



Climate Change Adaptation Reporting Guidance for Public Bodies

Annex H: Glossary



Department of
Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

An Roinn
Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe

Department o'
Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers

Glossary

This annex provides the glossary in regard to the associated guidance document.

Adaptation Action	A measure, policy, plan or activity that helps an organisation reduce climate-related risks or respond to climate-related opportunities.
Asset	A resource owned, used or managed by an organisation, including buildings, land, infrastructure, equipment, digital systems and natural assets.
Climate Action	The practical measures taken by public bodies to address climate change, including actions to adapt to its impacts in relation to their functions, by strengthening resilience and managing climate risks and opportunities.
Climate Change Committee	An independent statutory body established under the UK Climate Change Act 2008, who are expert advisers on climate change matters, to governments throughout the UK including Northern Ireland.
CCRA3 Northern Ireland Summary	The Climate Change Committee's national summary for Northern Ireland published as part of their third Climate independent evidence report to inform the third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment. It contains an assessment of 61 risks and opportunities to Northern Ireland from climate change.
Climate Change Impact Assessment	Structured processes or methodologies used to identify, evaluate, and inform responses to how climate change may affect a public body's functions, assets, and services. They consider both current and predicted risks and impacts, and can reflect the interaction of hazard, exposure, and vulnerability. These assessments highlight potential risks of harm as well as opportunities to strengthen climate resilience and adaptation over time. They are iterative processes that

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	should be updated and improved as new information, data and organisational experience become available.
Climate change Opportunity	A beneficial outcome or advantage that may arise from changing climate conditions or from adaptation actions (e.g., new growing conditions, efficiency gains).
Climate Change Risk	The potential for adverse effects on a public body's functions, assets, and services arising from climate change. Risks may be current or predicted, and result from the interaction of climate-related hazards, the organisation's exposure to those hazards, and its vulnerability.
Climate Northern Ireland	An inter-sectoral partnership and project, owned and funded by DAERA, to support the department in fulfilling its obligations in regard to climate change.
Co-benefits	The additional positive outcomes that arise from actions taken to adapt to climate change, beyond their primary purpose of reducing climate risks. In some cases, adaptation measures may also deliver mitigation benefits, such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Adaptation co-benefits can also include improvements to public health, biodiversity, social equity, economic efficiency, and overall resilience beyond climate resilience.
Functions	An organisation's functions may include its service delivery, functional statutory duties and responsibilities. In that regard, an organisation's functions can include the organisation's assets, services, and other operational areas, etc.
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	The release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.
Greenhouse Gases	The seven gases covered by the Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement which are: carbon dioxide (CO ₂); methane (CH ₄); nitrous oxide (N ₂ O); hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs); perfluorocarbons (PFCs); sulphur hexafluoride (SF ₆), and nitrogen trifluoride (NF ₃).

Governance Structures	The arrangements for decision-making and oversight within an organisation. These can operate at board level, covering the whole organisation or specific areas such as climate change and sustainability, or at council level, involving roles such as councillors, board members, and the chair of the board. Governance structures will be bespoke and therefore vary across organisations.
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change	The United Nations body of climate change scientists. This body assesses scientific, technical, and socioeconomic information relevant to the understanding of climate change and publishes regular assessments of scientific evidence on climate change, including its impacts, future risks and options for adaptation and mitigation.
Impacts	The consequences of a changing climate which can affect a public body's functions, assets, services, and wider communities, etc. Impacts can be current or predicted in which they can be adverse (such as damage, disruption, or increased costs) or, in some cases, beneficial (such as opportunities for innovation, efficiency, or resilience).
Infrastructure	Structures and systems essential for services or operations, including transport networks, buildings, utilities, ICT, and energy systems.
ISO Standards	Internationally developed standards providing frameworks and good practice guidance
Maladaptation	Actions taken to address climate change that unintentionally increase vulnerability or create new risks. Maladaptation can occur when measures reduce resilience, shift risks to other groups or sectors, or generate negative environmental, social, or economic consequences.
Memorandum of Understanding	An agreement between two or more parties, outlined in a formal understanding document.

Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme	Northern Ireland’s official programme of government and stakeholder actions to address climate risks identified in the Climate Change Risk Assessment.
Paris Agreement	A legally binding international treaty on climate change. The overall objective of the Paris Agreement is to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above preindustrial levels and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. More information can be obtained at this hyperlink: The Paris Agreement .
Peer Review	An impartial evaluation of an organisation’s adaptation report and/or data by another organisation within the same reporting cohort. Peer review can be used as one method of validating the content of reports, helping to ensure accuracy, consistency, and credibility.
Predicted Impact	A future climate-related impact based on projections, scenarios or modelling.
Resilience	The ability of a public body to withstand, absorb, recover from, and adapt to climate-related changes. Resilience means being able to cope with immediate shocks, such as extreme weather events, while also adjusting over time to longer-term climate pressures in the delivery of its functions, services, and responsibilities.
Specified Public Body	A public organisation listed in the Schedule to the Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024.
The Department	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (Northern Ireland)
The Regulations	The Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024

<p>Validation</p>	<p>The process where an organisation’s adaptation report data and information are reviewed and checked before submission to DAERA. Validation may be carried out internally, for example by a senior manager or an internal audit team, or externally, for example by an independent expert or another organisation within the same reporting cohort. These are examples only - validation arrangements may vary across organisations.</p>
<p>Vulnerability</p>	<p>The degree to which a public body is susceptible to, or unable to cope with, the adverse effects of climate change. Vulnerability reflects both the sensitivity of its functions, services, and assets to climate impacts, and the capacity it has, to respond and adapt.</p>

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