

Northern Ireland

Motion Approved by Derry City and Strabane District Council – June 2021

Council notes the legal and social movement globally for the 'Rights of Nature' aimed to strengthen protections for people, place and planet.

Council recognises that 'Rights of Nature' can help catalyse an innovative rethinking about how to create regenerative, not extractivist, economies while also making human and other living communities safer, stronger and more resilient.

Council commends the excellent work already being done by Council officers on the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis but recognises the need for a rights based approach to nature.

Council will, over the next 6 months, collaborate with civic society (including The Gathering, Friends of the Earth Northern Ireland and trade unions) to explore what rights of nature mean for the people and economies of the region and to investigate how Rights of Nature could be expressed in community plans, corporate plans, improvement objectives and other strategic frameworks. In particular, the council will in the next 6 months hold two community workshops and work with the local community and stakeholders to draw up a Declaration for the Rights of Nature for the Council area to be brought back before Council for adoption.

Council asks for a report to come to Council on embedding 'Rights of Nature' as a keystone concept into Council's operational practices, planning processes and long term decision making.

Council notes our position as a border region and our mutual environmental obligations under the Espoo Convention and so invites Donegal County Council, in addition to all Councils in the North to also explore 'Rights of Nature' for their Council areas.