

Climate Change [Bill no. 1](#) (PMB) vs [Bill no. 2](#) (DAERA Bill)

Sustainable NI has produced an explanatory table with key features of both Climate Change Bills, to provide a general overview of main differences between the two.

Northern Ireland has higher than average per capita emissions and they are falling slower than the rest of the UK. Stronger action is therefore required in a shorter time period to align with the objectives of the Paris Climate Agreement and match the level of ambition shown in other regions, which all have Net-Zero targets.

Better budgetary mechanisms are necessary. Soil, air, and water quality along with biodiversity loss are important and measurable indicators to consider. They all affect our quality of life and therefore close attention must be paid to these as well as carbon emissions.

Key Features	Bill no. 1 (PMB)	Bill no. 2 (DAERA)	Notes
Climate Emergency	✓	✗	
Emission Reduction Target (Science-based Net-Zero)	✓	✗	<p>Bill no. 1 “net-zero carbon” means a net reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by at least 100% from the 1990 baseline</p> <p>Bill no.2 By 2050 at least 82% By 2040 at least 69% By 2030 at least 48%</p>
Carbon Budget	✓	✓	

Nitrogen Budget	✓	✗	Carbon budgets are the most basic measures which can be put in place. The effects of Climate Change are seen through other measurable indicators (soil, air, water quality and biodiversity loss). Excess nitrogen from fertilizer and manure pollutes water and air, depletes atmospheric ozone, and harms plants and animals. Excess nitrogen can also react to become nitrous oxide, a greenhouse gas that is 300 times more potent than carbon dioxide.
Climate Action Plan	✓	✗	
Sectoral Plans	✓	✓	Bill no. 2 Department (DAERA) report comprising other Department's proposals and policies for Carbon Budget Period
Annual Reporting	✓	✗	Bill no.1 Input from NI Climate Advisory Body required Bill no.2 a. Interim report within five years budgetary period b. It must respond to points raised by the Climate Change Committee
Public Body Climate Change Duty	✗	✓	
Climate Commissioner / NI Climate Office	✓	✗	Independent NI oversight: establishes the office of the Climate Commissioner – can take advice from a wide range of advisory bodies (not just the CCC)
Just Transition Principals	✓	✗	Section 8 Bill no. 1
Transboundary Considerations	✓	✗	
Climate Change Committee as sole advisory body	✗	✓	
Non-regression principals	✓	✗	