

Appendix C: Relevant Environmental Protection Objectives

Plan or Programme	Relevant Environmental Protection Objectives within the Plan or Programme	How the SPPS will support these Environmental Protection Objectives
Northern Ireland		
DARD (2012) Rural White Paper Action Plan	This document sets out the vision for NI's rural areas and the actions which Departments will take in support of achieving that vision and to help ensure the future sustainability of rural areas. The vision includes vibrant and strong rural communities; improved infrastructure, transport and key services; strong community infrastructure which can avail of economic, social and cultural opportunities; and better linkages between rural and urban areas.	The principles and policies of SPPS will directly support this plan, recognising that the rural area has a key role in supporting economic growth. The strategy aims to achieve appropriate and sustainable patterns of development that supports a vibrant rural community, improves infrastructure, facilitates development and promotes high standards in the design, siting and landscaping of development in the countryside.
DARD (2012) Strategic Plan 2012-2020	DARD's vision is to achieve a more efficient and competitive agri-food industry through providing ' <i>a thriving and sustainable rural economy, community and environment</i> '. The plan aims to prepare the agri-food industry for future market opportunities by safeguarding/enhancing animal, fish and plant health and animal welfare, ensuring the feed chain is protected and risks from emerging diseases are monitored. Other environmental objectives include reducing risk of flooding by maintaining defences, enhancing sustainable marine fisheries and delivering environmental enhancement through encouraging responsible management of countryside.	The SPPS principles and policies support the strategic plan through its vision of a diversified and competitive rural economy, which facilitates the economic development needs of Northern Ireland in ways consistent with the protection of the environment and the principles of sustainable development. The SPPS will also complement this plan in regard to planning and flood risk, through preventing future development that may be at risk from flooding or that may increase the risk of flooding elsewhere.
DARD (2012) Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation	Framework aims to help the most vulnerable rural dwellers facing poverty and social inclusion, providing a great opportunity to work together in identifying measures to improve the quality of life for rural dwellers. Addressing challenges can alleviate the stresses on those most	The SPPS will support the DARD framework through its aims to improve infrastructure to rural areas, manage housing growth to meet changing demands and encourage the development of balanced local communities. The principles and

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	vulnerable in the society by providing projects and programmes that target access poverty (benefits, education, training etc), financial poverty (low incomes) and social isolation (overcoming barriers to goods and services). Also it has a direct link to the Rural White Paper Action Plan.	policies of the SPPS will indirectly help poverty through promoting economic well-being and social progress in its measures to approach planning in a sustainable manner that protects the environment.
DARD (2013) Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy and Action Plan	Overall this promotes and encourages adoption of technical efficiency to improve farm business performance and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The strategy and action plan identifies a set of measures and actions that can be progressively implemented on-farm to better manage the climate consequences of agri-food production systems i.e. methane and nitrous oxide. In addition it is seen to complement many other sustainability, environmental and biodiversity initiatives, targets and EC Directives.	SPPS will indirectly support this strategy and action plan through its commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by increasing the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and reducing the consumption of carbon-intensive resources. The SPPS also aims to reduce emissions through mitigation measures associated with sustainable transport options and efficient resource and waste management.
DARD (2010) Renewable Energy Action Plan	Aims to provide a framework which enables the agricultural and forestry sectors to exploit opportunities that the uptake of renewable energy has to offer in terms of business competitiveness, energy security and greenhouse gas mitigation. The plan focuses on assisting meeting targets for renewable energy production at a regional, national and EU level in a balanced and sustainable way.	This action plan will be directly supported by the objectives of the SPPS. A central part of the strategy revolves around the promotion of the development of renewable energy resources and the integration of renewable energy technology into the design, siting and layout of new development. The SPPS supports opportunities for rural diversification and the alternative agricultural use of land to help Northern Ireland achieve its targets for reducing carbon emissions. Other principles and policies on carbon emission reductions and sustainability also complement the action plan.
DARD (2007) Flood Mapping Strategy for	Sets out a structured programme of fluvial and coastal flood risk mapping (and associated tool development) that is based	The SPPS will indirectly complement the theme of the DARD Flood Mapping Strategy through its aims

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Northern Ireland	on current knowledge of the mapping requirements of the Planning Policy Statement 15 (PPS15) and the proposed EU Floods Directive. One of the vital aims is to support asset management processes which include prioritising, justifying and targeting investments in order to manage and reduce risk to the environment.	to promote an integrated and sustainable approach to the management of flood risk that contributes to safety and wellbeing, efficient use of economic resources and the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity.
Defra and DOE (2012) A Climate Change Risk Assessment for Northern Ireland	The objective of the Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) is to inform adaptation policy by assessing the current and future risks and opportunities posed by the impacts of climate for NI to the year 2100. The main finding is that extreme weather is still predominant among potential risks related to climate change but that other risks, such as water scarcity and species being able to track climate space, are becoming increasingly important.	The principles and policies of the SPPS including objectives to increase flood risk resilience and enhance sustainable coastal and rural development will indirectly support the long term aims of any climate change policy. Other principles and policies of the SPPS that promote renewable energy and increase the use of public transport will also support the aim of the Climate Change Risk Assessment.
DETI (2012) Sustainable Energy Action Plan 2012-2015	<p>DETI set out numerous “main actions for the future” regarding renewables and other aspects of sustainable energy. Of particular relevance are the commitments to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contribute to the growth of the NI sustainable energy sector (through Invest NI) to 8.9% of NI GVA by 2015. ▪ Work with DOE, developers, planners and those responsible for environmental consents to ensure that the need for renewable energy to address the environmental impacts of climate change is recognised, that good quality applications are made and that clear, consistent and proportionate procedures are in place for the consenting of renewable installations. ▪ Undertake “capacity studies” (including landscape 	The SPPS aims to decrease the dependence of fossil fuels for Northern Ireland through the planning and implementation of renewable energy technologies into future developments, supporting this action plan closely. The principles and policies of the SPPS will ensure that the environmental, landscape, visual and amenity impacts associated with or arising from renewable energy development are adequately addressed, such that the implementation of renewable energy is in-keeping with the wider environmental objectives of the SPPS.

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	<p>capacity study, ecological study and bird migration study, with DOE and others) in order to determine with more accuracy how much development could be accommodated in different locations across Northern Ireland before significant cumulative effects start to emerge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a continuous monitoring framework (with DOE and others) where the key potential cumulative effects identified from the assessment are reviewed on a regular basis in response to growth of the onshore wind industry. 	
<p>DETI (2011) Draft Onshore Renewable Electricity Action Plan</p>	<p>The overall aim of the OREAP is to optimise the amount of renewable electricity generated from onshore renewable sources in order to enhance diversity and security of supply, reduce carbon emissions, contribute to the 40% renewable electricity target by 2020 and beyond and develop business and employment opportunities for NI companies. The development of this resource will take into account the protection of the environment and the needs and interests of other users of the land. In addition the OREAP will consider the impact of offshore renewable energy development on the onshore transmission and distribution network.</p> <p>The regional capacity studies should focus specifically on the receptors identified in the SEA where there is potential for significant adverse cumulative effects to occur once development exceeds a certain level. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Landscape and Visual Amenity Capacity Study ▪ Ecological Study 	<p>The SPPS supports OREAP closely and compliments the commitment of the Programme for Government which encourages an achievement of 20% electricity consumption that is sourced from renewable energy by 2015. A key objective of the SPPS is to ensure adequate protection of each local authority's built, natural, and cultural heritage features to secure the protection, conservation and, where possible, the enhancement of our built and archaeological heritage</p>

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DOE (2013) Draft Strategy for Marine Protected Areas in the Northern Ireland Inshore Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bird Migration Study <p>Aims to protect NI's marine environment through these networks of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and the key purpose of the strategy is to set out how MPAs can help to protect and improve ecosystems in NI's inshore region through mainly conservation. The key objectives include establishing an ecologically coherent network of well managed MPAs, ensure NI's MPAs contribute to the wider UK network and produce appropriate protection and conservation measures for species and habitats designated 'Priority Marine Features'.</p>	<p>The strategy is supported by the wider vision of the SPPS to conserve the natural character and landscape of the undeveloped coast and to protect it from excessive, inappropriate or obtrusive development and from the actual or potential effects of pollution. The need for interaction between the marine and terrestrial planning systems are recognised as an important factor in the SPPS, which may create some conflict with the promotion of renewable energy technology that interacts with marine environments.</p>
DOE (2013) Prioritised Action Framework for Natura 2000	<p>The framework identifies key priorities for managing the Natura 2000 network, to achieve the objectives of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2000 and to provide an overview of how to finance them. Priorities focus on improving habitats and species that are currently in bad status depending on general measures such as agri-environmental schemes, stakeholder involvement and monitoring. This enables successful management planning and implementation of conservation management measures throughout Natura 2000.</p>	<p>The SPPS' environmental protection policy supports the framework through its commitments to further the conservation, enhancement and restoration of the abundance, quality, diversity and distinctiveness of the region's natural heritage. This includes ensuring that planning authorities recognise protected species, biodiversity and geological interests within the wider environment.</p>
DOE (2012) Draft Northern Ireland Marine Position Paper	<p>NI has not yet adopted its Marine Plan; it is currently being drafted and is expected to be consulted on in Summer 2014. The Position Paper sets out the Executive's objectives for the sustainable development of the marine area. These cover the following relevant topics: Protection of the Marine Environment; Surface Water Management; Flood Risk Management and Drainage; Integrated Coastal Zone</p>	<p>The SPPS visions for sustainable coastal development and appropriate flood risk measures directly support the Marine Plan to protect the marine environment in a changing climate. The environmental principles and policies of the SPPS will compliment this plan through addressing the protection of the natural heritage, biodiversity and</p>

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	Management; Climate Change; Coastal Change; and Protection of the Historic Environment.	geological interests in marine and coastal environments.
DOE (2012) Draft Revised Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy: Delivering Resource Efficiency	This Strategy moves the emphasis of waste management in NI from resource management (with landfill diversion as the key driver) to resource efficiency i.e. using resources in the most effective way while minimising the impact of their use on the environment. Therefore, this Strategy has a renewed focus on waste prevention (including re-use), preparing for re-use and recycling in accordance with the waste hierarchy. Making more efficient use of natural resources and facilitating increased re-use and recycling is expected to have a favourable impact on the NI economy and help to promote and support 'green jobs'.	The SPPS will directly support the Waste Management Strategy through its objectives to promote the development of waste management and recycling facilities, ensure that detrimental effects are avoided or minimised, and to secure appropriate restoration of proposed waste management sites for agreed after-uses. The environmental principles and policies of the SPPS including resource efficiency and the prevention of unacceptable mineral exploitation will further support the strategy.
DOE (2012) Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Action Plan	This document sets out a Cross-Departmental Action Plan to tackle the established strategies together, including how Northern Ireland is and will continue to reduce its carbon footprint. Specifically how the Programme for Government target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25% below 1990 levels by 2025 will be delivered.	This action plan will be supported by the SPPS principles and policies on mitigating future greenhouse gas emissions, sustainable transport and renewable energy generation.
DOE (2006) An Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy for Northern Ireland 2006 – 2026	<p>Strategy aims for the coast include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ establish and maintain a sustainable quality of life ▪ maintain the distinct cultural identities, traditions and skills ▪ maintain and enhance natural resources and the condition of designated nature conservation sites ▪ conserve, protect and where possible enhance the estuarine and coastal environment and terrestrial ecosystems 	The SPPS has many principles and policies which will directly and indirectly support the strategies of the ICZM strategy through its theme of sustainability. This includes improvements to social conditions, increased economic viability of communities in rural and coastal locations, to maintain and restore biodiversity, habitats and species, and protect landscapes and the natural heritage of Northern Ireland's coastlines.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ secure a vibrant economic future through the sustainable use of the natural resources of the coastal zone ▪ maintain the visual appeal and environmental quality of Northern Ireland's coastal landscapes and seascapes ▪ establish a lead agency and structures to assist the delivery of ICZM, co-ordinate efforts and to facilitate participation. 	
DOE (2006) Water Framework Directive Monitoring Plans	Document aims to provide an overarching framework and outline the general approach that will be adopted to monitoring Northern Ireland's aquatic environment for the years 2006 to 2007 and beyond, highlighting the drivers for the work. The main one is the obligation to meet the monitoring requirements of the EC Water Framework Directive (WFD) (2000/06/EC), covering surface water, groundwater and hydrological monitoring proposals.	The SPPS will indirectly supports the WFD monitoring plans through its aims for sustainable development that considers the environment, local resources and conditions including water use, flood risk and the social needs of Northern Ireland's communities.
DOE (2002) Biodiversity Strategy	Aims to protect and enhance biodiversity in Northern Ireland over the period to 2016, identifying 40 habitat types as priorities for conservation action. These will be protected from development and proposals that could harm their integrity, continuity, links or ecological relationships. Proposal of a Sustainable Development Strategy will target effective protection of the environment through setting exemplary standards in the area and integrating conservation of biological diversity into policy making. A new strategy is currently being drafted.	This strategy is directly supported by the theme of environmental protection in the SPPS which aims to conserve the landscape and natural resources of the rural area and to protect it from excessive, inappropriate or obtrusive development and from the actual or potential effects of pollution. The strategy will also be indirectly benefited by the principles and policies on reducing carbon emissions from transport and effective waste management.
NIEA (2012) Strategic Priorities 2012-2022	The plan outlines the strategic direction over the next ten years providing more actions to promote sustainable	The SPPS supports the strategic priorities through its overarching theme of sustainability and

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	<p>development through controlling pollution to tackle the effects of climate change, conserving biodiversity/managing natural reserves sustaining ecosystems through protected areas (land and sea) and improving water quality. This means providing a healthy natural environment, ensuring that NI's living and working places are green, clean and protected.</p>	<p>commitment to protect the environment against the risk of pollution. The SPPS objectives for sustainable development and the protection of the natural environment will complement the strategic priorities well.</p>
<p>NIEA (2009) Neagh Bann International River Basin Management Plan</p>	<p>The Upper Bann is one of six major rivers that flow into Lough Neagh in the centre of NI, while the lake drains through the Lower Bann River from the north end of the Lough at Toome to the sea on the north coast of NI. The rivers flowing into Lough Neagh drain about 43% of NI, plus part of County Monaghan in the Republic of Ireland.</p> <p>The plan outlines the objectives for improving the current condition of the water environment for the Neagh Bann River Basin District. These include achieving good status, or better, in 117 out of 270 of their surface water bodies (43%), and good ecological potential or better in 9 of their heavily modified water bodies (3%). 13 out of 14 of their groundwater bodies (93%) will be maintained at good status. These improvements in managing and protecting waterways will be achieved by 2015.</p>	<p>The SPPS supports the objectives of the river basin management plan through its principles and policies on protecting biodiversity, water quality, natural heritage and the environment. Meeting EU directives (such as the Water Framework Directive) are also complementary to the SPPS objectives. It is possible that the environmental objectives set out in the SPPS may cause conflict with the need for affordable housing and the development of communities.</p>
<p>NIEA (2009) North Eastern River Basin Management Plan</p>	<p>The North Eastern River Basin District has a land area of just over 3000km², with a further 1000km² of marine waters. It takes in large parts of Counties Antrim and Down and a small portion of County Londonderry.</p> <p>The plan outlines the objectives for improving the current condition of the water environment for the North Eastern River Basin District. These include achieving good status, or better,</p>	<p>The SPPS supports the objectives of the river basin management plan through its principles and policies on protecting biodiversity, water quality, natural heritage and the environment. Meeting EU directives (such as the Water Framework Directive) are also complementary to the SPPS objectives. It is possible that the environmental objectives set</p>

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	<p>in 61 out of 133 of their surface water bodies (46%), and good ecological potential or better in 4 of their heavily modified water bodies (3%). 7 out of 8 of their groundwater bodies (88%) will be maintained at good status. These improvements in managing and protecting waterways will be achieved by 2015.</p>	<p>out in the SPPS may cause conflict with the need for affordable housing and the development of communities.</p>
<p>NIEA (2009) North Western International River Basin Management Plan</p>	<p>The North Western river basin district covers the north west corner of the island of Ireland, but stretches across in a south easterly direction to a large extent also taking in much of the drumlin belt that stretches through many of the border counties - from south Donegal, through Leitrim, Fermanagh, Longford, Cavan, Monaghan, and onwards.</p> <p>The plan outlines the objectives for improving the current condition of the water environment for the North Western River Basin District. These include achieving good status, or better, in 147 out of 221 of their surface water bodies (67%), and good ecological potential or better in 5 of their heavily modified water bodies (2%). 100% of their groundwater bodies will be maintained at good status. These improvements in managing and protecting waterways will be achieved by 2015.</p>	<p>The SPPS supports the objectives of the river basin management plan through its principles and policies on protecting biodiversity, water quality, natural heritage and the environment. Meeting EU directives (such as the Water Framework Directive) are also complementary to the SPPS objectives. It is possible that the environmental objectives set out in the SPPS may cause conflict with the need for affordable housing and the development of communities.</p>
<p>Northern Ireland Executive (2011) Programme for Government 2011-15</p>	<p>The document sets out priorities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Creating Opportunities, Tackling Disadvantage and Improving Health and Well-Being ▪ Protecting Our People, the Environment and Creating Safer Communities. 	<p>The SPPS strongly supports this programme through its core planning principles to improve health and wellbeing, create and enhance shared spaces and manage growth to achieve appropriate and sustainable patterns of development which support vibrant rural communities, and regenerate urban areas to provide affordable housing, job opportunities and a competitive and sustainable</p>

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Northern Ireland Executive (2010) Sustainable Development Strategy	<p>Document sets out the objectives needed to meet the need for more action towards combating climate change, protecting natural resources, enhancing the environment and providing alternative forms of energy for use/consumption. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conserve the landscape and manage it in a more sustainable way; ▪ Protect and enhance freshwater and marine environment, as well as biodiversity; ▪ Improve air quality by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, principally by promoting energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy; and ▪ Plan and prepare for climate change impacts in NI. 	<p>economy.</p> <p>This action plan will be directly supported by the objectives of the SPPS. Several principles and policies within the strategy will protect, enhance and develop the environment in a sustainable way. A central part of the strategy revolves around the promotion of the development of renewable energy resources and the integration of renewable energy technology into the design, siting and layout of new development.</p>
OFMDFM (2013) Together: Building a United Community Strategy	<p>The Strategy sets out a vision for “a united community, based on equality of opportunity, the desirability of good relations and reconciliation - one which is strengthened by its diversity, where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced and where everyone can live, learn, work and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance.”</p> <p>The Strategy outlines how Government, community and individuals will work together to build a united community and achieve change against the following key priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Our children and young people; ▪ Our shared community; ▪ Our safe community; and ▪ Our cultural expression. 	<p>SPPS indirectly supports this strategy through its principles and policies to improve social health and well-being, create shared spaces, and provide economic and physical support for communities. The SPPS also aims to improve infrastructure and promote mixed-use development and improve integration between transport, economic development and other land uses. The SPPS also supports the use of Local Development Guidelines which focus on Identity, Vitality, Proximity, Accessibility, Amenity and Quality to help in the creation of quality built environments which will contribute to the achievement of safe, complete and balanced communities.</p>

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SNIFFER (2007) Preparing for a Changing Climate in Northern Ireland. Report for DOE and NIEA	<p>The report was produced to inform policy experts of potential climate change impacts and recommends that “adaptation is given a higher priority across all sectors and within each of the public bodies identified as being responsible for adaptation”. Potential adaptation strategies have been identified; those of most relevance are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Education and awareness: particularly focused on the human impact on species and habitats and the scale of the likely impacts of a changing climate”; ▪ “Location and urban design actions: adaptation of infrastructure at risk, reduction of flood risk, use of green spaces and sustainable urban drainage systems”; ▪ “Historic buildings: Improved management and maintenance of current buildings, development of strategies to adapt to changing climatic conditions”. <p>A new NI Climate Change Adaptation Programme is currently being drafted.</p>	<p>The SPPS will indirectly support this report through its commitment to protect and enhance biodiversity, landscape, soil and water conditions. The theme of sustainable development, flood risk management, environmental protection, natural heritage, renewable energy, and carbon emission reduction would all contribute to resilience against climate change.</p>
Republic of Ireland		
Border Regional Authority (2010) Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022	<p>The key aim of the Guidelines is to provide a good quality of life for the Region’s population, through ensuring high quality residential, recreational and working environments, and improving water quality. The following is a list of those priority areas for the environment and heritage over the coming years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the continued protection, management and enhancement of natural heritage, built heritage and environmental resources; ▪ a revised approach to policy and objective formulation structured around compliance with existing and 	<p>The SPPS supports many of the priority guidelines and shares a lot of its values with regards to protecting the natural heritage and environmental resources. A key objective of the SPPS is to promote sustainable development which conserves the landscape and natural resources of the rural area, but protects it from excessive, inappropriate or obtrusive development. This will indirectly support a good quality of life in communities.</p>

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	<p>emerging European and national legislation, including flood protection measures, biodiversity management, improving water quality status and the identification and management of coastal management zones;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ continued development and promotion of areas of heritage value which have importance to the Region, county or locality, including sourcing appropriate resources and development of management plans, for long term and sustainable investment and monitoring; ▪ ensuring that council boundaries do not result in fragmentation of policy implementation; ▪ re-assessment of the way in which open spaces are managed, linked and developed, and the potential for integrating additional functions in that reassessment. 	
<p>DAFM (2012) Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth: An Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland</p>	<p>The Plan aims to support an integrated system of policy and programme planning for marine affairs in Ireland. Its vision is provide a healthy ecosystem by that protecting/conserving rich marine biodiversity and ecosystems, managing the living and non-living resources in harmony with the ecosystem and implementing/complying with environmental legislation.</p>	<p>The SPPS compliments the Integrated Marine Plan through managing the living resources in coastal environments and seeks to protect the undeveloped coast from inappropriate development and to support the sensitive enhancement and regeneration of the developed coast within coastal settlements.</p>
<p>DAHG (2011) A National Landscape Strategy for Ireland</p>	<p>The Strategy sets out six high level objectives, of most relevance being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To increase public awareness about landscapes, including the links between the land's resources, the layout of the landscape and the physical, economic and psychological health of its people. ▪ To facilitate the development of Landscape planning and landscape management guidance and facilitatory 	<p>The SPPS will indirectly support the objectives of the National Landscape strategy through landscape regeneration in both rural and urban locations. The planning system of the SPPS seeks to further the conservation, enhancement and restoration of the abundance, quality, diversity and distinctiveness of the region's natural heritage.</p>

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	<p>tools for use with Strategic Environmental Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment to improve land-use policies, and forward planning and development management practices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To accommodate landscape considerations in cultural, environmental, agricultural, social, health, education, recreation, tourism, economic and transport policies and all relevant sectors of public administration. 	
DCENR (2012) Strategy for Renewable Energy: 2012-2020	The strategy outlines how it is planned that sustainable power, when developed, is maximised as it is returned to the State. Five strategic goals are set out in the document, these include increasing on and offshore wind, building a sustainable bioenergy sector, fostering R&D in renewables, growing sustainable transport and building out robust and efficient networks.	The DCENR strategy will be supported by the objectives of the SPPS to promote the development of renewable energy resources and the integration of renewable energy technology into the design, siting and layout of new development. The SPPS supports opportunities for rural diversification and the alternative agricultural use of land and aims to improve sustainable transport and infrastructure.
DCENR (2010) Draft Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDP) for Ireland	The aim of the OREDP is to set out scenarios for the development of up to 4,500MW from offshore wind energy and 1,500MW from wave and tidal energy in Irish waters up to 2030. Objectives include describing policy, providing information on initiatives, set out development scenarios for 2030 and set out long term vision for offshore renewable energy.	The general theme of renewable energy technology in the SPPS supports the development plan, although no specific objectives are given to offshore wind, wave or tidal energy. The sustainable coastal development and environmental protection principles and policies of the SPPS might cause conflict with the targets of the DCENR plan if the offshore developments effect coastal communities or biodiversity.
DCMNR (2007) Delivering a	Sustainability is at the heart of the Government's energy policy objectives. The challenge of creating a sustainable	There are a number of parts of the SPPS that would directly and indirectly support this policy

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Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland: The Energy Policy Framework 2007-2020	<p>energy future for Ireland is being met through a range of strategies, targets and actions to deliver environmentally sustainable energy supply and use.</p> <p>The underpinning Strategic Goals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Addressing climate change by reducing energy related greenhouse gas emissions. ▪ Accelerating the growth of renewable energy sources. ▪ Promoting the sustainable use of energy in transport. ▪ Delivering an integrated approach to the sustainable development and use of bioenergy resources. ▪ Maximising Energy Efficiency and energy savings across the economy. ▪ Accelerating Energy Research Development and Innovation Programmes in support of sustainable energy goals. 	<p>framework, such as the promotion of renewable energy and resource efficiency, better waste management and improved sustainable transport and infrastructure. The objectives of the SPPS will indirectly help meet the goals set out in the policy framework. There is the potential that rapid growth of sustainable energy associated with the framework might conflict with the SPPS objectives to ensure adequate protection of each local authority's built, natural, and cultural heritage features.</p>
DECLG (2012) A Resource Opportunity: Waste Management Policy in Ireland	<p>This policy document sets out the measures through which Ireland will make the further progress necessary to become a recycling society, with a clear focus on resource efficiency and the virtual elimination of landfilling of municipal waste. Measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The environmental protection agency, as part of its review and renewal of the national Waste prevention programme by the end of 2012, will be requested to focus on resource efficiency, prevention and reuse and the development of coordinated approaches with other state agencies. ▪ Local authorities will be required to prioritise waste prevention both in the development of new regional waste management plans and in the implementation of 	<p>The Waste Management Policy will be supported by the SPPS. A key strand of the strategy is to promote the development of waste management and recycling facilities, ensure that detrimental effects are avoided or minimised, and to secure appropriate restoration of proposed waste management sites for agreed after-uses. The environmental principles and policies of SPPS including resource efficiency and the prevention of unacceptable mineral exploitation will further support the strategy.</p>

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	<p>measures with local business and community groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The promotion of awareness of the benefits of recycling must be a shared responsibility and actors in the producer responsibility sector will be expected to demonstrate significant commitment to awareness-raising as will local authorities, waste collection companies and the wider public sector and business community. ▪ Ireland requires an adequate network of quality waste treatment facilities. a review of recovery infrastructure will be completed by 31 December 2012 and the environmental protection agency will advise on requirements in this regard. 	
<p>DECLG (2012) Guidelines for Planning Authorities 21: Spatial Planning and National Roads</p>	<p>The Guidelines set out a Land Use and Transportation Planning Checklist, which mentions the following regarding Environmental Effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have environmental sensitivity issues (noise, air pollution, greenhouse gases, congestion, etc.) been adequately addressed so that the future operation of the transport system can be sustained and amenities protected? ▪ Are there appropriate objectives concerning impact mitigation measures, such as noise barriers, set back landscaping and/or buffer zones between areas of land where development is proposed and existing and proposed national roads, the cost of which should be borne by the developer? <p>Recommended policies and objectives for Development Plans and Local Area Plans include:</p>	<p>The SPPS supports these guidelines through its objectives to promote sustainable transport and to ensure that new development offers a realistic choice of access by walking, cycling and public transport. The principles and policies of environmental protection which aim to conserve the landscape and natural resources of the rural area and to protect it from excessive, inappropriate or obtrusive development, and from the actual or potential effects of pollution will also compliment the guidelines in terms of sustainable transportation which considers environmentally sensitive issues.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ encourage walking, cycling and public transport, including, where future investment in sustainable modes is planned and committed, setting specific targets to increase the % share of persons travelling by these modes; ▪ promote greater investment in, and usage of, public transport modes, such as rail and bus networks, with the support of complementary land use policies; 	
DECLG (2012) National Climate Change Adaptation Framework: Building Resilience to Climate Change	<p>This framework is a first step in a longer-term process which will evolve and strengthen over time as the knowledge base evolves and as the policy response matures. The objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ providing the policy context for a strategic national adaptation response to climate change; ▪ promoting dialogue and understanding of adaptation issues; ▪ identifying and promoting adaptation solutions; and ▪ committing to actions to support the adaptation process. 	The framework will be indirectly supported through the SPPS objectives which aim to mitigate against future greenhouse gas emissions, increase energy consumption from renewable resources and increase resource efficiency associated with waste management. Sustainable development, climate change and flood risk considerations in the SPPS will directly support the goals for the framework.
DECLG and Marine Institute (2012) Ireland's Marine Strategy Framework Directive Implementation	<p>The MSFD establishes a framework within which EU member states are required to take the necessary measures to achieve of maintain good environmental status in the marine environment by 2020. The main objectives of the Directive are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect and preserve the marine environment; ▪ Prevent its deterioration; ▪ Where practicable, restore marine ecosystems in areas where they have been adversely affected; ▪ Prevent and reduce inputs in the marine environment, with a view to phasing out pollution; and 	The SPPS environmental protection and resource efficiency strand supports the overarching aims of the EU environmental directive and will indirectly support the framework through measures to protect the undeveloped coast from inappropriate development, consistent with the objectives of the Regional Development Strategy and to support the sensitive enhancement and regeneration of the developed coast within coastal settlements.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure that there are no significant impacts on or risks to marine biodiversity, marine ecosystems, human health or legitimate uses of the sea. 	
<p>DEHLG (2009) Guidelines for Planning Authorities 20: The Planning System and Flood Risk Management</p>	<p>The core objectives of the Guidelines are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding; ▪ Avoid new developments increasing flood risk elsewhere, including that which may arise from surface water run-off; ▪ Ensure effective management of residual risks for development permitted in floodplains; ▪ Avoid unnecessary restriction of national, regional or local economic and social growth; ▪ Improve the understanding of flood risk among relevant stakeholders; and ▪ Ensure that the requirements of EU and national law in relation to the natural environment and nature conservation are complied with at all stages of flood risk management. 	<p>A key aim of the SPPS in regard to planning and flood risk is to prevent future development that may be at risk from flooding or that may increase the risk of flooding elsewhere; which will support the core objectives of the guidelines. The SPPS seeks to ensure that the most up to date information on flood risk is taken into account when determining planning applications and manage development in ways that are appropriate to the four main sources of flood risk in Northern Ireland.</p>
<p>DEHLG (2007) Ireland National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012</p>	<p>The Strategy's principal measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 15% of electricity to be generated from renewable sources by 2010 and 33% by 2020. ▪ Biomass to contribute up to 30% of energy input at peat stations by 2015. ▪ Support for Combined Heat and Power projects. ▪ National Ocean Energy Strategy. ▪ Modal shift to public transport as a result of Transport 21 investment. ▪ Energy efficiency measures to be funded in social 	<p>This strategy will be indirectly supported by the objectives of the SPPS. A central part of the strategy revolves around the promotion of the development of renewable energy resources and the integration of renewable energy technology into the design, siting and layout of new development. The SPPS supports opportunities for rural diversification and the alternative agricultural use of land to help Northern Ireland achieve its targets for reducing carbon emissions. Other principles and</p>

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	<p>housing programmes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use of waste biomass in energy production. ▪ Support for waste-to-energy projects under REFIT scheme. ▪ Energy Efficiency Programme with target of 33% energy savings across public sector by 2020. ▪ €15m multi-annual Climate Change Awareness campaign. ▪ Major funding for research programmes. 	<p>policies on carbon emission reductions and sustainability also complement the overall aims of the Ireland National Climate Change Strategy.</p>
<p>EPA (2009) Shannon International River Basin Management Plan</p>	<p>The Shannon International River Basin District is the largest in Ireland at more than 18,000 km² in area. It is an international RBD as a small portion of County Fermanagh in Northern Ireland drains underground to the Shannon Pot. It covers the natural drainage basin of the Shannon river itself, stretching from the source of the River Shannon in the Cuilcagh mountains in Counties Cavan and Fermanagh to the tip of the Dingle peninsula in north Kerry.</p> <p>The plan establishes four core environmental objectives to be achieved by 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ prevent deterioration in waterbodies currently in good ecological status; ▪ restore good status in the 57% of rivers, 55% of lakes, 35% of estuaries and 25% of groundwater bodies that are currently below this standard; ▪ reduce chemical pollution; ▪ achieve water related protected areas objectives. 	<p>The SPPS objectives seek to protect biodiversity, water quality, natural heritage and the environment. A key objective of the planning system in relation to development in the countryside is to conserve the landscape and natural resources of the rural area and to protect it from excessive, inappropriate or obtrusive development and from the actual or potential effects of pollution; this will indirectly support the river basin management plan.</p>
<p>NPWS (2011) Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016 - Ireland's</p>	<p>This plan outlines the measures Ireland will take in preparing for pressures and losses in the level of biodiversity, and they are presented as 102 actions under a series of 7 strategic</p>	<p>Environmental protection, including that of biodiversity, habitat and species etc., is a key theme in the SPPS. The objectives set out in this</p>

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National Biodiversity Action Plan	objectives. The objectives cover the conservation of biodiversity in the wider countryside and in the marine environment (within and outside protected areas), mainstreaming of biodiversity across the decision making process, the strengthening of the knowledge base on biodiversity, and increasing public awareness and participation.	theme are likely to reflect those set out in the biodiversity action plan. There may be conflict with the regeneration objectives in other parts of the SPPS, but there may also be opportunities during regeneration to incorporate biodiversity into any development.
UK		
Defra, Scottish Government, Welsh Assembly Government and DOE (2010) Air Pollution: Action in a Changing Climate	<p>Further action needed to meet current air quality limits for PM10 and NO2 includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accelerating clean technologies – including retrofit, low emission vehicles, buildings efficiency, euro emission standards etc.; ▪ Encouraging further behavioural changes – including modal shift, traffic management, safer driving, cycling, walking; ▪ Local measures and delivery including parking controls, bus management arrangements, strengthening local air quality delivery; ▪ Strategic options such as Low Emission Zones, local transport planning and very low carbon vehicles. <p>Beyond this, we will be working across the UK Government and with the devolved administrations to ensure that agreed methodologies for assessing the costs and benefits to air quality are built into the evaluation of climate change impacts of policies.</p>	Air quality is addressed by the health and wellbeing principle of the SPPS, but there will also be indirect benefits on air quality, such as the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through the implementation of renewable technologies, better waste management and sustainable transport alternatives. The SPPS aims to promote sustainable transport and to ensure that new development offers a realistic choice of access by walking, cycling and public transport. The principles and policies of environmental protection which aim to conserve the landscape and natural resources of the rural area and to protect it from excessive, inappropriate or obtrusive development, and from the actual or potential effects of pollution will also compliment the Air Pollution Strategy.
Defra, Scottish Executive, Welsh Assembly Government	The strategy: sets out a way forward for work and planning on air quality issues; sets out the air quality standards and objectives to be achieved; introduces a new policy framework	Air quality is addressed by the health and wellbeing principle of the SPPS, but there will also be indirect benefits on air quality, such as the reduction of

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and DOE (2007) The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland	for tackling fine particles; and identifies potential new national policy measures which modelling indicates could give further health benefits and move closer towards meeting the Strategy's objectives.	greenhouse gas emissions through the implementation of renewable technologies, better waste management and sustainable transport alternatives.
HM Government, Northern Ireland Executive, Scottish Government and Welsh Assembly Government (2011) UK Marine Policy Statement	<p>The MPS will facilitate and support the formulation of Marine Plans, ensuring that marine resources are used in a sustainable way in line with the high level marine objectives and thereby:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote sustainable economic development; ▪ Enable the UK's move towards a low-carbon economy, in order to mitigate the causes of climate change and ocean acidification and adapt to their effects; ▪ Ensure a sustainable marine environment which promotes healthy, functioning marine ecosystems and protects marine habitats, species and our heritage assets; and ▪ Contribute to the societal benefits of the marine area, including the sustainable use of marine resources to address local social and economic issues. 	Although the SPPS does not specifically relate to marine ecosystems, the environmental protection and resource efficiency strand of the strategy supports the overarching aims of the MPS and will indirectly support the policy through measures to protect the undeveloped coast from inappropriate development, consistent with the objectives of the Regional Development Strategy and to support the sensitive enhancement and regeneration of the developed coast within coastal settlements.
HMSO (2005) Sustainable Development Strategy	The strategy for sustainable development, in the environmental dimension aims to confront the greatest threat of climate change by moving to a form of low-carbon energy consumption reducing carbon emissions by 60% by 2050. Also it aims to protect natural resources and enhance the environment through such actions as understanding the environmental limits and incentivising farmers to deliver environmental benefits.	The SPPS supports the Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) through its objectives to promote the development of renewable energy resources and the integration of renewable energy technology into the design, siting and layout of new development. The SPPS encourages opportunities for rural diversification and the alternative agricultural use of land to help meet local, regional and national targets for low-carbon technology,

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		therefore mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and ultimately helping to meet the overarching targets of the SDS.
IHPC (2010) Review of Local Air Quality Management: A report to Defra and the devolved administrations	<p>The report suggests there is scope to enhance action plan delivery by improving the links between air quality and other policy areas, and by communicating clearer messages about what needs to be done and why. In the absence of clarity about what is expected of LAQM, the report suggests a 'proactive' model where local authorities additionally have a decisive part to play alongside central government in driving through measures to secure compliance with national and EU target levels.</p> <p>Most urban centres in the UK contain a number of locations experiencing levels of pollution which are above objective levels, and many of the 'local' solutions lie in land-use and transport planning measures which need to be applied not just in a small area around the 'hotspot' but across the district/ borough area and beyond. Links with other policy areas also need to be improved, such as health and climate change.</p>	Air quality is addressed by the health and wellbeing principle of the SPPS, but there will also be indirect benefits on air quality, such as the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through the implementation of renewable technologies, better waste management and sustainable transport alternatives. The SPPS aims to promote sustainable transport and to ensure that new development offers a realistic choice of access by walking, cycling and public transport. The strand of environmental protection to conserve the landscape and natural heritage will also compliment the report.
Europe		
EC (2013) Action Plan for a Maritime Strategy in the Atlantic Area	<p>The strategy for the Atlantic covers coastal, territorial and jurisdictional waters of five EU Member States and focuses on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Managing human activities that must deliver a healthy and productive ecosystem, through developing fisheries and aquaculture but also forecasting future change in oceanic circulation and climate; 	The SPPS has no specific marine objectives, but will indirectly support parts of the action plan through its environmental protection and resource efficiency policies. Objectives in the SPPS to reduce emissions and carbon footprint, promote renewable energy technology and protect the undeveloped coast from inappropriate

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reducing Europe's carbon footprint through climate change mitigation, for example expansion of offshore wind farms and tidal technology in the Atlantic, but also changes in maritime transport will contribute to carbon reduction; ▪ Developing the sustainable exploitation of the Atlantic's seafloor natural resources; and ▪ Prepare for threats and emergencies in the Atlantic whether caused by accidents, natural disasters or criminal activity such as oil spills. 	<p>development will also indirectly support the key focuses of the strategy. The SPPS objective to ensure that the environmental, landscape, visual and amenity impacts associated with or arising from renewable energy development are adequately addressed may cause conflict with the development of offshore energy.</p>
EC (2013) Adaptation Strategy	<p>The overall aim is to enhance the preparedness and capacity to respond to the impacts of climate change at local, regional, national and EU levels, developing a coherent approach and improving coordination e.g. between national adaptation strategies and national risk management plans. Priority will be given to adaptation flagship projects that address key cross-sectoral, trans-regional and/or cross-border issues. Projects with demonstration and transferability potential will be encouraged, as will green infrastructure and ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation, and projects aiming to promote innovative adaptation technologies.</p>	<p>The SPPS principles and policies around sustainability, greenhouse mitigation and flood risk will indirectly support the aims from the Adaptation Strategy on a local to regional level. Green infrastructure, renewable energy and sustainable development are also promoted in the environmental protection objectives of the SPPS.</p>
EC (2011) Biodiversity Strategy	<p>Strategy is designed to halt the loss of biodiversity, restore ecosystems so far as feasible, and step up efforts to avert global degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020. It also aims to speed up the EU's transition towards a resource efficient and green economy. These targets can be achieved through a number of strategic objectives including ecosystem based approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation, conserving and enhancing natural resources</p>	<p>Environmental protection, including that of biodiversity, habitat and species etc., is a key theme in the SPPS which seeks to further the conservation, enhancement and restoration of the abundance, quality, diversity and distinctiveness of the region's natural heritage. The SPPS environmental protection and green economy objectives support the strategy on a local to</p>

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	using them in a sustainable way, and nature based innovation restoring ecosystems and conserving biodiversity.	regional scale.
EC (2010) Europe 2020 Economic Strategy	Outlines the European Union's ten-year growth strategy and in terms of environmental protection addresses the need to promote a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy. In particular it aims to meet the 20/20/20 climate/energy targets through reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% compared to 1990 levels or by 30% if conditions are right and increasing the share of renewable energy sources in final energy consumption to 20% also raising energy efficiency by the same amount.	A key aim of the SPPS is to facilitate the economic development needs of Northern Ireland in ways consistent with the protection of the environment and the principles of sustainable development. The SPPS aims to facilitate the integration of renewable energy technology into the design, siting and layout of new development, which will help to meet the targets of the EC strategy.
EC (2009) Sustainable Development Strategy	A framework for a long-term vision of sustainability in which economic growth, social cohesion and environmental protection go hand in hand and are mutually supporting. Particular environmental protection objectives include increasing the use of clean energy and natural resources to combat climate change, reducing noise and air pollution through promotion of sustainable transport, and conserving and managing the overall use of water and air.	The SPPS supports the Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) through its objectives to promote the development of renewable energy resources and the integration of renewable energy technology into the design, siting and layout of new development. Other objectives in the SPPS including waste management, sustainable transport and environmental protection will also indirectly support the strategy.
EC (2007) EU Floods Directive	Directive aims is to reduce and manage risks that floods pose to human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity. This involves identifying the relevant river basins and associated coastal areas at risk of flooding, drawing up flood maps and establishing flood risk management plans focused on prevention, protection and preparedness between 2011 and 2015.	A key objective of the SPPS in regard to planning and flood risk is to prevent future development that may be at risk from flooding or that may increase the risk of flooding elsewhere; which will indirectly support the core objectives of the EU Floods Directive. The SPPS seeks to ensure that the most up to date information on flood risk is taken into account when determining planning applications

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		and manage development in ways that are appropriate to the four main sources of flood risk in Northern Ireland.