Response Template

How to Respond

This template replicates the questions asked in the Call for Evidence found at: https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/energy-strategy-call-for-evidence

It is recommended that you should read the full consultation document before completing your response. Please note that the text boxes used throughout this template can be expanded to accommodate your response – there is no character limit.

For further information on how we handle your personal data please read our Privacy Notice

Early responses are encouraged but all responses should arrive no later than **5pm on 20 March 2020.**

Please send your response to:

energystrategy@economy-ni.gov.uk

Or alternatively by post to:

Energy Strategy
Department for the Economy
Netherleigh
Massey Avenue
Belfast
BT4 2JP

Quote the reference "**Energy Strategy Call for Evidence 2019**"

1. General Information

1. **Name (required)**

Jim Lennon

2. **Are you responding:**

   X as an individual (please complete 3 to 5 below)
   on behalf of an organisation / company (please complete 6 to 8 below)

If you are responding as an individual:

3. **E-mail address**

[redacted]

4. **Address**

[redacted]

5. **If you are responding as an individual, please read the Privacy Notice and tick the statement below as applicable.**

   X All responses will be published on the Department for the Economy website following completion of the Call for Evidence process. Please tick if you are content for your name to be published alongside your response.

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation / company:

6. **Organisation / Company**

7. **Position within Company / Organisation**

8. **Contact details**

   a. **E-mail address**

   b. **Address**

2. Energy in Northern Ireland

Q1. What lessons can we learn from elsewhere in addressing energy within an overarching climate action framework?

Q2. What are the key considerations for decarbonising Northern Ireland's energy sector given existing linkages to other jurisdictions?

Q3. To what extent should Northern Ireland implement the key energy-related recommendations from the CCC 'Reducing Emissions in Northern Ireland' report?

Q4. Do you agree with the 30-year timeframe? If not, please state your preferred approach and reasons.

The key lessons to be learned are to adopt a whole Government and whole systems approach whereby there is an integrated energy strategy for NI which has been produced through broad consultation ,uses an evidenced based approach to produce a costed and prioritised action plan and which fits within the UK framework and meets the UK net zero carbon' by 2050.

The 30-year time frame is a very challenging target; to achieve it will require significant commitment across all sectors with adequate financial resources devoted to making it happen. The biggest issues to address are cultural and behavioural modes of thinking and working which if not addressed will prove significant barriers.

3. The Energy Transition in Northern Ireland

Q5. What are the unique characteristics of Northern Ireland that need to be considered in a net zero carbon energy transition?

Q6. Is your organisation undertaking or planning to undertake projects to support the energy transition? If so, please provide further details.

Ni is heavily dependant on oil for home heating particularly in rural areas; areas where there is also little public transport (beyond a school bus service) which leaves motor vehicles as an essential Requirement. Apart from electricity there is no current infrastructure for any other form of energy delivery on a widespread basis throughout NI.

4. Consumers

Q7. How should we ensure that energy remains affordable for domestic consumers? What approach should be taken to eradicate fuel poverty?

Q8. What steps could be taken to improve the relative cost competitiveness of larger non-domestic consumers?

Q9. Is a strategic position of "enable and protect" the correct policy stance?

a) What policies or schemes are needed to enable active consumers?
b) What policies or schemes are needed to protect vulnerable consumers?

Q10. What types of advice and information are required by all consumers and what are the best mechanisms for facilitating this?

Q11. Are there examples of successful citizen energy projects in Northern Ireland and elsewhere that have delivered improved energy efficiency and/or clean energy to local communities?

Q12. What opportunities are there in both urban and rural areas for citizen energy communities in Northern Ireland? What role could government have in facilitating these?

Q13. What evidence can you provide that identifies the challenges and opportunities for NI energy consumers in decarbonising energy?

5. Energy Efficiency

Q14. What, if any, energy efficiency target or targets should be set for Northern Ireland?

Q15. How should we define, measure and monitor energy efficiency to optimise its potential in our homes, business, economy and environment?

Q16. What are the most important policy levers for government to ensure zero carbon in:

a) New domestic and commercial buildings by 2050?;

b) Existing domestic and commercial buildings by 2050?

Q17. What should the future of energy efficiency support look like and who should be the key delivery bodies?

6. Heat

Q18. What is the appropriate pathway and timeline for the decarbonisation of heat between now and 2030, and subsequently to 2050?

Q19. What are the appropriate ways to measure the progress of decarbonising heat?

Q20. What are the most cost-effective and sustainable steps that government might take to accelerate the reduction of the carbon intensity of heating fuels?

Q21. Is decarbonisation of the gas grid a viable option and what evidence can be provided on both the speed and affordability of decarbonising the gas grid?

Q22. What evidence can you provide on the opportunities for district heating schemes in Northern Ireland and where should responsibility lie for facilitating these?

Q23. Can you provide any evidence or information on the opportunities for geothermal heat supply?

7. Power

Q24. What is the appropriate pathway for the decarbonisation of power from now to 2030, and subsequently to 2050?

Q25. What target for electricity consumption generated from renewable sources by 2030 is ambitious, achievable and affordable?

Q26. How can the new infrastructure necessary to meet a new renewable electricity target be delivered in a timely, affordable and acceptable way for consumers and society?

Q27. What innovations and solutions could contribute to meeting a new renewable electricity target?

Q28. What market incentives and support are necessary for investors to deliver the investment in renewable generation assets at a scale that will achieve a new renewable electricity target?

Q29. What steps need to be taken by Government to facilitate investment in offshore and marine renewables for NI?

A target of 60% electricity consumption generated from renewables by 2030 is achievable provided an upgraded distribution network is provided particularly in the mid and west of N Ireland and coupled with a significant investment in storage capacity to make power available at peak periods.

The approach to delivering new infrastructure needs to be radically changed, in both terms of policy development and implementation. A key issue will be to ensure public acceptance and this has been a corner stone of such developments in Europe, i.e. the Alego Project on the Belgian – German border. Communities can be co-opted as partners of change but not driven to accept change as passive powerless recipients “in the public interest”. This requires full account of all costs and benefits and their distribution across both local and regional communities and discussion and agreement on how they will be managed.

Most well established communities have powerful consultative and decision making processes which can be harnessed-soft but powerful networks which can be very difficult to circumvent.

Local communities can be involved as both producers and consumers, either as direct producers or as enablers to support other producers. if communities are co-opted and have a stake, NIMBYism is reduced . See the Danish experience.

8. Transport

Q30. What would be an appropriate pathway to decarbonised energy for transport to 2050?

Q31. What role should active travel have in the decarbonisation of the transport sector and what should government do to support this?

Q32. What energy infrastructure is needed to facilitate the uptake of electric vehicles in line with UK Government's 'Road to Zero' targets?

Q33. How will transport integrate with other energy uses (e.g. homes with solar generation, battery storage, EV charging) and what can government do to optimise the opportunities represented by this integration?

Q34. To what extent can alternative low carbon transport fuels contribute to decarbonisation of the transport sector?

Q35. Do you have any data/research to help inform and reduce the carbon intensity of our transport energy in order to achieve net zero carbon by 2050?

9. Other Issues:

a. Security of Supply

Q36. What specific risks to security of energy supply are likely to emerge as a result of our changing energy mix, and what actions can be taken to mitigate these?

Q37. What measures or indicators could be adopted or developed to monitor energy security of supply?

The most important issue facing N Ireland now is to secure energy supply in the longer term and in this regard that means ensuring that for electricity generation there is replacement generating capacity provided within NI to replace that provided by the current power stations at Kilroot and Ballylumford. The regulation and control of this capacity when provided should reside within NI and subject to the NI Assembly

b. The Role of Data

Q38. What is the most cost-effective method of capturing consumer energy usage data in electricity and natural gas (where meters are in place)? In heating oil (where there is no metering obligation)?

Q39. What concerns need to be addressed regarding data privacy, security and/or ownership?

Q40. What are your views on applying the key recommendations of the Energy Data Taskforce for NI?

Q41. What organisations or businesses do you see as having a key role in optimising the value of data? How will they do this?

Access to good quality data with appropriate bench marks will be an essential requirement to levering and supporting change; NI already has a property valuation and rating system which probably has the most extensive coverage and could form the basis of providing a database for recording energy use with charges discounted for the completion of heating oil consumption figures (and other figures as required).

c. Carbon Capture and Storage

Q42. What steps, if any, should NI policy-makers consider with regard to the development or implementation of CCUS in NI?

d. Energy and the Economy

Q43. What specific economic opportunities will arise from the decarbonisation of energy?

Q44. What skills are needed to realise the potential economic benefits of energy in the future?

Q45. What are your views on the future of overall energy demand in NI and how can we ensure that any potential demand growth aligns with our net zero carbon target?

e. Delivery Framework for an Energy Strategy

Q46. Do the existing division of responsibilities and powers across government enable the most effective approach to the overall aim of decarbonising energy? If not, what are your suggestions for improvement?

Q47. What are the opportunities for local government to contribute to the delivery of the net zero carbon target?

Q48. What are your views on how statutory duties and accompanying legislation and regulatory frameworks would need to change to facilitate the transition to net zero carbon by 2050?

Q49. Is there a need for a dedicated organisation to champion, lead and deliver sustainable energy interventions? If so, what should this look like?

10. Additional information

Q50. Is there anything else you would like to add in response to this Call for Evidence?