

# A Better Tomorrow

Manifesto for the 2024  
General Election

**KEEP  
NORTHERN  
IRELAND  
BEAUTIFUL**

# Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful believes that Northern Ireland must fully participate in the UK's response to the climate emergency and biodiversity crises.

Northern Ireland has already lost opportunities afforded by the Northern Ireland Climate Act to tackle the climate emergency due to Stormont being suspended for two years and the consequent lack of resources. Meeting targets to reduce emissions will be incredibly challenging, and changing behaviour to enable that will be even more difficult. Yet it is critical that we put our best foot forward and make sure that we have the right frameworks in place at both UK-wide and Northern Ireland levels and that the resources to properly implement the necessary changes are available.

Northern Ireland cannot operate in isolation; it needs to work with the UK government, the Irish government, and the governments in the other devolved regions. It is critical that in the next mandate our Members of Parliament press for this cooperation and ensure that Northern Ireland is properly resourced in its efforts to fight the climate emergency.

In this election, the climate and environment must be a top priority for our politicians, not just during the campaign but for the years ahead.

If we take the right actions,  
**A Better Tomorrow is possible.**

**A Better Environment that can sustain our planet**

**A Better Economy that can create the jobs for the future**

**A Better Approach that supports the well-being of everyone**

# Environmental Education

Eco-Schools is an international education programme running in 70 countries worldwide. We want to see the UK government work with the Northern Ireland Executive to ensure that the Eco-Schools programme operates in all schools to deliver on the UN Greening Education Partnership commitments.



## We want our local MPs in the next parliament to work for:

- 1 Making Climate Education a priority in Northern Ireland and other parts of the UK.
- 2 Supporting the Eco-Schools programme to encourage the growth and embedding of the right behaviours at a young age in every child.
- 3 Making a commitment to ensure that Members of Parliament and their staff undertake Carbon Literacy Training to understand the climate emergency properly.

# Community Engagement

Essential to everything we need to achieve is changing how we consume and work as individuals and as a society. Making this change needs to be supported and resourced by all levels of government. The Live Here Love Here campaign promotes civic pride and empowers individuals to act in and for their communities. From improving mental health to re-visioning communities, the environment has an important role to play in changing lives for the better.

Investment and support for behaviour change programmes are about helping people understand the value of change and how it can improve our society.



## We want our local MPs in the next parliament to work for:

- 1 Supporting behaviour change campaigns across the UK and ensuring that the next UK government allocates the resources necessary to support these campaigns and works with the Northern Ireland Executive to deliver these campaigns.
- 2 Introducing behaviour change schemes such as a fit for purpose Deposit Return Scheme and ensure that work on introducing this commences immediately.
- 3 Supporting measures that can help reduce the UK's fast fashion culture. We need to promote a more circular economy across the UK if we are to reduce waste and meet our international commitments.

# Bringing Everyone with Us

We recognise the need to bring people with us on this journey towards a cleaner environment underpinned by a circular economy. Getting the public to adopt the right behaviours depends on having the right policies in place and government adopting a proactive approach. The time for action is now; we cannot afford to wait. Time and again, the public has shown that when leadership is given, they will respond. Many parts of our business sector also recognise the need for change and action on the climate emergency.



## We want our local MPs in the next parliament to work for:

- 1 Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging and ensure that ground litter is included as originally proposed.
- 2 Ensuring that the UK retains its commitment to achieve Net Zero by 2050 and that no further dilution of this target is introduced.
- 3 Ensure that the Internal Markets Act is not used to hold back environmental progress in places like Northern Ireland.
- 4 Enabling businesses and other relevant sectors to understand the benefits of and adopt a circular economy.
- 5 A coordinated plan of action regarding the climate emergency across the UK government, the devolved administrations and the Irish government.

# A Better Tomorrow Starts at this Election

A Better Tomorrow is within our grasp, but only if we make the right choices now. Decisions made by national governments in the next few years will have a massive impact on how we fight back against the climate emergency.

We need our next group of MPs to press for Northern Ireland to play our full role in this fight. That can only happen if the right legislation is passed, the correct policies are implemented, and the necessary support is given.

This manifesto argues for and sets out the actions for A Better Tomorrow. That starts with this election and with our local parties making the right decisions. The right decisions involve all levels of government, from our local councils to the House of Commons.

Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful invites you to be part of this journey.



For more information please contact:

[enquiries@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org](mailto:enquiries@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org)

028 9073 6921

[www.keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org](http://www.keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org)

**KEEP  
NORTHERN  
IRELAND  
BEAUTIFUL**