



Northern Ireland

We've summarised the key findings from the 2023 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 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.

Average score
by Nation

21% Northern Ireland¹

— 13% Lowest NI council score
— 43% Highest NI council score

30% Wales

34% Scotland

35% England
Single Tier councils only

LEADING THE WAY

9 out of 11

— councils have committed to no new building developments on functional flood plains²
— councils have committed to mowing their green spaces less for wildlife³



100%

All Northern Irish councils provide weekly kerbside food waste recycling⁴

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

5 out of 11

councils have lobbied the UK government or the NI Executive for further climate action⁵

6 out of 11

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

FALLING BEHIND

1 out of 11

Fermanagh and Omagh District is the only council in Northern Ireland that has 10% or more of its council fleet as electric vehicles⁷

2 out of 11

councils have trained all their senior staff and councillors who are cabinet or committee chairs in climate awareness⁸

0 out of 11

— No council has published an up to date and easy-to-read annual report on their Climate Action Plan⁹

— No council requires new homes to be built to operationally net zero standards by 2030¹⁰

— No Northern Irish council powers their buildings with a renewable energy tariff¹¹

(1) See Northern Ireland council scores here → <https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/scoring/northern-ireland/> · (2) Planning & Land Use Q3.8 Has the council committed to avoiding new building developments on the functional flood plain? · (3) Biodiversity Q3 Has the council committed to mowing their green spaces less for wildlife? · (4) Waste Reduction & Food Q7 Does the council provide kerbside food waste recycling? · (5) Collaboration & Engagement Q3 Has the council lobbied the government for climate action? · (6) Governance & Finance Q7 Does the council have a Cabinet member or Portfolio Holder that has climate change explicitly in their remit? · (7) Transport Q1 Is the council transitioning their vehicle fleet to electric? · (8) Governance & Finance Q9 Have all senior management and councillors in the cabinet or committee chairs received climate awareness training? · (9) Collaboration & Engagement Q2b Has the council published an up to date and easy-to-read annual report on their Climate Action Plan? · (10) Planning & Land Use Q3c Does the council set a requirement that all new homes to be built must be operationally (regulated) net zero? · (11) Buildings & Heating Q2 Are the council's operations powered by renewable energy?

