

# Climate Change Newsletter

March 2021



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

## Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of the all-new Climate Change Newsletter

### Hello and Welcome

Hello and welcome to the brand new Climate Change Newsletter, your 'one-stop shop' for all the latest information on Climate Change in Wales.

Our new newsletter will help keep you informed of all the latest news from Welsh Government on climate change and will include the latest updates on current and upcoming publications, consultations, events and much more from across Welsh Government.

### Changes to our Legislation

On 16 March, the Senedd passed legislation for a net zero 2050 target for Wales. This puts us at the forefront of action to tackle climate change. We have joined a very small number of countries around the world to have set a net zero target in law.

The Senedd also legislated interim targets for 2030 (63%) and 2040 (89%), and carbon budgets throughout the 2020s. Carbon Budget 2 (2021-25) requires an average reduction of 37%, while Carbon Budget 3 (2026-30)

requires an average reduction of 58%. The offset limit for Carbon Budget 2 has been set at 0%, which means all reductions will need to take place in Wales.

The targets and budgets were based on recommendations from the Climate Change Committee (CCC), published in December. (Please click the links to view the [Path to a Net Zero Wales](#) and [Progress Report](#))

The CCC's recommendations have been explicitly designed to reflect Wales's 'highest possible ambition' within our particular capabilities – as required by the Paris Agreement. The new targets will reduce Wales's annual per-capita emissions to under 3 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per person before 2040, in line with global pathways consistent with meeting the 1.5°C goal.

The Welsh Government wants to aim as high as we can and get there as soon as we credibly can. We are motivated by our ambition for future generations but we're ultimately grounded in evidence and analysis. The CCC has produced a detailed and ambitious blueprint for

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meeting the proposed targets and we are drawing on this as we develop our next climate change action plan.

## Net Zero Wales

The first Low Carbon Delivery Plan was a great start for Wales in setting out a clear pathway to meet our emissions reduction targets. Our second plan, is our first step on our journey to a net zero Wales and must go further. We must ensure we keep looking forward.

The second plan will focus on:

- The actions (policies) we will collectively take to enable us to remain within this budget
- Proposed future actions over the longer term (potential policies which require further development), which will allow us to continue to decarbonise further in the longer term; and
- Wider actions and pledges made by our partners in Wales, which will contribute to meeting our climate change targets

As well as publishing our next plan, next year we will be publishing our first Progress report, which will set out if we have met our first carbon budget and report on progress.

## COP Cymru

Following the huge success of Wales Climate Week 2020, we are currently scoping ideas for this year's activity.

Although still very early in the planning stage, you can expect to see a variety of informative talks, panel discussions, case studies and much, much more, come November 2021. As with our approach to COP26 and the first Wales Climate Week, we will be reinforcing our Team Wales approach by asking you what you would like to see featured throughout the week.

More information will be provided in future issues, so watch this space to see how this event is progressing and how you can get involved!

## COP26

### Expression of Interest

In February's issue of the Decarbonisation Newsletter, we asked you to inform us if you had/were contemplating putting in a bid for one of the available UK Government managed spaces at the Summit in Glasgow 2021.

The deadline for this expression of interest was the 5<sup>th</sup> March, but we would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have informed us of any bids

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and remind those who haven't to please let us know. We will continue to liaise with the UK Government and promote Welsh stakeholders views and ideas in the run up to COP26.

## **COP26 Newsletter**

We will be shortly going in to a pre-election period so in order to keep up to date with the latest information on COP, we recommended signing up to the UK Government's external COP26 newsletter, which is published on a monthly basis via the Unit's engagement team and interested parties can sign up [here](#).

## **Stakeholder Engagement**

Our latest Engagement Approach for the Low Carbon Delivery Plan 2 can be found here:

<https://gov.wales/low-carbon-delivery-plan-2-engagement-plan>

We are continuously updating our engagement approach, so we would encourage you to keep an eye, especially on pages 19-21, where we will be updating the summaries of engagement activity and announced Welsh Government publications on a regular basis.

## **A small reminder...**

Don't forget, our pledge campaign is still open! We have currently received over 80 pledges from across all sectors in Wales which are helping to shape our next plan, but we would love to reach a 100 in the next few months.

Please continue to pledge at the following link:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/rx0po/>

## **Welsh Government Consultations**

### **Get involved and share your ideas on developing the Wales Hydrogen Pathway**

A consultation seeking views on the Welsh Government's report "Hydrogen in Wales" opened on 18 January, sharing proposals for a pathway and the next steps for developing the promising hydrogen energy sector in Wales.

"Hydrogen in Wales" commissioned from Element Energy, baselines where we presently are in Wales with hydrogen-related industries and technologies. It provides a vision of a future Wales which encompasses the opportunities of a more hydrogen-enabled economy in line with the new Low Carbon Delivery Plan. The report also sets out a prospectus of ten short-term objectives which will help

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accelerate Wales down a hydrogen-enabled pathway and lay the foundations for scale-up and commercial deployment from the end of the 2020s.

The closing date for the consultation is 9 April 2021. Learn more and take part by clicking on <https://gov.wales/developing-hydrogen-energy-sector-wales>

## In case you missed it...

### UK ETS updates

The UK Emissions Trading Scheme (UK ETS) launched on 1 January 2021. The scheme covers large industrial plant and power stations, which collectively generate around 46% of Wales' greenhouse gas emissions.

There is currently an open call for evidence on the allocation of free carbon allowances within the scheme.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/969576/uk-ets-call-for-evidence.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/969576/uk-ets-call-for-evidence.pdf)

The UK ETS Authority, comprised of the four governments of the United Kingdom, is launching a new service for stakeholders who want to receive direct updates on the UK ETS. Subscribers will receive notifications about the scheme, including UK ETS Authority guidance and

templates, legislation, policy and consultations.

[Sign up to receive UK ETS updates here.](#)

### Beyond Recycling

On the 2nd March, Welsh Government published [Beyond Recycling](#) – a strategy to make the circular economy a reality in Wales.

There are also a series of webinars being run and facilitated by CIWM Cymru to discuss aspects of the Strategy with citizens and stakeholders, including ones on consumption and the circular economy (16 March); procurement and the circular economy (30 March); monitoring the circular economy (16 April) and becoming a zero waste nation (30 April).

**NHS Wales** published their Decarbonisation Strategic Delivery Plan on the 24th March 2021. For more information please see here:

<https://gov.wales/nhs-wales-decarbonisation-strategic-delivery-plan>

### Ultra Low Emission Refuse Vehicles

March 10<sup>th</sup> saw the roll-out of Wales' first electric refuse vehicle, a key part of decarbonising the waste service in Wales. We plan a further roll out of these vehicles in coming months.

<http://www.newport.gov.uk/en/Council-Democracy/News/articles/2021/March->

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[2021/Newport-launches-Wales'-first-electric-refuse-collection-vehicle.aspx](https://gov.wales/e-bike-pilot-scheme-launch-wales)

On 12<sup>th</sup> March, **Welsh Government Transport colleagues** launched the E-bike pilot scheme. For more information please see <https://gov.wales/e-bike-pilot-scheme-launch-wales>

There will also be the publication of the **EV Charging Strategy** on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March, following its consultation which closed on the 24<sup>th</sup> February. More details can be found on the Welsh Government [website](#).

A final version of **Llwybr Newydd – a new Wales Transport Strategy** was published on the 19<sup>th</sup> March which highlights Welsh Government's strategy for the future of transport in Wales. It sets out ambitions for the next 20 years and our priorities for the next 5 years.

## Coal Policy

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> March, The Welsh Government published its coal policy objective to avoid the continued extraction and consumption of fossil fuels. <https://gov.wales/coal-policy-statement>.

You may also be interested in reading the latest [Written Statement](#) and [consultation responses](#) to the policy from last year. **National Forest for Wales – Your Views and Voices**

A series of online discussion sessions were held 10-12 March to give people the opportunity to discuss the National Forest for Wales.

The First Minister opened the three day online event with the announcement of a new demonstrator project to increase the number of exemplar National Forest sites across Wales. These will be woodlands in addition to those on the Welsh Government's Woodland Estate which are already capable of demonstrating the National Forest outcomes which will recognise the time, effort and the enthusiasm so many people put into managing our fabulous woodlands.

In addition to this funding will be available to improve woodlands to National Forest standard in the future. This will include funding for new woodland areas. Further detail will follow over the next few months.

Recordings of the presentations and panel Q&A's from 10-12 March event will soon be available on the [YouTube National Forest for Wales playlist](#).

## Remote Working

Welsh Government is encouraging an increase in **remote working** and has set a long-term ambition for 30% of the Welsh workforce to work away from a traditional office, to be achieved by giving

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people more options and choice on their workplace. You can view the most recent report here [https://gov.wales/remote-working-locations-confirmed-across-wales?\\_ga=2.183719842.587199150.1615990370-86959576.1615990370](https://gov.wales/remote-working-locations-confirmed-across-wales?_ga=2.183719842.587199150.1615990370-86959576.1615990370)

**Cynnal Cymru** are working with ERS Cymru, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, local housing associations and many others to run a Climate Assembly in

Blaenau Gwent, the first of its kind in Wales.

For more information on this, please visit: <https://www.cynnalcymru.com/blaenau-gwent-climate-assembly/>

## Contact Details

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**Previous issues of the newsletter are available on request from the Decarbonisation mailbox.**