

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

The Hon. Member for Rushen, Mr Juan Watterson, to ask The Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture;

How much has been spent in the last three years on Net Zero initiatives; and what impact the policies had on greenhouse gas output.

Question W-202501-1667 published on 24 06 2025; Answer published on. 14 07 2025.

The Chair of the Climate Change Transformation Board (Mrs Barber):

Following the recognition of the Climate Change emergency in 2021 and the creation of the Phase One Climate Change Action Plan, Treasury established a Climate Change Fund in 2022 which provides funding to support the objectives of achieving net zero emissions by 2050 (and the interim targets). The Fund is available to designated bodies through the Climate Change Board and bids are invited where emissions reductions are clearly defined and the deliverables underpin the delivery of Council of Ministers Climate Change Plan by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing sequestration. The team also have a small revenue budget managed through DEFA's departmental finances.

Over the last 12 months, there has been a move away from a focus solely on emissions reductions to funding projects with the widest range of co-benefits. Many actions which reduce emissions also help to reduce costs or carry wider social benefits such as improving health and wellbeing, for example 80% spend from the climate change fund to date has been in people's homes helping to reduce both emissions and energy bills.

It is important to note that the Island is still in the early stages of its transition away from fossil fuels and therefore many of the initiatives have an indirect benefit on emissions reduction as they involve preliminary research and feasibility assessments; that is to say they are an enabling action which leads to an emissions benefit later rather than a direct action which reduces emissions straight away. These have been listed below.

Initiative	Objective	Spend July 2022 to March 2025 (£)	Enabling or Direct action	Emissions Impact	Co-benefits impact
Blue Carbon	Develop a comprehensive blue carbon management plan to maximise carbon sequestration and maintain and restore biodiversity and wider ecosystem services	552,706	Enabling	N/A	Biodiversity restoration Marine ecosystem improvement
Woodland Grant Scheme	To enable tree planting projects on private land	8,823	Direct	1,124tCO2 (lifetime)	Biodiversity and ecosystem improvements
Tree Planting	To plant trees on the Government estate	30,710	Direct	17.5tCO2 saving p/a	Biodiversity and ecosystem improvements

Green Living Grant Scheme	To bring forward investment in domestic energy performance through subsidies, supporting an industry impacted by Covid-19, by securing jobs and creating new long-term jobs	5,685,342.90	Direct	3,300tCO2 saving p/a*	£9.6mn investment into economy* Consumer energy bill savings Health and other positive social benefits to vulnerable households in keeping homes warm
Energy Efficiency Scheme	To assist with the cost of living crisis by helping low income households with energy efficiency improvements to reduce bills	1,699,739	Direct	1,900tCO2 saving p/a**	Consumer energy bill savings Health and other positive social benefits to vulnerable households in keeping homes warm
Biomass Feasibility Study	To undertake an initial biomass study, designed to advise on the sustainability, feasibility, and implications of generating energy and providing heating solutions from biomass	38,904	Enabling	N/A	Diversification opportunities
Peatland Restoration	To restore 3,200 hectares of peatland and turn peat into a carbon sink from an emitter	211,019	Direct	7,832tCO2 saving p/a***	Biodiversity and ecosystem improvements Natural flood management Wildfire mitigation Improved raw water quality Improved habitat connectivity
Business Energy Saving Scheme	To provide financial support to businesses to reduce energy costs and emissions	13,523.49	Enabling	N/A	Commercial energy bill reduction

					Active travel infrastructure to benefit employees
Climate Risk & Opportunity Assessment	To understand the risks and opportunities that will present themselves to the Island as a result of climate change	49,838	Enabling	N/A	Understand opportunities (inc economic) from warming temperatures Avoided future losses
Energy Audit for the prison	Conduct a feasibility audit to decarbonise the prison and reduce energy bills	14,500	Enabling	N/A	Better understand ROI and cost savings
Farm Carbon Toolkit	Help the agriculture industry better understand on farm emissions and sequestration and to acquire an emissions factor	67,692	Enabling	N/A	Improving data accuracy for the national GHG inventory Engagement with farmers on emission reduction practices which enhance business resilience
Land Management Framework	Create a framework to provide better data when making decisions around land on the Island	155,307	Enabling	N/A	Updated habitat survey Provides improved data and evidence Provides evidence base for future decisions around land
	Total	8,528,104.39			

*This estimate is taken from the original business case. Actual figures not yet available

**This figure is based on an estimated average saving expected from energy efficiency products installed. Actual figures not yet available.

*** This is the figure once the restoration is complete