



An ambitious route
map for NI to deliver
on carbon reductions

Belfast Climate Commission

John Barry

Co-chair

j.barry@qub.ac.uk

[@ProfJohnBarry](https://twitter.com/ProfJohnBarry)



**BELFAST
CLIMATE
COMMISSION**

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How Can Climate NI get involved

3 working groups

Community Climate Action (Dr Amanda Slevin, lead)

Business and Finance (David Gavaghan and Clare McKeown)

Just Transition (John Barry)

'Building Belfast back Better' - green and just recovery plans for the city (based, in part, on the 'mini-Stern' report – Andy's presentation)

Learning from other PCAN cities – Leeds, Edinburgh etc. (meeting on 10th June)

Initial focus on retrofitting housing

Proposal for a Belfast Citizens' Assembly/Jury on Climate Breakdown

Climate adaptation and energy decarbonisation

The Executive will **tackle climate change head on** with a strategy to **address the immediate and longer term impacts of climate change**.

The Executive will **introduce legislation and targets for reducing carbon emissions** in line with the Paris Climate Change Accord.

- The Executive's strategies to reduce carbon emissions will be reviewed in light of the Paris Climate Change Accord and the climate crisis.
- A new Energy Strategy will set ambitious targets and actions for a fair and just transition to a zero carbon society.
- The Executive should bring forward a Climate Change Act to give environmental targets a strong legal underpinning.
- The Executive will establish an Independent Environmental Protection Agency to oversee this work and ensure targets are met.
- The Economic Strategy will support clean and inclusive growth and create jobs as part of a Green New Deal.
- The Executive will create a plan to eliminate plastic pollution.
- RHI will be closed down and replaced by a scheme that effectively cuts carbon emissions.

New Decade, New Approach



What is to be done? : Local Government & Climate action planning

If it is a climate emergency lets act as if it is

Local authorities experienced and able to address emergencies – flooding, fires, disorder etc...so why not apply that experience and expertise to climate action planning?

Identify and then use council powers for climate resilience and decarbonisation

Current moment – declaration of ‘climate emergency’ with no real political will or meaning behind it?

Responding to such declarations within the ‘business as usual’ framework, timescales etc.

We say and hear emergency but we do not really believe it is ... and/or its not a ‘real’ emergency that requires rapid and unprecedented action...

Local Policy levers for climate action and energy decarbonisation

Box 1.1. Overview of devolved matters for key sectors

The balance of powers that are reserved (i.e. issues upon which only the UK Parliament can make laws):

- **Economic and fiscal:** Mostly reserved
- **Energy** (apart from nuclear): Fully devolved
- **Planning:** Fully devolved
- **Local government and housing:** Mostly devolved (including domestic and public energy efficiency and fuel poverty).
- **Industry:** Mostly reserved.
- **Transport:** Vehicle standards and taxation is reserved. Demand side measures are mostly devolved.
- **Agriculture and land use:** Mostly devolved.
- **Waste:** Fully devolved.

Source: Northern Ireland Office (2018) *Devolution settlement: Northern Ireland*.

Case study: The Economic Case for Climate Action in Belfast

In total, Belfast's energy bill is currently £389m a year, and it is forecast to grow to £467m a year by 2030.

With investment of £180m a year through to 2030, Belfast could reduce its energy bill by £264m a year, with investments paying back in 6 years.

Such investments could create 5,000 years of new employment in the city.

They could also reduce congestion, address fuel poverty, tackle air pollution and improve public health.

A 'Just and Green' Recovery from the pandemic

#BuildBackBetter

#JobsNotGrowth

Seek changes that have multiple benefits – reduce GHGs, secure/create jobs, improve air and environmental quality, enhance public transportation, walking, cycling, investment in green and blue infrastructure

Key NI decarbonisations challenges and opportunities –

Transport – over-reliance on the ICE car

Housing – energy poverty, oil dependence and poor insulation

Agri-food – over reliance on carbon intensive, globalised supply chain provision

Summary/take aways



The scale and urgency of the task requires system and structure redesign and transformation.

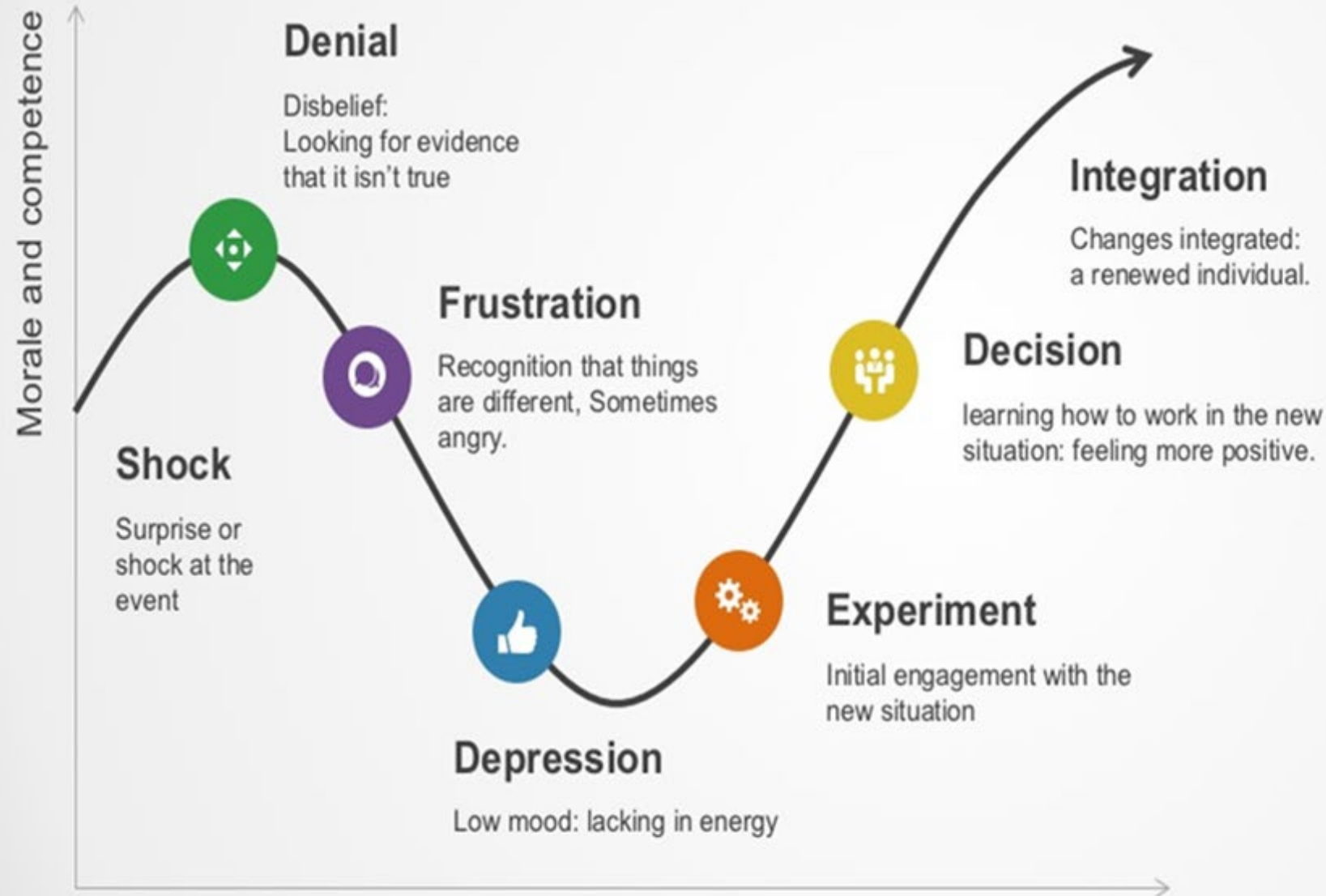
Reform and minor adjustments will not suffice

What is required is fundamental transformation of systems such as food, energy, retail, local services, transport, housing and work. This will require novel solutions.

Decarbonisation and climate resilience measures have to go hand in hand with delivering a range of co-benefits and a 'just transition', (for consumers – energy prices and fuel poverty and producers, in high GHG emitting sectors, esp. agriculture in NI)

Beyond reforming and business as usual ... redesign and transformative system changes needed ... and we have only just begun

The Kübler-Ross Change Curve



Creative Alignment

Maximize Communication

Spark Motivation

Develop Capability

Share Knowledge



Make no small plans for they
have no power to stir the soul.

~ Niccolo Machiavelli

"When there is no vision,
the people **perish.**"



-Ps. 29:18