Col

The targets DAERA proposes in the NI Ammonia Strategy for 2030 are to reduce agricultural ammonia emissions from Northern Ireland by at least 30% to ensure NI is achieving its fair share of the UK’s target under the Gothenburg Protocol. And to reduce ammonia concentration at all designated site by at least 40%. The longer term target is to reduce ammonia emissions to a point where critical loads of nitrogen deposition and critical levels of ammonia are not being exceeded at any designated site.



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Appendix 1 - Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA)

Template

1E. Please provide details of the aims and/or objectives of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service.

Northern Ireland Ammonia Strategy

1D. Please provide the official title (if any) of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service document or initiative relating to the category indicated in Section 1C above.

Developing a Policy Strategy Plan

Adopting a Policy Strategy Plan

Implementing a Policy Strategy Plan

Revising a Policy Strategy Plan Designing a Public Service

Delivering a Public Service

X

1C. Please indicate which category the activity specified in Section 1B above relates to.

Consultation on and publication of the Northern Ireland Ammonia Strategy

1B. Please provide a short title which describes the activity being undertaken by the Public Authority that is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.

DAERA

1A. Name of Public Authority.

**SECTION 1 - Defining the activity subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016**

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*Reasons why a definition of ‘rural’ is not applicable.*

*Rationale for using alternative definition of ‘rural’.*

*Details of alternative definition of ‘rural’ used.*

Population Settlements of less than 5,000 (Default definition). Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below).

A definition of ‘rural’ is not applicable.

X

1F. What definition of ‘rural’ is the Public Authority using in respect of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

The actions are targeted at ammonia producing sectors in the agriculture industry which is located in rural areas, and also at designated sites which are located in rural areas. Greater benefits for protected habitats and conservation actions for habitat restoration will occur in rural areas.

2C. If the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas *differently* from people in urban areas, please explain how it is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently.

This strategy contains an NI wide set of measures to reduce ammonia emissions alongside spatial measures for reduction of ammonia concentration levels at designated sites. The strategy will provide greater benefit to protected habitats and deliver action to address exceedance and support development. Conservation management programmes will deliver conservation actions to restore habitats at designated sites. All of these actions should have positive impacts for people in rural areas as they contribute to achievement of the UK’s targets for ammonia reduction. Any information on the impacts on people in rural areas not included here which emerges from the consultation exercise will be assessed following the closure of the consultation period.

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2B. Please explain how the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas.

Yes No If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **2E**.

X

2A. Is the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service likely to impact on people in rural areas?

**SECTION 2 - Understanding the impact of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service**

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2E. Please explain why the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is NOT likely to impact on people in rural areas.

If the response to Section 2A was YES GO TO Section 3A.

Rural Businesses Rural Tourism Rural Housing

Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas Education or Training in Rural Areas

Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas

Poverty in Rural Areas Deprivation in Rural Areas

Rural Crime or Community Safety Rural Development

Agri-Environment

Other (Please state)

X

X

X

X

2D. Please indicate which of the following rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to primarily impact on.

Yes No If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **3E**.

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The “DAERA Plan to 2050 - Sustainability for the Future” strategic priorities informed social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

Public health needs were identified from the Clean Air Strategy Discussion Document ([A Clean Air Strategy for Northern Ireland – Public Discussion Document | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (daera-ni.gov.uk)](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/clean_air_strategy_discussion_document)

Stakeholder engagement informed development of the Strategy, including the opportunity for stakeholders to propose their suggested solutions to the ammonia challenge in a series of events.

Economic needs of people in rural areas dependent on a sustainable agri-food sector were identified from published statistics ([Size and performance of the NI food and drinks processing sector | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (daera-ni.gov.uk)](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/size-and-performance-ni-food-and-drinks-processing-sector)); ([Key statistics from 2007 onward | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (daera-ni.gov.uk)](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/key-statistics-2007-onward).

Economic analysis examined the farm-based costs of implementing ammonia reduction measures. This analysis found that implementing a series of 11 measures at uptake rates assumed achievable in a 5 - 10 year period would reduce ammonia emissions by 25% at an annual cost of £31.24 million. Implementation of the five lowest cost measures only would reduce ammonia emissions by 21% at a cost of £6.6 million.

3C. Please provide details of the methods and information sources used to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas including relevant dates, names of organisations, titles of publications, website references, details of surveys or consultations undertaken etc.

Consultation with Rural Stakeholders Published Statistics Consultation with Other Organisations Research Papers Surveys or Questionnaires Other Publications

Other Methods or Information Sources (include details in Question 3C below).

X

X

X

X

X

3B. Please indicate which of the following methods or information sources were used by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

X

3A. Has the Public Authority taken steps to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas that are relevant to the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

**SECTION 3 - Identifying the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas**

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3E. Please explain why no steps were taken by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?

If the response to Section 3A was YES GO TO Section 4A.

The DAERA Plan to 2050 - Sustainability for the Future notes the following strategic priorities:

• To enhance our food, forestry, fishery and farming sectors using efficient and environmentally sustainable models which support economic growth;

• To protect and enhance our natural environment now and for future generations whilst advocating its value to and wellbeing for all.

Particulate matter, to which ammonia is a contributory factor, (PM2.5) is cited in the Clean Air Strategy for NI – Public Discussion Document which was consulted on last year, as being one of the air pollutants of concern in NI. The Discussion Documenthighlighted that a report published by Public Health England in 2014 estimated that in 2010, 553 deaths in over-25s in Northern Ireland were attributable to exposure to anthropogenic air pollution (PM2.5).

Reductions in ammonia will meet economic needs of people in rural areas through a sustainable agri-food sector. Agri-food farming and processing industries contribute £2.43 billon per annum of value added to the Northern Ireland economy, around 4% of its total GVA, and provide 4.6% of total employment.

Economic analysis of the farm-based costs of implementing a range of ammonia reduction measures at specific uptake rates over a 5 - 10 year period showed a reduction of 25% of total emissions at an annual cost of £31.24 million, and a reduction of 28% of total emissions at an annual cost of £43.65 million. Implementation of the five lowest cost measures only would reduce ammonia emissions by 21% at an annual cost of £6.6 million.

3D. Please provide details of the social and economic needs of people in rural areas which have been identified by the Public Authority?

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Issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas:

* The need for clean air;
* The need to protect and enhance our natural environment now and for future generations whilst advocating its value to and wellbeing for all;
* The need to enhance our food, forestry, fishery and farming sectors using efficient and environmentally sustainable models which support economic growth;
* The need for a sustainable agri-food sector;
* The need for determination of the most cost effective ammonia reduction measures at specified uptake rates achievable in a 5 - 10 year period.

4A. Please provide details of the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

**SECTION 4 - Considering the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas**

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If the response to Section 5A was YES GO TO Section 6A.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Development of the Ammonia Strategy has been underpinned at all stages by the rural needs noted above and will be further refined taking into consideration of feedback received during the forthcoming consultation process. Rural Needs Identified | How Development of the Strategy has been influenced |
| * The need for clean air; * The need to protect and enhance our natural environment now and for future generations whilst advocating its value to and wellbeing for all; * The need to enhance our food, forestry, fishery and farming sectors using efficient and environmentally sustainable models which support economic growth; * The need for a sustainable agri-food sector; * The need for determination of the most cost effective ammonia reduction measures at specified uptake rates achievable in a 5 - 10 year period. | * Targets set for ammonia reduction of at least 30% to ensure that Northern Ireland is achieving its fair share of the UK’s international target under the Gothenburg Protocol; * Reduce atmospheric ammonia concentrations at every designated site by at least 40%; * The sustained and tangible reductions in ammonia are required to protect nature, to meet Northern Ireland’s legal obligations and to ensure a sustainable agri-food sector; * An economic analysis examined the farm-based costs of implementing ammonia reduction measures and determined the most cost effective measures. |

5B. Please explain how the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, has been influenced by the rural needs identified.

Yes No If the response is NO GO TO Section 5C.

X

5A. Has the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, been influenced by the rural needs identified?

**SECTION 5 - Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service**

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12/11/22

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Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:

Dr Kate Semple

Position/Grade:

Grade I

Division/Branch

Ammonia Policy Branch

Signature:



Date:

1/11/22

Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:

Dave Foster

Position/Grade:

Director

Division/Branch:

Regulatory and Natural Resource Policy Division

Signature:

Date:

I confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained and relevant information compiled.

X

6A. Please tick below to confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained by the Public Authority and relevant information on the Section 1 activity compiled in accordance with paragraph 6.7 of the guidance.

**SECTION 6 - Documenting and Recording**

5C. Please explain why the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or the delivery of the Public Service, has NOT been influenced by the rural needs identified.