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# NILGA Changing Places Conference

## Adaptable Places – Building Local Resilience in a Climate Emergency

David Lindsay, Director of Environment



**“It’s the economy, stupid!”**

- US Presidential hopeful, Bill Clinton – 1992

**“It’s the climate emergency, stupid!”**

- The battle cry for responsible civic leadership – 2019?



- Background
- Declaration of a Climate Emergency
- The Story So Far.....
- Where To Next?



# Introduction

**'SUSTAINABLE BOROUGH'** Aspiration - A Core Foundation Principle of the New Council

**STAND FOR  
SUSTAINABILITY**



Northern Ireland's first sea bin mops up waste in Bangor Marina



**Ards and  
North Down  
Borough Council**

**Recycling  
Community  
Investment  
Fund**  
YOUR RECYCLING PAYS





# Introduction

## Significance of Council's Impact on Sustainable Development and Climate Change Issues

- **Revenue expenditure** > £60 million each year – that involves procuring and consuming a lot of goods and services!
- We are a **key strategic 'influencer'** for communities – power to 'set the tone', act as exemplars, provide a lead on best practice for residents & businesses



# Introduction

Highlighting the significance of our most basic & widely experienced Council service, in the context of climate change.....





# Introduction

Engaging All 160,000 Of **Our** Residents On The  
Significance of **Our** Recycling Efforts to **Our** Greenhouse  
Gas Emissions.....







## Declaration of Climate Emergency By Council

Motion Adopted by Council:

- Noting the latest IPCC report on **climate breakdown**
- Agreeing that **drastic and far reaching** measures required across society
- Declaring a '**Climate Emergency**'
- Taking **urgent measures** to tackle Council's own impact upon greenhouse gas emissions
- Elevating the **significance** of the climate emergency across the local community and businesses
- Formulating a climate adaptation **plan**



Why a Declaration Matters





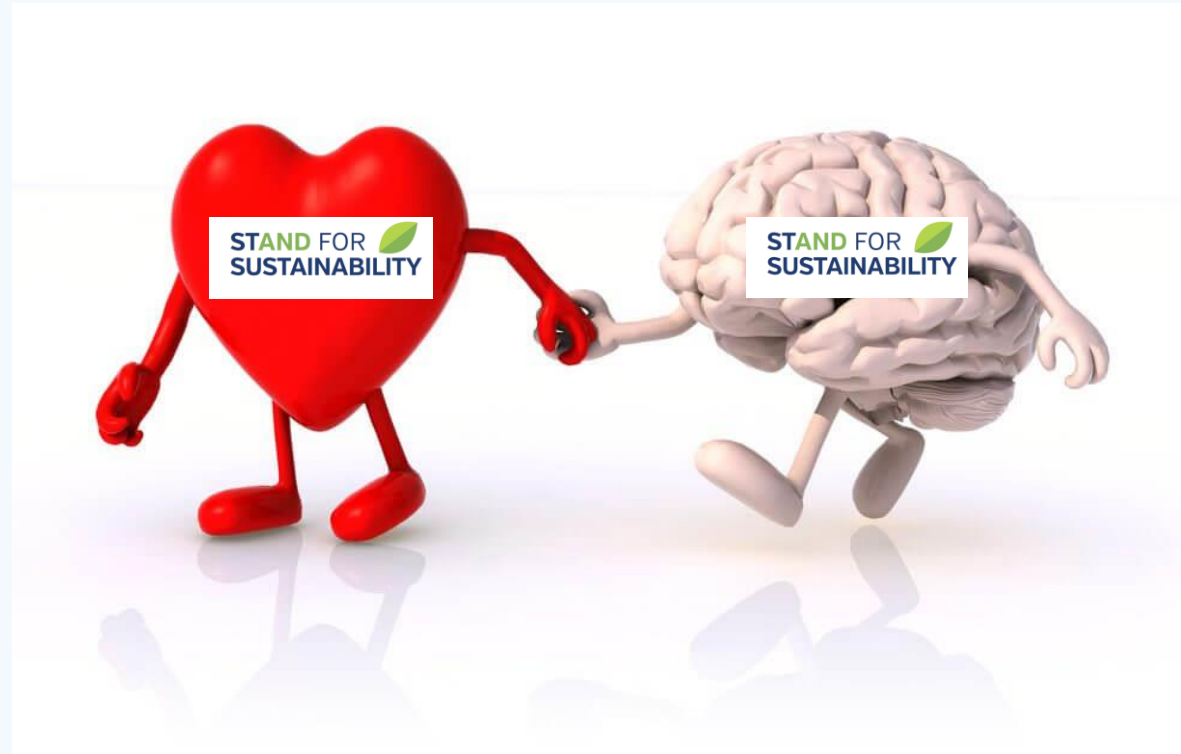
## The Story So Far

- 'Roadmap' to a Sustainable Future
- Sustainable Procurement Policy
- Sustainable Energy Management Strategy & Action Plan
- Fleet Rationalization Programme
- Cross Cutting/Departmental Approach to Climate Change Mitigation Measures
- Role of LPD Proposals in Climate Change Mitigation
- Sustainability Focus in Capital Development Planning
- Lobbying & Advocacy – Step Change in Approach!
  - Lobbying Big Business Supermarkets on Packaging/SUP Waste
  - Lobbying for NI Inclusion in Extended Packaging Producer Responsibility Proposals
  - Lobbying for Step Change in Energy Efficiency Standards Applied in Building Regulations
  - Engagement in consultations on Environment Strategy, NI Energy Framework



## Where To Next

- Cultivate 'Hearts and Minds'



*The key to winning hearts and minds is not to try to convince anyone on anything, but to **lead by example**, demonstrate that something is possible and provide a purpose that's bigger than they are.*



## Where To Next

- Determination to Avoid 'Tinkering'/'Greenwashing'





## Where To Next

- Sustainability 'Default' Position on All Aspects of Council Business







## Where To Next

- Fundamental, Systemic Change in What We Do and How We Do It





## Where To Next?

- Carbon Footprint Tracking





## Where To Next?

Be a **Catalyst** for Change

Send Out the **Rallying** Cry

Be an **Exemplar**

**Inspire** Real Change

