

Climate Change Newsletter

May 2022



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Welcome

Welcome to the May 2022 edition of the Climate Change Newsletter

Hello and Welcome

Welcome to the final edition of the Climate Change Newsletter.

In this issue we will be taking a look at:

- Two of the latest publications from Welsh Government: *Net Zero Wales & Working Together to Reach Net Zero*;
- The latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC);
- An overview of COP Cymru and Wales Climate Week;
- Other climate change news from across Welsh Government; and
- how we are merging with the Climate Change Bulletin in future.

Net Zero Wales

On October 28th 2021, Welsh Government published its second emissions reduction plan for Carbon Budget 2 (21-25), *Net Zero Wales*.

Launched at the Solar Heat Energy Demonstrator building near Port Talbot (part of Swansea University's SPECIFIC project) and live-streamed to a virtual

audience, **The First Minister, Rt. Hon Mark Drakeford** and **Minister for Climate Change, Julie James MS** set out a five year plan of action, shaping the next stage of Wales' pathway to net zero by 2050.

The plan, which is split into 5 main sections (Setting the Context, Setting the Conditions, Emissions Sector Chapters, Monitoring and Reporting and Next Steps) contains 123 policies and proposals from across all ministerial portfolio, which can be seen in detail in *Net Zero Wales*

[Net Zero Wales Carbon Budget 2 \(2021 to 2025\) | GOV.WALES](#)

A summary of the plan and infographic setting out the headline messages are also available at the link above.

Working Together to Reach Net Zero: All Wales Plan

Alongside *the all Wales plan*, *Working Together to Reach Net Zero* was published.

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This document highlights the fantastic work being done by Team Wales across Wales in the fight against climate change.

Originally split into three main sections, *Working Together* takes an in depth look at our:

- Pledge Campaign – showcasing the commitments to action that have been made across Wales;
- Case Studies – Showing some of the actions already taken and the collective effort of others which aim to inspire others to act; and
- Voices of our Youth – A section dedicated to the children and young adults, who are raising the awareness and concern around climate change.

In addition to the above, *Working Together* was updated to include an overview from COP26 and COP Cymru.

Working Together can be viewed in full here:

[Working together to reach net zero: all Wales plan | GOV.WALES](#)

IPCC Latest Report

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change and comprises 195

member countries. The IPCC is in the process of preparing its 6th Assessment Report (AR6), which will be released in 4 parts.

On the 28th February 2022, the IPCC published their second report in the series focussed on [Climate Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability](#). Some of the key issues highlighted in the report are:

- we are already being impacted by climate change, and the situation is worse than previously thought as well as more severe than previous IPCC assessments;
- the risks we face as a result of climate change are getting worse, and some are unavoidable;
- global efforts to adapt to the changing climate have not been sufficient to meet the increasing risks; and
- there has not been sufficient finance to support global adaptation efforts.

The IPCC report is stark in terms of the scale of impacts arising from climate change across the world. However, the report also tells us there is still a window of opportunity if we act now, at the scale required.

The full report can be viewed here: [Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability | Climate](#)

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[Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability \(ipcc.ch\)](https://www.ipcc.ch)

The IPCC have also released their third report in the series on **4th April**, which assesses the [Mitigation of climate change](#). Some of the key issues highlighted in the report are:

- globally emissions over the last 10 years were higher than any previous decade and have continued to rise, though more slowly than they did in the previous decade;
- current policies are not enough to meet countries' 2030 pledges (NDCs) and even if these pledges are met, warming is likely to exceed 1.5°C during the 21st century;
- retiring fossil fuels plants, increasing investment in green technologies as well as implementing significant efforts in all policy areas will be required in order to meet the Paris Agreement goals and limit warming to 1.5°C; and
- limiting warming to below 1.5°C can still yield significant sustainable development and economic growth.

COP26 & COP Cymru

COP26

Last year was a momentous year, with the setting of our Net Zero legislation, publication of our Net Zero Wales plan and Wales playing its part in encouraging others to step up and take action at COP26. Our active membership of

networks such as RegionsAdapt and the Under2 Coalition provided an important mechanism for Welsh Ministers to engage in nation-level discussions at COP26 and connect with, exchange learning from and be inspired by other nations worldwide. The Beyond Oil and Gas partnership was launched at the summit, led by Costa Rica and Denmark, which is the European Union's largest oil producer. We were the only UK nation to be part of the core membership and want to help others to join us, taking practical and tangible steps forward.

After 13 days of intense negotiations, COP26 concluded on Saturday 13th November 2021 with every Party at COP26 - representing almost 200 countries - agreeing the [Glasgow Climate Pact](#). This global agreement will accelerate action on climate this decade, and finally completes the Paris Rulebook.

The challenge of climate change requires everyone to work together across geographic and sectoral boundaries, and Wales' continued international collaboration is essential if we are going to be successful. Progress was made at COP26 but we can and must do more. We will be using the momentum generated to seek even greater commitments and action.

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COP Cymru

Stakeholder & Public Engagement

Net Zero Wales sets out the importance of a Team Wales approach to successful delivery, and Government action as just one component of the response needed towards tackling the climate emergency.

COP Cymru held during November 2021 (to coincide with COP26) provided an important opportunity to begin dialogue around delivery of this plan.

Featuring a series of events between 28 October and 26 November 2021, the programme covered 38 sessions and involved 200 speakers who engaged with over 3,800 virtual attendees. This comprehensive programme hosted by stakeholders, organisations, community groups and individuals from across Wales stimulated an important debate on the urgent action needed to decarbonise and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Looking ahead, *Net Zero Wales* commits to delivering 2 important policies around how Welsh Government will set out to engage with stakeholders and the public through our :

- Climate Change Stakeholder Engagement Plan (policy 15) which will be published in the Spring and set out how we will engage with key stakeholders with a role in tackling the climate emergency in Wales.

- Public Behavioural Change Strategy (policy 16) which will publish and consult on in the Summer. This Strategy will set out how we will involve society in the changes individuals and communities can make to help Wales meet net zero by 2050. As part of this consultation exercise, we will engage with organisations and practitioners who will be key to working with us to communicate important messages to the public.

Wales Climate Week

Following a successful event in 2020, **Wales Climate Week** returned from 22-26 November 2021 with a 5-day programme of virtual events. The week kick-started a nationwide conversation on *Net Zero Wales* and the collective action needed to ensure Wales meets its net zero targets.

Open to all, the online sessions aimed to help stakeholders, organisations, communities and individuals understand what Wales has already achieved, what changes we can expect in the next five years and how, together, we can shape the future.

Each day's programme took on a different theme and included presentations, discussions and debates involving a wide range of organisations from every corner of Wales. Delegates joined the events virtually via the [COP Cymru event platform](#).

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The programme for both Wales Climate Week and COP Cymru can be viewed on our online platform at

<https://freshwater.eventscase.com/EN/COPCymru21/Programme> and a recap of the week is also featured in the *Working Together to Reach Net Zero* update.

In Case You Missed It...

Local Area Energy Planning

Welsh Government has funded two pilot studies of Local Area Energy Planning (LAEP), in Conwy and Newport local authority areas. LAEP looks at the whole energy system to provide an understanding of the nature, scale, rate, and timings of changes that need to be made to transition to a net zero energy system.

The two pilots are nearing conclusion and will provide valuable learnings as we roll out support for LAEP to all local authorities in Wales. You can view the Conwy LAEP at the link below (page 48):

[\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Economy and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 10/02/2022 17:30 \(conwy.gov.uk\)](#)

Community Energy Wales and Ynni Teg

Welsh Government has agreed a significant uplift in funding for Community Energy Wales (CEW) and Ynni Teg (YT), enabling both organisations to continue and expand their vital community energy work in Wales.

The Deputy Minister for Climate Change led a Deep Dive into Renewable Energy in the autumn, which recommended scaling up support for community and local energy in Wales.

YnNi Teg was set up by CEW to act as a developer for community energy projects, where communities didn't have the capacity to deliver projects themselves. Their current project pipeline will provide a significant contribution to our commitment of 100MW by 2026.

National Forest for Wales

Below, an update from the Nation Forest for Wales Programme.

'I am writing to update you on developments of the National Forest Programme.

In March, we launched an online interactive map. We would like you to help us understand where you would like to see more trees planted in your communities by dropping a pin on the map. Whilst zooming in on the map to view a locality, you can overlay the map

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of your area with several data layers at the click of a button. We hope this will provide some useful information. The information gathered from this will be used to see where it may be possible to plant trees and we will work with landowners to see what is allowable and possible. You can access the Map via our National Forest dedicated webpage

[National Forest for Wales | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales/national-forest-for-wales)

We will work together with landowners from cities, towns as well as rural areas to see how we can grow and develop the National Forest for Wales.

NB: Using the map does not give permission to plant trees or confirm a tree will be planted there. Please consult landowners and always gain the correct permissions to plant trees please see woodland creations hub for more information [Natural Resources Wales / Get help to plant trees and create woodland](#)

Last December Deputy Minister Lee Waters announced that every household in Wales would be able to collect a tree for their garden or have a tree planted on their behalf. We are working with the Woodland Trust to do this. The My Tree, Our Forest campaign was launched on

Feb 25th when the first 5 hubs were opened. Further details can be found via our National Forest dedicated webpage [National Forest for Wales | GOV.WALES](#)

Other recent announcements include

[Written Statement: One Network, One Timetable, One Ticket: Planning Buses as a Public Service for Wales \(31 March 2022\) | GOV.WALES](#)

[Net Zero Industry Wales established to support decarbonisation of Welsh industry | GOV.WALES](#)

[Written Statement: Funding to support the rural economy and the transition to the Sustainable Farming Scheme \(1 April 2022\) | GOV.WALES](#)

[Extended producer responsibility for packaging | GOV.WALES](#)

[Proposals for the next iteration of the Warm Homes Programme | GOV.WALES](#)

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A Note to our readers

This will be the last issue of the Climate Change newsletter as we are merging with the Climate Change Bulletin. To subscribe to the Climate Change Bulletin please email ClimateChangeBulletin@gov.wales. If you would like to receive the bulletin in Welsh [please click here](#).