

SHINING THE SPOTLIGHT ON SUSTAINABILITY

AGI NORTHERN IRELAND'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOCUSED FIRMLY ON THE FUTURE AS DELEGATES FROM THE UK AND BEYOND DISCUSSED HOW GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION (GI) CONTRIBUTES TO SUSTAINABILITY. REPORT BY **RICO SANTIAGO**, CHAIR, AGI NI



The AGI NI Annual Conference is the foremost GI event in the region. To encourage participation, the 2021 event was held virtually on 17 June with free registration which was open to all. As a result, we welcomed a wide range of participants from across the UK, as well as from Germany, India and South Africa, who enjoyed keynote presentations, heard about real-life examples of GI in action, and took part in a series of networking opportunities.

Our theme – ‘Geographic Information: Supporting a Sustainable Future’ - aligned not only with our mission to our community, but also with the current needs and realities of our society. Conference speakers touched on topics including the use of GI to support sustainable energy infrastructures; forestry and farming; our natural environment and, *apropos*, the ongoing pandemic, how spatial information can be leveraged for emergency planning and response now and in the future.

We were particularly pleased to have been able to reach out to the whole geospatial community, whether AGI members or not, thanks to our conference Platinum Sponsors—Esri Ireland, IMGS, Mallon Technology, and Queen’s University Belfast—and our Gold

Sponsors—1Spatial and Geolytical. Their support helped us deliver a quality event attended by more than 160 participants representing individuals and organisations.

Recordings of the conference presentations are now available to all AGI members via the AGI’s online membership portal. If you’re not currently a member and would like to access the recording, do consider joining for free as a Network Member.



Rico Santiago, Chair, AGI NI

SERVING THE GI COMMUNITY AND WIDER SOCIETY

AGI NI is the premier body representing the geographic information community in Northern Ireland. Initially launched in 2002 with the primary objective of raising GI awareness in the region, it continues to promote the use and demonstrate the benefits of spatial data and information. AGI NI has evolved over the years to reflect the dynamic nature of the GI industry as well as societal and environmental changes, and it continues to adapt and change its focus to effectively address the needs and requirements of the community it represents and serves.

In actively supporting a sustainable future for its thriving geospatial community, AGI NI hosts an annual programme of events, bringing together researchers and academics, industry professionals, local and regional government, and the many GI practitioners and users throughout Northern Ireland. These range from social and networking events to informative workshops and seminars, as well as our annual conference.”

To find out more about the AGI, and even explore ways to engage with the UK GI community, visit us here: www.agi.org.uk.

