

# Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programmes

## NICCAP3

Steve Boyd

Today we act.  
Tomorrow  
we thrive.



Northern Ireland  
Executive



# What is Climate Adaptation?

## Mitigation

Reducing our greenhouse gas emissions will **reduce future climate change**.

Its goal is reaching **Net Zero emissions**.

## Adaptation

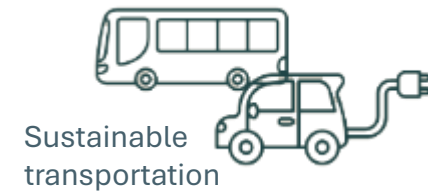
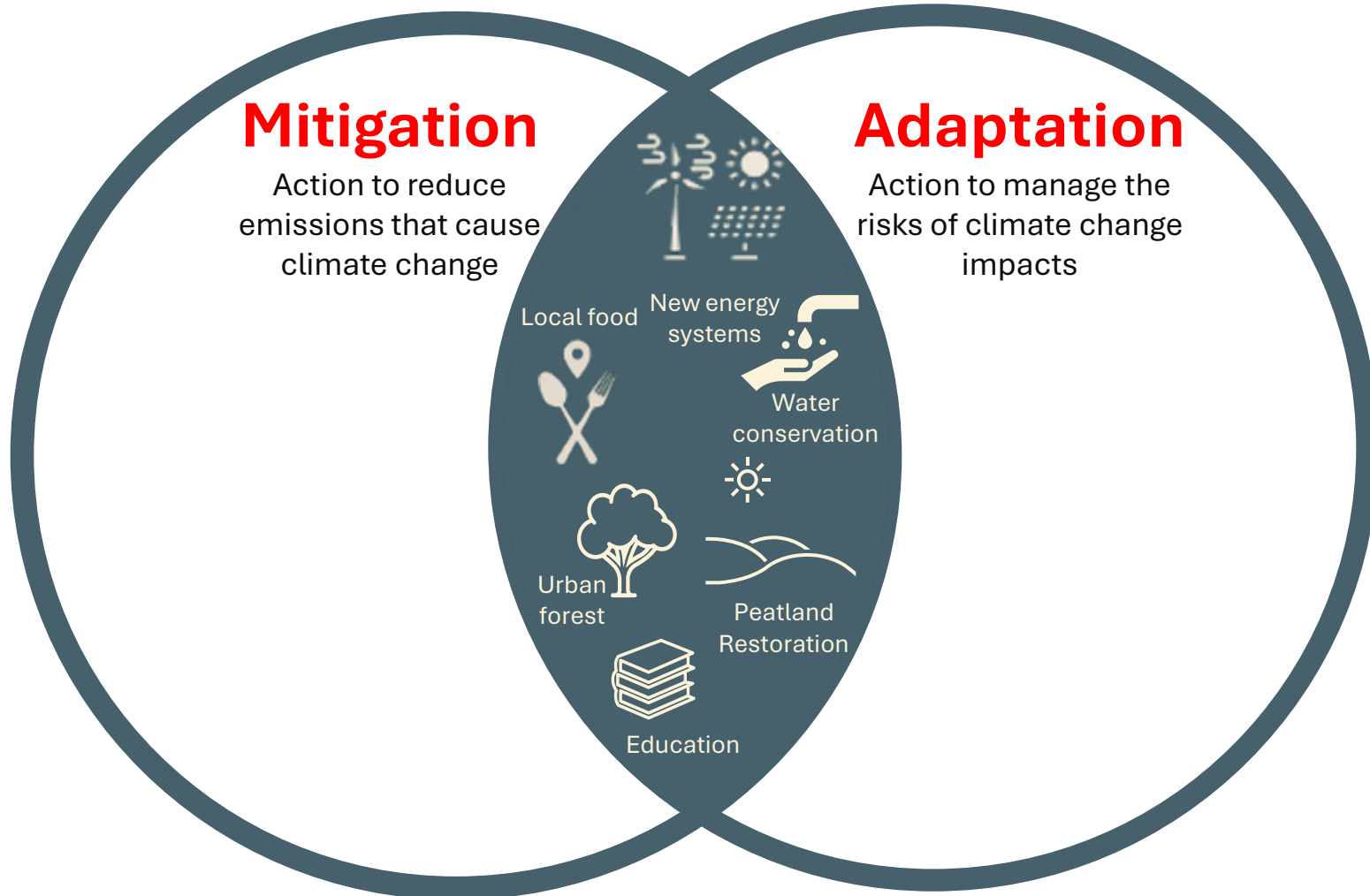
Even if mitigation action were to reach Net Zero tomorrow, there are **locked in climate impacts** we are already experiencing.

We need to **understand our exposure to these impacts** and **build in resilience** to them with the goal of reducing their impact.



# Climate Change Adaptation

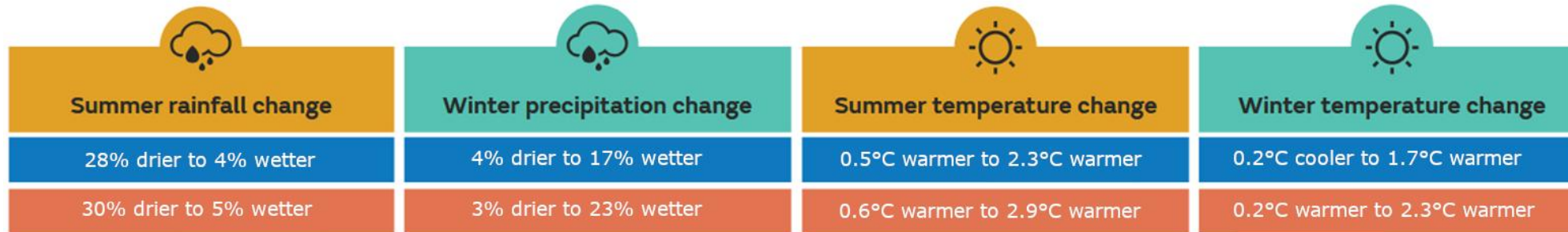
## Mitigation or Adaptation?



# Locked in impacts

## MET Office advice for the 2050s:

UKCP18 – Summer and winter changes to NI land temperature and precipitation by the 2050s



Low emission scenario = RCP2.6 High emission scenario = RCP8.5

All results are national averages for the 10th-90th percentile range for the 2040-2059 period relative to 1981-2000

- NI Summers expected to be as much as 30% drier and up to 2.9 degrees hotter
- NI Winters expected to be up to 2.3 degrees warmer and as much as 23% wetter
- Expect multiple storms arriving in rapid succession – clustering leading to worsening ground saturation/ increased flooding risk
- Belfast sea levels to rise by 13-14cm by 2030 and by 94cm this century



# Climate Change Act 2008

## Climate Change Committee

Established under section 32

Provides a CCRA-IA under section 57

Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programmes

CCRA

Informed by the CCR-IA and laid before Parliament by UKG under section 56

Typically endorses the CCRA-IA

CCRA-IA

CCRA

NICCAP

5 years

NICCAP

- Required under section 60
- Responds to risks in the CCRA

## Climate Change Act NI 2022

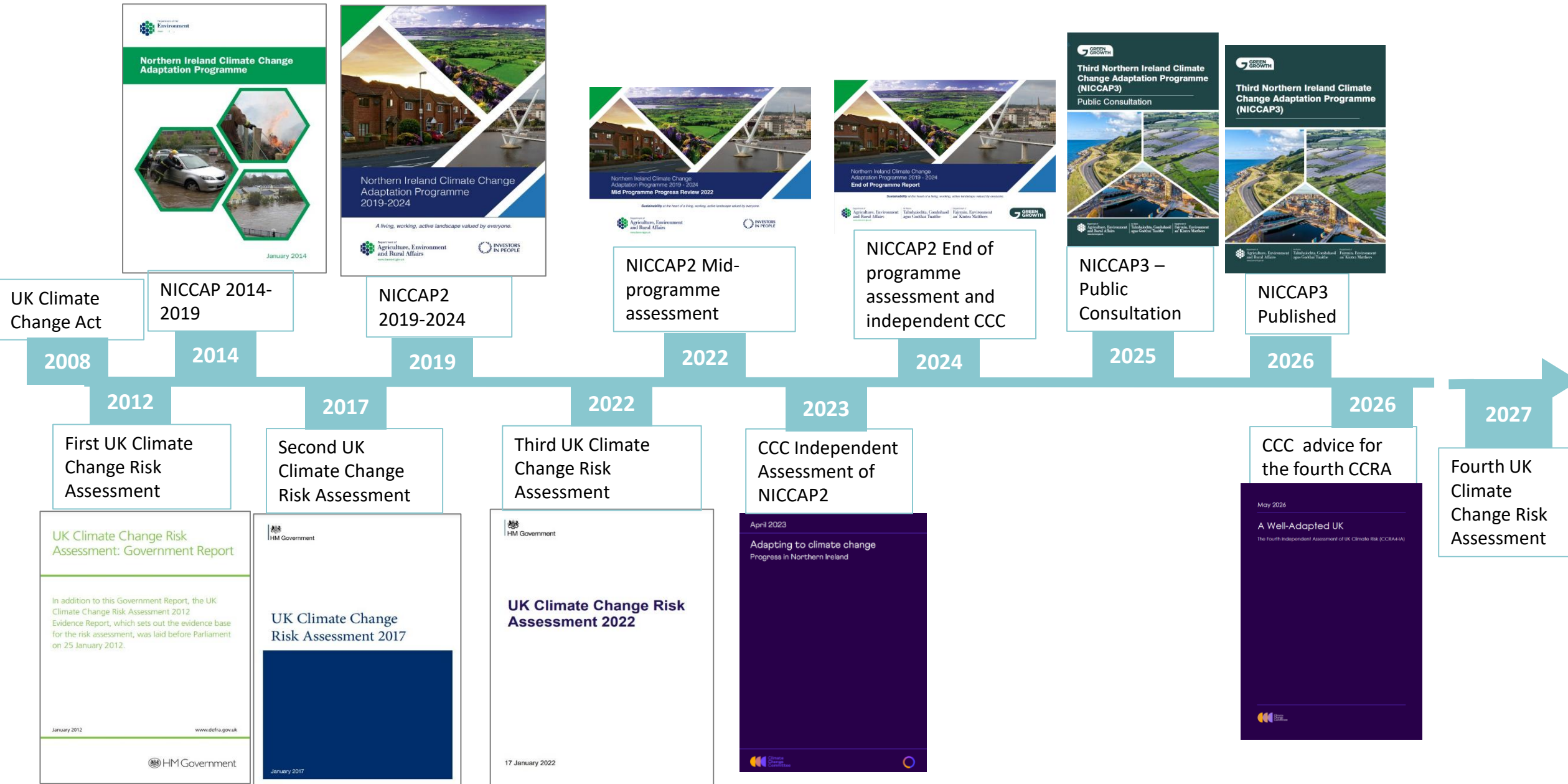
Section 48

CCC report on NICCAP3

Section 49

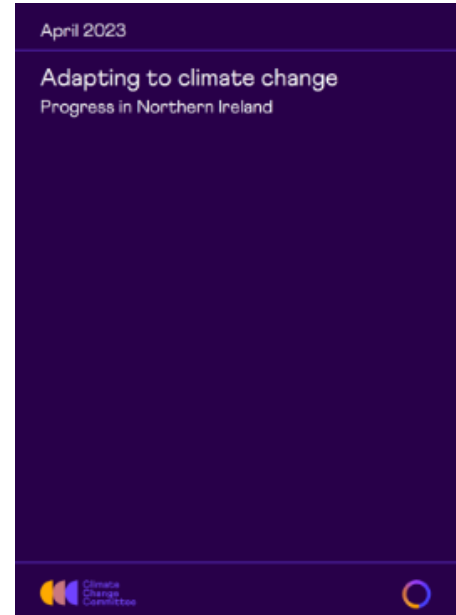
DAERA response to report

# Adaptation Policy Timeline for Northern Ireland

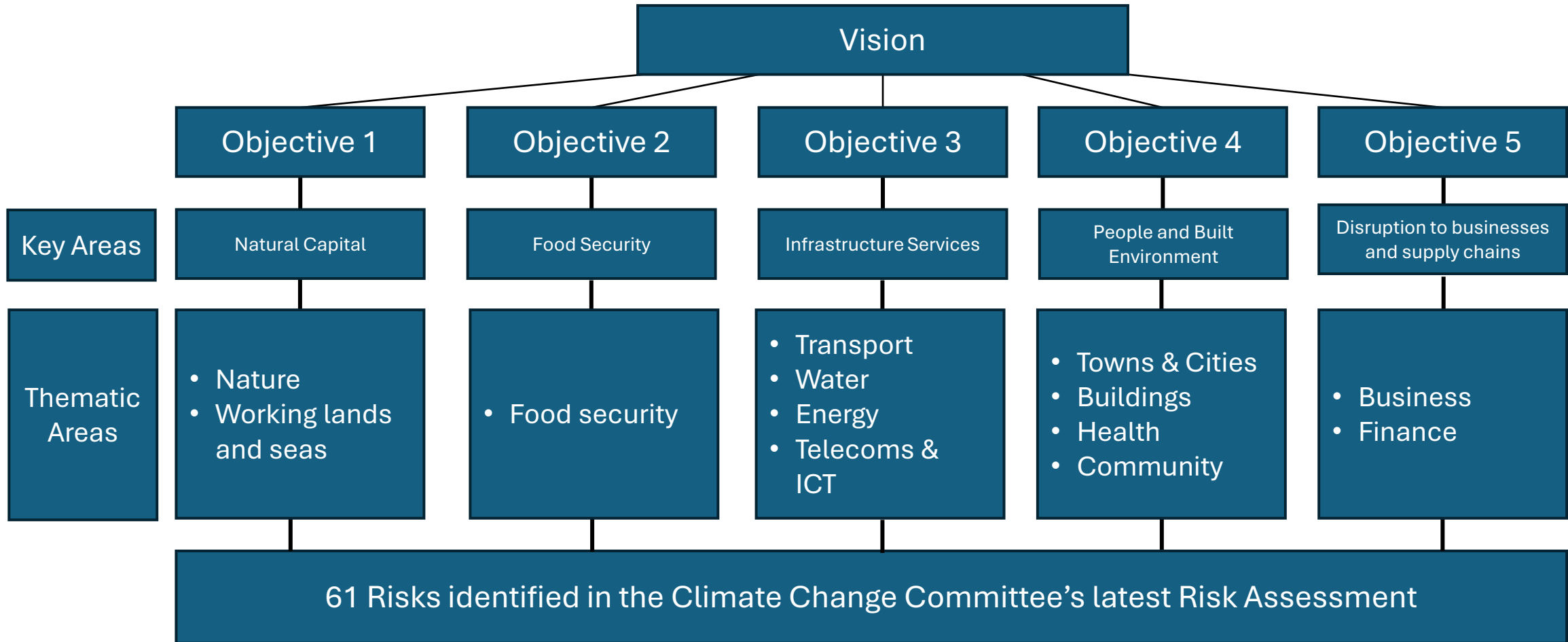


# NICCAP3 Approach & Structure

- Guided by CCC's NICCAP2 review recommendations:
  - **A refined vision**
  - **Increased Scope over NICCAP2**
  - **Engagement throughout developmental process**
  - **Strengthened monitoring and evaluation**
  - **A number of recommendations for Departments**



# NICCAP3 Outline Structure – Strengthened monitoring and evaluation



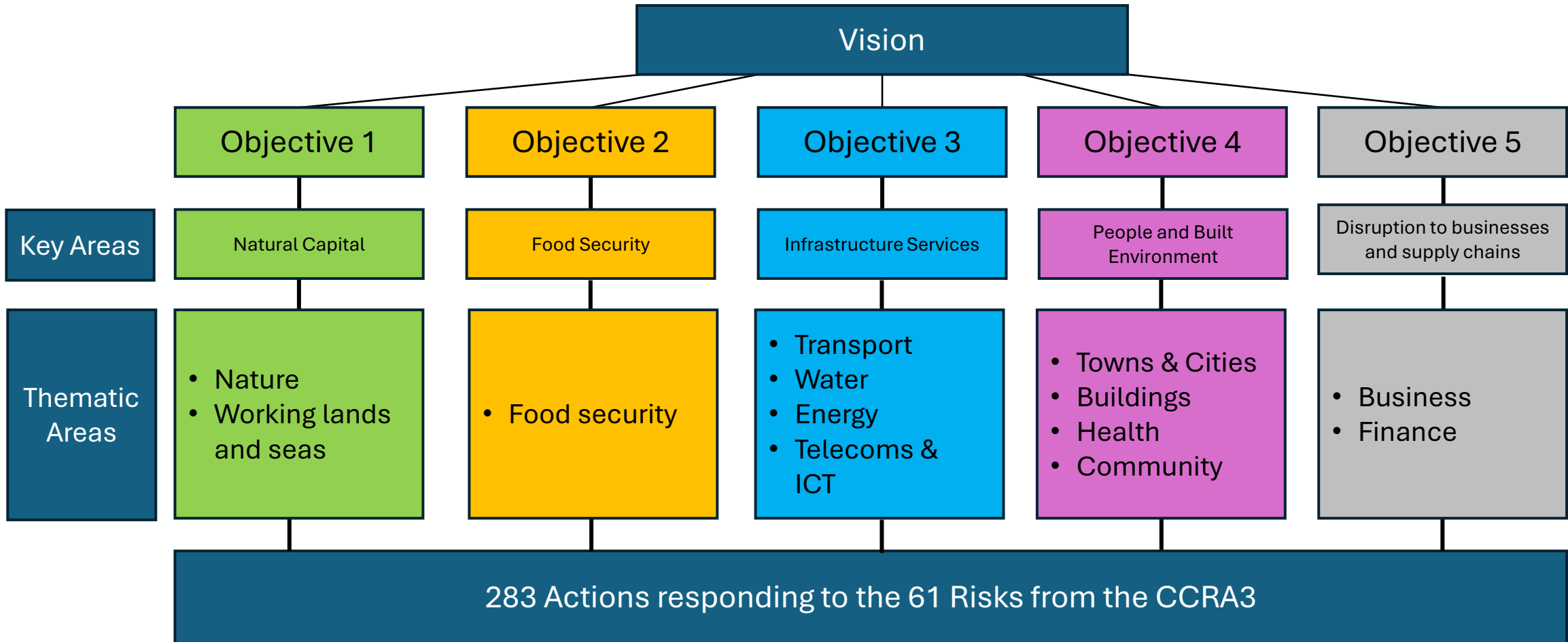
## Engagement throughout developmental process



## Increased Scope over NICCAP2

- 155 actions from NI government departments and their Arms-length bodies
- 128 actions from Local Government, Academia, eNGOs & Private Sector
- 283 action in total – more than 3 times that of NICCAP2

# NICCAP3 Outline Structure – Increased Scope



Key Area	Objective	Thematic Areas
<b>Natural Capital</b>	We will use nature-based solutions where possible and encourage sustainable practices across the land and water use sectors to halt and reverse the degradation of nature caused by human activities and also build and protect ecologically healthy, well-connected habitats which support increased species abundance and diversity, and improved soil and water quality, which in turn create a climate resilient environment, rich in natural capital that provides the ecosystem services that are so important for human wellbeing and sustainable agricultural, forestry, fisheries, and aquaculture sectors which are so important to the Northern Ireland economy.	Nature Working Land & Seas
<b>Food Security</b>	We will work with local industry stakeholders, producers and consumers to strengthen the resilience, sustainability and prosperity of our local agri-food and fisheries sectors in the creation of a sustainable and self-sufficient local food system that protects and enhances our natural environment, as well as supporting the sectors to invest in systems to assess climate risks and vulnerabilities and plan adaptation throughout their supply chains to ensure we continue to supply safe and sustainable food both at home and abroad.	Food Security
<b>Infrastructure Services</b>	Recognising the degree which infrastructure services rely upon each other to function effectively, we will collaborate across public and private sector organisations to identify vulnerabilities, manage these interdependencies and support the integration of climate adaptation into business planning and operating models to ensure adaptation is delivered effectively and efficiently to ensure system level reliability, security and resilience across our infrastructure services and networks.	Water Energy Telecoms & ICT Transport
<b>People and the Built Environment</b>	Recognising how dependent we are upon our built environment and the ability it has to shape and support our health and wellbeing, we will engage with community groups and organisations to increase community understanding of localised climate impacts, and their impact upon their health. By empowering communities to understand their risks and develop innovative solutions through making use of local knowledge and resources, we will build upon their shared experiences to target and address the climate risks specific to them to improve the climate resilience of our communities.	Towns & Cities Buildings Health Community
<b>Disruption to Business and Supply Chains</b>	We will support businesses to understand and embed climate adaptation into their strategies and practices, to identify climate risks and to make the most of existing and emerging opportunities. Through encouraging cost-effective early action to strengthen operating models to the risks and impacts of Northern Ireland's changing climate, we will ensure our supply chains have the resilience needed to support our rich network of businesses for our climate today, and tomorrow.	Business Finance

# Key area Objectives

*By working with partners across all aspects of Northern Ireland's environment, economy, health and communities we will take action to build upon and strengthen our resilience to our changing climate as we work towards creating a Northern Ireland that is not only well adapted to current and future climate risks, but also equipped to thrive; protecting our environment, economy, health and communities for both current and future generations.*

# Looking Forward

- Implementation of NICCAP3 actions
- Development of a monitoring framework
- CCRA-IA - Well Adapted UK & Technical Report

May 2026

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## A Well-Adapted UK

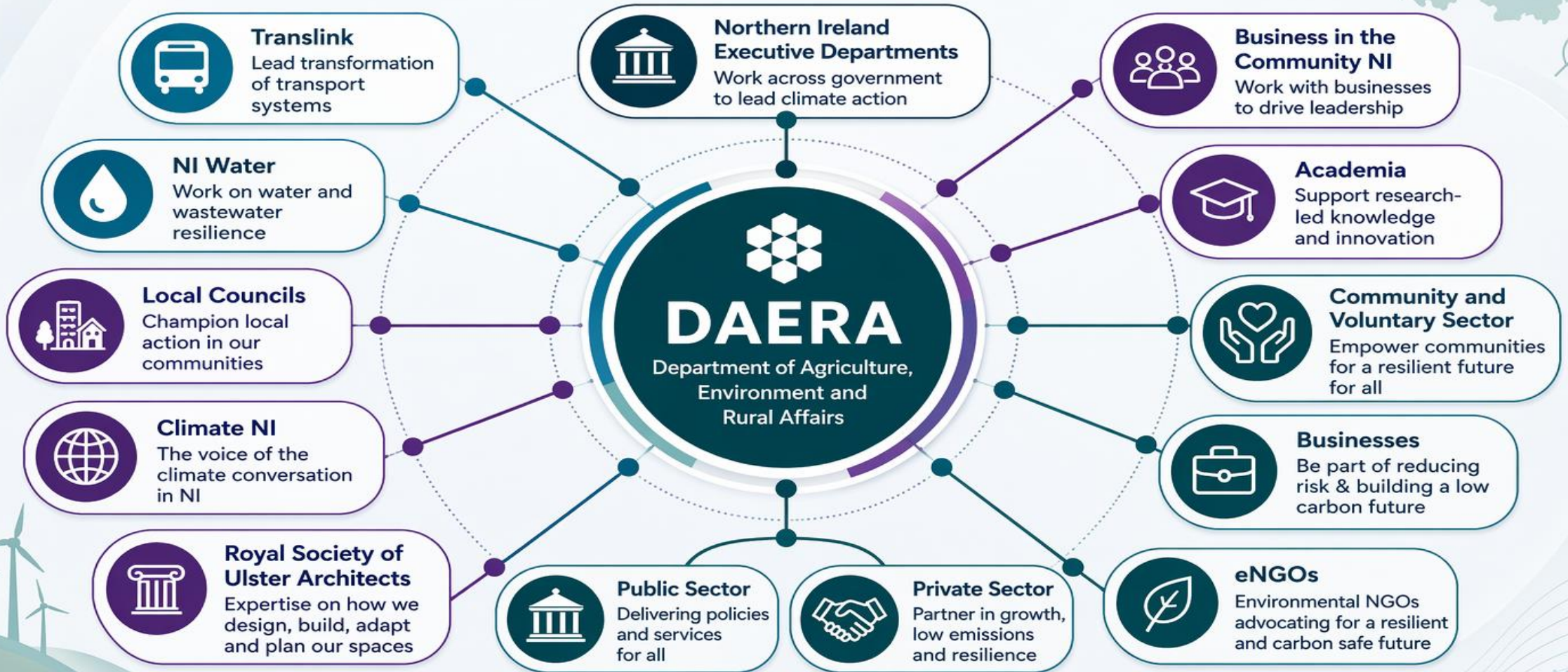
The Fourth Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk (CCRA4-IA)



# NICCAP Collaboration



Working together for a **climate resilient** Northern Ireland



**Stronger together.**

Building a climate resilient Northern Ireland for today and generations to come.



# Public Body Adaptation Reporting

## The Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024

Regulation 7 - Reporting bodies must have regard to (among other things) the following, so far as relevant—

- a) the most recent report under section 56 of the Climate Change Act 2008(1) (report on impact of climate change);
- a) the most recent programme under section 60 of that Act (programme for adaptation to climate change in Northern Ireland);

# Public Body Adaptation Reporting

## THE BENEFITS TO AN ORGANISATION FROM CLIMATE ADAPTATION REPORTING

• DISCLOSE TODAY. ADAPT TOMORROW. THRIVE ALWAYS. •

**1** **IMPROVED RISK VISIBILITY**  
Identify climate risks more precisely, enhancing foresight and issue ownership across the organisation.

**2** **STRONGER DECISION-MAKING**  
Access to consistent data enables more informed, fact-based decisions across strategy, finance, capital, and risk functions.



**3** **INVESTOR & STAKEHOLDER CONFIDENCE**  
Demonstrates transparency to investors, regulators, and stakeholders, strengthening trust and long-term value creation in a climate-conscious environment.

**6** **OPERATIONAL RESILIENCE**  
Build agile, future-ready operations that anticipate climate impacts, reducing disruption and downtime.

**4** **COST SAVINGS**  
Reduce losses and lower adjustment costs by identifying vulnerabilities early and acting proactively.

**5** **REPUTATION ENHANCEMENT**  
Position as a leader in climate responsibility and adaptation, enhancing brand value and strengthening market advantage.

**STRONGER INSIGHTS** See more. Act on evidence. | **SMARTER ACTION** Turn data into real action. | **RESILIENT GROWTH** Build your future base. | **A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE** Shape today, secure tomorrow.

# NICCAP3's Vision for a Well Adapted NI

*By working with partners across all aspects of Northern Ireland's environment, economy, health and communities we will take action to build upon and strengthen our resilience to our changing climate as we work towards creating a Northern Ireland that is not only well adapted to current and future climate risks, but also equipped to thrive; protecting our environment, economy, health and communities for both current and future generations.*



# Thank you

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