

Northern Ireland

We've summarised the key findings from the 2025 Council Climate Action Scorecards to provide an overview of Northern Irish councils' climate action.

The scores vary across Northern Ireland, and on average, Northern Irish councils score lower than other nations in the UK. Northern Irish councils scores range from 14% to 38%. Northern Irish councils have fewer powers than other councils in the UK in relation to schools, housing and transport.

Whilst most legislation is the same across all four nations, Northern Irish and English councils (unlike in Wales and Scotland) do not have a statutory duty to work towards net zero across their whole operations or council area.

2025 average score and 2023 comparison¹

by council type

24% Northern Ireland ▲ 3

42% England
Single Tier councils only ▲ 7

37% Wales ▲ 7

39% Scotland ▲ 5

LEADING THE WAY



9 out of 11

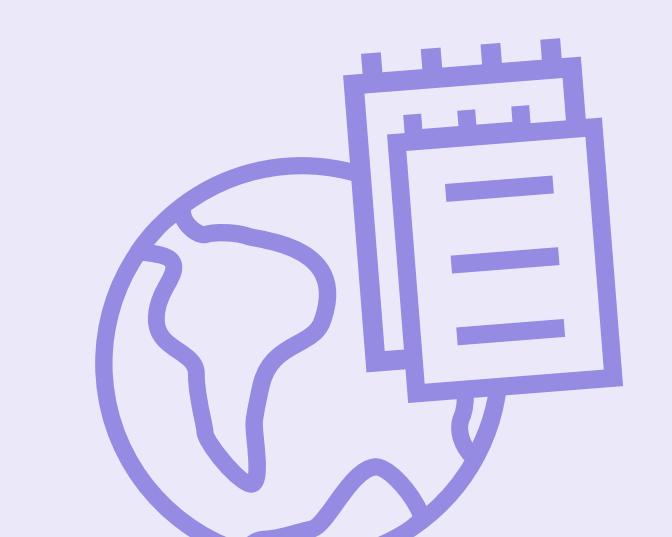
councils have committed to mowing their green spaces less for wildlife²



100% ▲ 5 councils versus 2023

Northern Irish councils support local food growing³

MAKING PROGRESS



3 out of 11 ▲ 3 councils versus 2023

councils have published an up to date and easy-to-read annual report on their Climate Action Plan⁴



4 ▲ 4 councils versus 2023

councils have a staff member working on retrofits⁵



6 out of 11

councils have a named Cabinet member or Portfolio holder lead for climate action⁶

FALLING BEHIND



Antrim and Newtownabbey is the only council to have lobbied the UK government or the NI Executive for further climate action⁷

▼ 4 councils versus 2023



7 out of 11 ▼ 2 councils versus 2023

councils have committed to no new building developments on functional flood plains⁸

0 Northern Irish council requires new homes to be built to operationally net zero standards by 2030⁹



(1) Nation comparison available at: <https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/nations/>
Check the Scorecards results for Northern Irish Local Authorities at: <https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/nations/northern-ireland/>

(2) Biodiversity Q3 - https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/2025/question/s5_bio_q3/?type=northern-ireland#performance

(3) Waste Reduction & Food Q5 - https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/2025/question/s7_wr_f_q5/

(4) Collaboration & Engagement Q2b - https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/2025/question/s6_c_e_q2b/?type=northern-ireland#performance

(5) Buildings & Heating Q6 - https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/2025/question/s1_b_h_q6/?type=northern-ireland#performance

(6) Governance & Finance Q7 - https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/2025/question/s4_g_f_q7/?type=northern-ireland#performance

(7) Collaboration & Engagement Q3 - https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/2025/question/s6_c_e_q3/?type=northern-ireland#performance

(8) Planning & Land Use Q8 - https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/2025/question/s3_p_lu_q8/?type=northern-ireland#performance

(9) Planning & Land Use Q3c - https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/2025/question/s3_p_lu_q3c/?type=northern-ireland#performance