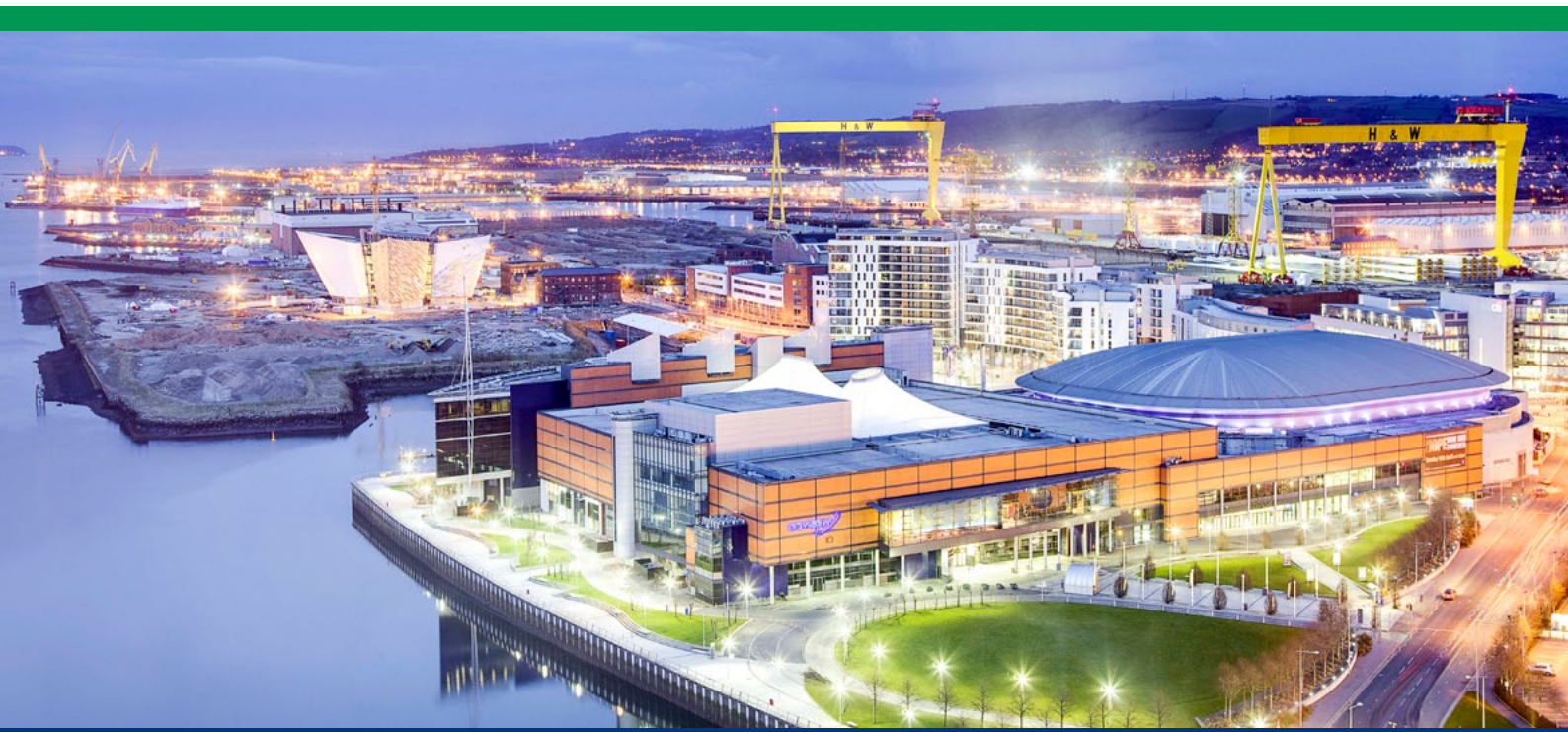




Partnership Working for a Better Environment

Prosperity Agreement Progress Report - 2016



Foreword

One of the key challenges when the new Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs was formed in May 2016 was to integrate support for the sustainable growth of the Northern Ireland economy, particularly the agri-food sector, with the delivery of positive environmental outcomes. We of course recognise that economic growth is essential for the success of Northern Ireland, but crucially this must not come at the expense of our natural environment.



Prosperity agreements represent an opportunity to work in partnership with Northern Ireland businesses who share our vision for a Northern Ireland which is successful in local and international markets, which can trade effectively on a pristine and natural image, which can capitalise on its natural assets, and grow in a way which delivers environmental benefits in addition to those we can see on the balance sheet.

I would like to congratulate the four companies whose achievements are showcased in this publication. The appetite to innovate and go beyond just complying with their environmental obligations is manifest in the successes of the companies here and will become ever more important as we seek to address the challenging political and environmental landscape of the next decade. I therefore hope we can bring more leading brands and businesses into the Prosperity Agreement Programme to help deliver for businesses and the environment in Northern Ireland.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Small', written in a cursive style.

David Small,
Chief Executive,
Northern Ireland Environment Agency

What are Prosperity Agreements?

NIEA uses a range of regulatory tools to ensure we protect the environment whilst also supporting businesses. Prosperity Agreements were initiated as a means of working in partnership with regulated businesses, in an innovative way to find opportunities for step change in environmental performance and to secure positive business growth and development.

Prosperity Agreements are voluntary agreements, signed between NIEA and a company/organisation. The agreements contain commitments from both NIEA and the company/organisation which will deliver significant environmental benefits, beyond legal requirements, develop a more strategic approach between business and regulator and to help business realise environmental gains which will increase their competitiveness.

To be eligible for an agreement a company/organisation must:

- be regulated by NIEA and shall not have any major non-compliances with environmental regulatory requirements in permits held on the site(s) for which the agreement will apply.
- have no relevant convictions within the last 5 years.
- demonstrate a clear appetite and desire to seek innovative solutions to go beyond compliance and achieve positive environmental outcomes.

Four agreements have been signed since the programme began in 2014;

- Linden Foods and Linergy - August 2014
- Lafarge - March 2015
- John Thompson and Sons - July 2015
- Coca Cola HBC NI - February 2016

Their progress and achievements are detailed in this publication. Beyond these tangible outcomes, there have been a wide range of additional benefits such as building on positive working relationships. These create opportunities to engage with the businesses on strategic issues, which help contribute to the broader DAERA and Executive objectives, and also to the Programme for Government Outcomes.

If you have an interest in securing a step change in the approach to environmental and economic challenges, and think you can meet the key criteria outlined above or you would like to find out more about Prosperity Agreements, then please contact the team.

Prosperity Agreement Team

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Carbon emissions reduced by 25%

Linden Foods installed an innovative heat exchange refrigeration system which has enabled them to meet their carbon emissions target already. It also creates an improved production environment. The new system has resulted in a 75% reduction in gas oil use and 10% reduction in electricity use. Linergy has recently upgraded all lighting in their facility to low energy LEDs with a saving of 105 Kg of Carbon.



Reduction in waste

Linden & Linergy continue to look for opportunities to find re-use outlets for key materials e.g. Meat and Bone Meal. Linden continually explore technical innovations around packaging leading to improved shelf life and reduced food waste.



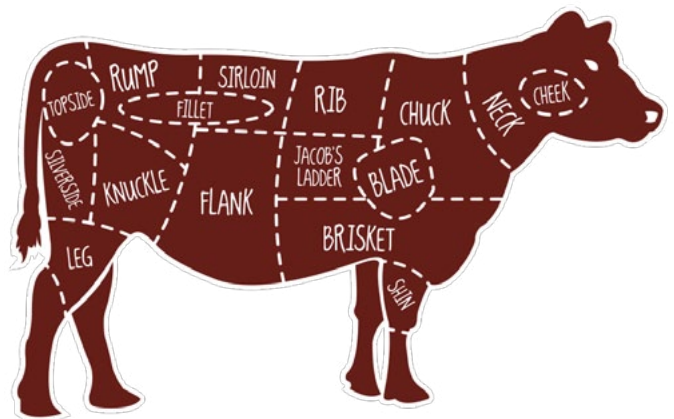
Positive community engagement

Linden has initiated a Local stakeholder's forum which held its 2nd meeting in August 2016. This includes local community representatives, businesses and public bodies with the aim of building mutual understanding and trust between the business and local people. The meetings have been positively received and another is being organised for spring 2017.



Improvements to bio-security

Increased collection frequency of raw materials from farms for rendering has led to an increased energy yield rate of 10%. This has had the added benefit of reduced odour and improved material handling.



Investment in innovation

Linden is involved in a number of supply chain initiatives where they seek to influence their farmers and producers to adhere to good environmental practice. They have been working with farmers on rearing calves to ensure high quality and traceability and have supported farmers in undertaking soil sampling to facilitate targeted and efficient fertiliser application. Linden has sign posted information on compliance via the NetRegs website and participated in a video to promote environmental good practice.



Ireland



Reductions in emissions

Lafarge have invested £900,000 in equipment & technology to reduce use of fossil fuels and CO₂ emissions.



Positive impact on biodiversity

Lafarge continue to maintain a designated ASSI within their quarry and enable access for research and school visits. The company have also invested in the planting of 12,400 native tree species in the 2nd half of 2016.



261 tonnes of waste recovered

Through changing the types of bags used in packaging and changes within the production process, Lafarge has diverted over 261 tonnes of waste from landfill in 2016, enough to fill 27,000 black bin liners.



Successful community engagement

Lafarge continue to have a positive relationship with the local council and have given presentations at the council previously. The company liaise with and are open to organised visits from local schools and universities for educational purposes. The company are also working closely with HSE to improve key safety practices on site. Lafarge have also engaged with the local Ballinderry Rivers Trust and Woodland Trust for positive environmental outcomes, such as aesthetic improvements to the quarry site.



Reduced water consumption

Rainfall water is captured and utilised for internal processes to reduce reliance on mains supply. Lafarge also ensures that this water is captured and re-circulated throughout the process at all times.



Investment in innovation and research projects

Lafarge are part of the UK & Ireland ShARE initiative on environmental research. It is LafargeHolcim best practice to use alternatives to fossil fuels and they now re-use production waste within the process.



Carbon and energy management initiatives

Thompsons have achieved a reduction in carbon emissions of 495 tonnes per annum, with further reductions projected with their new Combined Heat and Power plant which will come on line in 2017. This new plant also has ability to process gas from renewable sources, an option which may be considered in the future to power the operations at the York Road site. The height of the main stack has been increased improving local air quality.



182% increase in recycling

Thompsons are now using durable tubs which can be re-used for deliveries of vitamin pre-mix rather than non-recyclable bags as before. 70% of waste on site is now recycled.



Positive Community Engagement

Thompsons have ongoing involvement with the North Belfast Area Partnership and Belfast City Council and have contributed to the planting and redevelopment costs for improving visual appeal of the road in front of the mill. Thompsons will also maintain this area. They are also working with Arts for All in promoting local achievements and positive local identity. They have developed a children's book to educate children on where their milk comes from and the importance of

farmers in the food chain. Further editions on other subject areas are planned.



Positive impacts on Biodiversity

Thompsons are looking for opportunities to influence their supply chain and farm customers in better understanding the value of biodiversity and natural capital. They will be working with NIEA on a seminar for the Grain Trade Association on potential biodiversity initiatives.



Investment in innovation and research projects

Thompsons are promoting low protein pig diets, which reduce slurry volumes, nutrient and gaseous emissions. More than 95% of Thompsons pig customers have now implemented this new feeding approach and further data is being collected via a number of research projects on the positive impact on pig productivity and the environment. Thompsons are also working with ruminant farmers on nutrient management, supporting targeted use of fertiliser for grass growth. Implementation of the Feed Advisors Register has seen 31 of Thompsons sales and technical staff trained and attaining certification in environmental core competencies and environmental policy.



Coca-Cola HBC
Ireland & Northern Ireland



10% reduction in energy use

Coca-Cola HBC have reduced CO₂ emissions at their Knockmore Hill site through a variety of initiatives including use of LED lighting, ensuring equipment powers down when not in use and conserving heat through the use of oven doors on production lines. Using their on site combined heat and power (CHP) plant has also reduced emissions with over 90% of electricity used generated by the on site CHP plant.

businesses and offer free educational visits to their Knockmore Hill site and invest in local community initiatives such as Clean Coast and Adopt a Spot. Coca Cola HBC employees are encouraged to participate in volunteering and local community groups.



Positive impact on Biodiversity

Coca-Cola HBC undertook a biodiversity audit at their Knockmore Hill site with support from NIEA and found it currently provides a good habitat for a range of species. An action plan to enhance wildlife potential is being developed. Coca Cola HBC is seeking opportunities to work with the local council, community groups and environmental NGOs on projects in this area.



Zero waste to landfill

Coca-Cola HBC have introduced new light weight Deep Riverrock 500ml bottles by reducing the amount of PET plastic used by 16% and continue to look for waste reduction efficiencies in their supply chain operations. All waste generated from their production process is currently reused, recycled or sent for energy recovery.



5% reduction in water use

Coca-Cola HBC have reduced the water used within manufacturing and ancillary processes by 26 Million litres, enough to fill almost 11 Olympic sized swimming pools! This was achieved through water reduction in their water treatment process and also by engaging employees to report water saving opportunities at their Knockmore Hill site.



Successful community engagement initiatives

Coca-Cola HBC is committed to the Sustainability leadership programme with Business in the Community (BITC) network and are also active in local community planning partnership programmes. In 2016 Coca Cola HBC achieved Platinum status in the BITC environmental benchmarking survey. They share best practice with local



Investment in Innovation

Annually Coca Cola HBC invests in Water, Waste and Energy saving initiatives. Coca-Cola HBC are continually seeking new innovative ways to improve their environmental management system e.g. applying renewable energy solutions to assist with aeration of collected surface water.

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