April 2027.

**Question 17: Do you agree with the following actions relating to waste infrastructure and capacity in the draft Resources and Waste Management Strategy? If your answer is no, please explain why.**

Actions	Yes, support	No, do not support	No opinion	If no, why?
<b>Infrastructure and capacity</b>				
Actions 47 to 49 proposed in relation to infrastructure and capacity	<b>x</b>			

*The UK Climate Change Committee has recommended a halt to all waste exports by 2030. NI does not have the infrastructure to accommodate this.*

## Working Together to Achieve Shared Goals

The resource and waste sector is a multi-layered and multi-dimensional sector with a significant number of stakeholders.

The roles and responsibilities assigned to the various parties in the resource and waste sector in Northern Ireland will support a number of the targets outlined in this strategy.

This strategy sets out **a call to action for collective responsibility**, and over the lifetime of this strategy, we aim to enable all players in the sector to work collaboratively to support the implementation of the actions detailed in this strategy, this will involve **collaboration between Government, industry and wider stakeholders**.

There are no specific actions under this section of the strategy, but DAERA are interested in your views in relation to the **list of proposed stakeholders, partners and sectors**:

- Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)
- Department for the Economy
- Northern Ireland's councils
- Council waste management groups
- Waste management companies
- Reprocessors
- Communities
- Representative Body / Member Organisations and Trade Bodies
- Business and industry
- The agricultural sector
- The construction and demolition sector
- Environmental organisations and NGOs
- Research and Development
- Education
- Healthcare

**Question 18: The Department envisages working with the stakeholders, partners and sectors listed above. Are there any additional stakeholders, partners and sectors that should be included?**

Yes

*Department for Finance, Department for Communities*

## Communication and engagement

There are a diverse range of stakeholders across the waste sector and their ability to work together to support the delivery of new policy and be involved in legislative decision making is significant.

### Target

7. DAERA will continue to lead the development of multi-year, integrated Communications and Engagement for waste and recycling.

### Actions

To facilitate increased communications and engagement amongst all stakeholders and bring about behavioural change in relation to resources and waste DAERA will:

- 50) Continue to utilise behaviour change theory and interventions to generate necessary improvements in correct recycling from citizens at home and in the workplace.
- 51) Continue to communicate and engage with stakeholders in support of new policies and regulations through the Communications and Engagement Plan.
- 52) Support existing and new strategic partners in the delivery of communications and engagement activities, including coordinating messages and campaigns across government departments.
- 53) Continue to partner with external organisations, where appropriate, to deliver campaigns to engage the education sector and address target waste streams, global waste problems and littering.
- 54) Work to establish a Northern Ireland Business Recycling Advisory Group by the end of March 2026.
- 55) Work in partnership with Northern Ireland National Communications Action Plan (NCAP) to co-ordinate the delivery of national and local communication activities with Councils to improve the quality and quantity of household recycling, including changes to recycling services.

**Question 19: Do you agree with the following actions proposed to facilitate increased communications and engagement amongst all stakeholders in the draft Resources and Waste Management Strategy? If your answer is no, please explain why.**

Actions	Yes, support	No, do not support	No opinion	If no, why?
<b>Communications and engagement</b>				
Actions 50 to 55 proposed to facilitate increased communications and engagement amongst all stakeholders in relation to resources and waste	✘			

*Action 54 - the date will have passed prior to closing of this consultation. Reuse should also be communicated.*

## Research, Innovation and Skills for the Future

The shift from a linear to a circular economic model will inevitably drive changes in skill and training needs and will require many stakeholders' input to successfully deliver the changes required.

### Targets

To play its part, DAERA will:

8. DAERA will continue to support updating skills and training needs to facilitate a shift to a more Circular Economy in Northern Ireland.
9. DAERA will work with Devolved Administrations to develop and implement the first phase of mandatory Digital Waste Tracking across the UK by October 2026.

### Actions

To build a pathway towards improved skills and training, DAERA will:

- 56) Enable the skills related to resources and waste management, such as design, repair and refurbishment, necessary to transition to a resource-efficient and low-carbon economy. Work with other stakeholders to ensure this is also included in just transition planning.
- 57) Continue to support research and development of innovative technologies and solutions that will help improve the waste management sector in Northern Ireland and the transition to a circular economy.

## Rethinking Our Resources:

### Northern Ireland Resources and Waste Management Strategy - Questions

58) Provide funding to support third sector organisations to enable the updating of skills and training needs.

**Question 20: Do you agree with the following actions on skills, training and research required for the future in the draft Resources and Waste Management Strategy? If your answer is no, please explain why.**

Actions	Yes, support	No, do not support	No opinion	If no, why?
<b>Skills, training and research</b>				
Actions 56 to 58 proposed in relation to research, innovation and skills	x			

*Action 56 - Further details required on enabling the skills and how this could work.*

## Enforcement

Compliance with regulations is an important element in ensuring that we continue to maintain a safe and healthy environment in Northern Ireland. Protection and enhancement of Northern Ireland's environment is integral to this strategy and supporting compliance with local and international legislation and standards and using effective and consistent enforcement are central to those priorities.

### Targets

10. DAERA will continue to develop a greater understanding of Serious and Organised Crime's involvement in environmental crime, to enhance capabilities in tackling this issue.

### Actions

To address these challenges, DAERA commits to:

- 59) Introduce a single Incident Management System which will assist in centralising data capture/incident management across a range of business areas (including illegal waste activity) by the end of March 2026.
- 60) Seek to ensure that all newly obligated subsectors are aware of their respective responsibilities. This will improve effective enforcement.
- 61) Increase capacity and capability to receive, assess, develop and disseminate intelligence. Ongoing. Will continue for lifetime of the Strategy.
- 62) Develop our understanding of Organised Crime Groups and crime types to ensure we deploy our resources where we will have the highest impact. Ongoing. Will continue for lifetime of the Strategy.

**Rethinking Our Resources:  
Northern Ireland Resources and Waste Management Strategy - Questions**

63) Develop partnership working to deliver disruption and enforcement interventions. Ongoing.  
Will continue for lifetime of the Strategy.

**Question 21: Do you agree with the following actions proposing to improve compliance and enforcement in the draft Resources and Waste Management Strategy? If your answer is no, please explain why.**

Actions	Yes, support	No, do not support	No opinion	If no, why?
<b>Enforcement</b>				
Actions 59 to 63 proposed to improve compliance and enforcement	<b>X</b>			

## Part 4: Monitoring Progress

The aims, actions and targets set out in this strategy represent an ambitious new vision for the future of waste management. To deliver this we recognise that DAERA has a key role in providing strong leadership, both in terms of driving progress through our own commitments but also, where required, bringing stakeholders and key players together in pursuit of the greater vision. Supporting governance structures, alongside clear performance indicators and baselines, are vital to ensure the required changes are delivered and appropriate monitoring and evaluation can be carried out to measure our progress over the life of the strategy.

Looking beyond Northern Ireland, it is imperative we work with other UK nations and Republic of Ireland to join up policy so that we can achieve shared goals. This includes continued participation in relevant forums, such as the Resources and Waste Common Framework and the North/South Ministerial Council, as well as regular engagement at official level.

Alongside the high-level indicators, individual targets and actions set out in the strategy will be monitored, totalling 10 targets and 63 actions covering waste prevention; recycling; other recovery; disposal; better regulation and enforcement, and communication and engagement.

A fundamental part of monitoring will be regular reporting on progress against each action and target. DAERA will produce a report midway through the 6-year period of this strategy to update on progress. A final review and report will be completed following the end of the 6-year period.

There are no specific actions under this section of the strategy, but DAERA are interested in your views in relation to the following question.

**Question 22: Do you agree with the described approach in Section 4 of the draft Resources and Waste Management Strategy to monitoring and evaluation?**

*Agree*

## Part 5: Supporting Documentation

The Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 (WCLO) places a statutory obligation on DAERA to produce a waste management plan and revise it every sixth year. The legislation also sets out that the overall objective of the plan must be protecting the environment and human health by preventing or reducing the generation of waste and the adverse impacts of the generation and management of waste, and by reducing overall impacts of resource use and improving resource efficiency.

### Waste and Contaminated Land (NI) Order 1997 Requirements (WCLO)

**Question 23: Referring to Appendix 3b of the draft Resources and Waste Management Strategy, do you agree the Waste and Contaminated Land (NI) Order 1997 requirements for a waste management plan are sufficiently addressed throughout the strategy?**

*Agree*

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) are essential tools in ensuring that plans, programmes, and projects are developed in a way that safeguards the environment and protects biodiversity.

SEA is a systematic process used to evaluate the likely significant environmental effects of proposed strategies, plans, or programmes before they are adopted. It ensures that environmental considerations are integrated at an early stage of decision-making, supporting sustainable development and compliance with environmental legislation. SEA is a requirement of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024 legislation and the Environmental Report is the final output of the SEA process.

The HRA is a legal requirement under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995. for any plan or project that could have significant effects on protected sites, such as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). It assesses whether proposals could adversely affect the integrity of these designated sites and ensures that adequate measures are in place to avoid or mitigate harm.

Together, SEA and HRA provide a structured framework for balancing development needs with environmental protection, ensuring that decision-makers have the information necessary to make informed, legally compliant, and sustainable choices.

### Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

**Question 24: Do you agree with the conclusions of the Environmental Report, assessing the potential impact of the draft Resources and Waste Management Strategy on the Northern Ireland environment?**

*Agree*

### Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA)

**Question 25: Do you agree with the conclusions of the Habitats Regulations Assessment of the draft Resources and Waste Management Strategy?**

*Agree*

An Equality Screening is one of the key tools to enable public authorities to fulfil their statutory obligations and mainstream the Section 75 equality and good relations duties into policy development. It provides an opportunity to improve decision-making, support 'evidence based' policy making and can help improve a public authority's service provision through a systematic review of all services, policies, procedures, practices and/or decisions.

Public authorities must undertake a Rural Needs Impact Assessment when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans and when designing and delivering public services. A Rural Needs Impact Assessment is a step-by-step process aimed at helping public authorities to ensure that the due regard duty imposed under section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 ('the Act') duty is fulfilled.

### Equality Screening Assessment (EQ Screen)

**Question 26: Do you agree with the conclusions of the Equality Screening Assessment of the draft Resources and Waste Management Strategy?**

*Agree*

### Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA)

**Question 27: Do you agree with the conclusions of the Rural Needs Impact Assessment of the draft Resources and Waste Management Strategy?**

*Agree*

## Part 6: How To Respond

This consultation will run for 12 weeks, opening on 15th of January 2026 and closing at 23:59 on 06 May 2026.

Responses to this consultation are to be completed online at the following link:

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/rethinking-our-resources-northern-ireland-resourcesand-waste-management-strategy>

### **What we will do with your responses**

When the consultation has closed, we will analyse your responses. Once analysed we will use these to publish a final Resources and Waste Management Strategy.

## ANNEX 1 Publication of Responses

### Confidentiality

The Department will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation may be disclosed on request. The Department can refuse to disclose information only in exceptional circumstances. Before you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations as these provide guidance on the legal position of any information given by you in response to this consultation. Any confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system in e-mail responses will not be treated as such a request.

### Data Protection

Section 8 (e) of the Data Protection Act 2018 permits processing of personal data when necessary for an activity that supports or promotes democratic engagement. Information provided by respondents to this consultation exercise will be held and used for the purposes of the administration of this current exercise and subsequently disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulation.

### Freedom of Information

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority (the Department in this case). This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The Department cannot automatically consider information supplied to it as confidential in response to a consultation. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity, should be made public or treated as confidential. This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances.

The Lord Chancellor's Code of Practice on the Freedom of Information Act provides that:

- The Department should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in connection with the exercise of any of the Department's functions and it would not otherwise be provided;
- The Department should not agree to hold information received from third parties 'in confidence' which is not confidential in nature;
- Acceptance by the Department of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner.

For further information about confidentiality of responses, please contact the Information Commissioner's Office: Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Email: [ni@ico.org.uk](mailto:ni@ico.org.uk) Website: <https://ico.org.uk>

Resources and Waste Strategy Team  
Environmental Resources Policy Division  
Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs  
Jubilee House  
111 Ballykelly Road  
Ballykelly  
BT49 9HP

Email: [wastepolicyteam@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:wastepolicyteam@daera-ni.gov.uk)



Department of  
**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil  
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department o'

**Fairmin, Environment  
an' Kintra Matthers**

[www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)

**INVESTORS IN PEOPLE®**  
We invest in people Standard