

Why renewable energy?

Climate Change



The Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 set a legally binding target that by 2030, at least 80% of the electricity consumed in Northern Ireland must come from renewable sources.

Figures from the Department for the Economy and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) show that for the year ending March 2026, 48% of gross final electricity consumption was generated from renewable sources.

This represents a decrease from the 51% of gross final electricity consumption from renewable sources in 2022 and means Northern Ireland must significantly increase its levels of renewable energy generation between now and 2030. Renewable projects like the proposed development are urgently required to help make this happen.

Security of Supply and Cost



A secure and reliable electricity supply is essential not only for homes across Northern Ireland, but businesses, too. Increasing the amount of electricity we generate locally will make us less reliant on energy supplies from other countries and continents. This is a safe and sustainable way of helping to ensure we have all the energy we need to meet demand in the years ahead.

Increasing the amount of electricity generated locally also lessens our exposure to volatile global fossil fuel prices, which is often the reason for increases in the cost of energy. A report by Baringa Management Consulting entitled '*Renewable Rewards: How you save from the switch to renewable energy*' showed that between 2020 and 2023 renewable electricity saved each consumer £160 off their bills.

The report also shows that if the 80% by 2030 target is achieved, it will create savings of more than £55 per person in 2030.

Economic Investment



Renewable energy represents one of the biggest economic opportunities in Northern Ireland. The projects needed to achieve the 80% by 2030 target involve private investment in the local economy, job creation, opportunities for suppliers and service providers, increased rates to the NI Executive and local authorities, as well as opportunities for farm diversification and additional income streams for farmers.

According to figures from the Department for the Economy and NISRA, in 2024 in Northern Ireland, some £1.5 billion in turnover and 7,100 full time equivalent jobs were generated directly by businesses active in the low carbon and renewable energy economy. The NI Energy Strategy includes a target to "Double the size of our low carbon and renewable energy economy to a turnover of more than £2 billion by 2030".

Renewable energy projects also support local groups and organisations through community benefit funds. These are often in rural, underfunded areas that otherwise struggle to attract the support they need.

