



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Y SIARTER SUSTAINABLE
DATBLYGU DEVELOPMENT
CYNALIADWY CHARTER

The Vision

What a sustainable Wales would look like



What is Sustainable Development?

Wales is committed to building a sustainable future.

Sustainable development is the process by which we reach the goal of sustainability. We want to “enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations” (UK’s shared framework for sustainable development).

For us, putting sustainable development into practice in Wales means enhancing the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of people and communities, achieving a better quality of life for our own and future generations, in ways that:

- Promote social justice and equality of opportunity; and
- Enhance the natural and cultural environment and respect its limits - using only our fair share of the earth’s resources and sustaining our cultural legacy.
- Sustainable development is the process by which we reach the goal of sustainability.

What a sustainable Wales would look like

Across society there is recognition of the need to live sustainably and reduce our carbon footprint. People understand how they can contribute to a low carbon, low waste society, and what other sectors are doing to help. These issues are firmly embedded in the curriculum and workplace training. People are taking action to reduce resource use, energy use and waste. They are more strongly focused on environmental, social and economic responsibility, and on local quality of life issues, and there is less emphasis on consumerism. Participation and transparency are key principles of Government at every level, and individuals have become stewards of natural resources.

We have strong, active, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others. Wales is a bilingual society, is fairer and more equal, and there is a reduction in the gap between rich and poor. Employment levels are high, and people enjoy a greater work-life balance, with more opportunities for volunteering. People work closer to home. Many communities are taking action locally to reduce emissions and have developed local carbon budget programmes. Action has been taken to ensure that reducing greenhouse gas emission and the impacts of climate change do not increase social exclusion in Wales. People are active in maintaining the quality of the local environment where they live.

Economic regeneration is undertaken with sustainable development at its core, and promotes low carbon, low waste ways of working. There has been a huge growth in businesses that supply the goods and services needed to support a sustainable economy, including within the third sector. This growth



has been underpinned by the development of training and qualifications in key sectors and in key skills needed for the production of low carbon, low waste goods and services. Wales is home to a number of world-leading technology development companies and manufacturing plants. The emphasis is on durable, recycled, recyclable and re-usable goods, and goods which are low carbon. These products are used locally and exported. More freight is moved by rail.

The energy intensity of society has decreased significantly. There has been a consistent drop in energy and water demand. There has been a major increase in renewable energy generation, offshore and onshore. All remaining fossil fuel plants have much improved energy efficiency, use their waste heat productively, and have carbon capture and storage fitted. Heavy industry and the power generation sector have greatly improved the energy efficiency of their processes and reducing the embedded carbon in their products. Large, energy intensive sites are maximising the productive use of waste heat and supplying other businesses and homes.

Waste - whether of energy or other resources is taboo - both from a cost and societal impact. There is less light pollution. Resources are valued and as a result there has been a huge reduction in waste production and a much greater emphasis on reuse. Composting and recycling are at very high levels, and the third sector is active in providing services to enable reuse and recycling.

Walking and cycling are much more commonplace. There is greatly enhanced provision for cyclists and pedestrians within towns and cities, with improved walking and cycling networks as well as better street design and traffic management measures. There are fast, reliable, affordable public transport services connecting major settlements. There are frequent, reliable mass transit services within cities and more heavily urbanised regions. There is a coherent network of sustainable transport options within rural Wales. Travel Plans are part of all new developments. All employers develop and implement Travel Plans.

The 'school run' has been replaced by organised school transport or group walking/cycling. Petrol and diesel prices remain high, engine efficiency has increased with the widespread take-up of hybrid vehicles. People buy smaller, more efficient cars, and lift-sharing is a common way of travelling. The carbon content of transport fuels has reduced. The rate of growth in air travel has slowed down and it is no longer regarded as a necessity.

Good quality housing for all is the norm. Homes and businesses are far more energy efficient and sustainable - all existing buildings at least meet Energy Performance Certificate standard C and many are on the way to becoming carbon neutral. All new buildings are constructed to the highest standards of energy and water efficiency, and are zero carbon. New development and infrastructure is located, designed and constructed for the climate it will experience over its design life, and to minimise travel needs.

The public sector has led the way in this area, and sustainable development is the central organising principle of public service. Public buildings, schools, further and higher education institutions, hospitals and community buildings have been early, visible demonstrators of greater energy efficiency and renewable technology. They have also pioneered staff and service delivery approaches that minimise



the need to travel. Many services are available locally and IT is used extensively to connect to specialist services.

Sustainable development and global citizenship is firmly embedded into all levels of educational provision and lifelong learning in Wales, and all schools are Eco and Fair Trade schools. Levels of educational attainment are high.

There is a much greater emphasis on preventative health care throughout society, and many more people are living healthy lives through eating better and getting exercise more regularly as part of their everyday lives. Increased localisation means that people are eating more seasonal, fresh local produce and this has stimulated agriculture and horticulture in Wales and there is much greater consideration given to the provenance of food. Much more food is traded locally where possible and fairly with the developing world when not. There is a huge expansion in allotments and community gardening. The agricultural industry has adapted to a changing climate, including making provision for the impacts of warmer summers, and changes in land use and management.

Wales' historic landscapes have been preserved and we have learnt lessons from our past which inform our future management. We are now also managing land for the wider ecosystem services it can deliver, including carbon storage, water quality, flood management, and landscape quality and connectivity for wildlife to adapt to climate change. As a result the loss of biodiversity has been halted and there is a greater number, range and genetic diversity of wildlife. There is a greater understanding and appreciation of our inter-dependence with the other species we share the planet with.

The marine environment is managed sustainably on an ecosystem approach, and there is an ecologically coherent, representative and well managed network of marine protected areas. Many more people enjoy sustainable access to enjoy the countryside and coast. Wales' historic environment and heritage is sustainably managed and is accessible to all, sustainable transport options for visitors are more commonplace, and this underpins Wales' brand as a sustainable tourism destination.

Wales is recognised internationally as a leader in sustainable development, and learns from, and exports its learning to, other small nations and regions in Europe and wider afield.



What living and working in a sustainable Wales would look like

Enhancing the long-term wellbeing of people and communities is central to the Welsh Government's approach to sustainable development. To promote this we are committed to a sustainable future for Wales where we:

- Live within our environmental limits, using only our fair share of the earth's resources, for example by radically reducing our use of carbon-based energy and greenhouse gas emissions, moving towards becoming a zero-waste nation;
- Support healthy, biologically diverse and productive ecosystems, by actively recognising and supporting our environmental assets including land, water and biodiversity;
- Build a resilient and sustainable economy, including by fostering local economies and suppliers, supporting innovation, achieving the transition to a low carbon, low waste economy, and ensuring that Wales is the best location for business to locate, start up, grow and prosper;
- Enjoy communities that are safe, sustainable, and attractive, where people enjoy good health, by having a much stronger connection with our local economies and communities;
- Are a fair, just and bilingual nation in which citizens determine their own lives, shape their communities and achieve their full potential, by ensuring equality for all is a core value to all our work.

Within the lifetime of a generation, we want to see Wales using only its fair share of the earth's resources, and where our ecological footprint is reduced to the global average availability of resources - 1.88 global hectares per person, with each Spatial Plan Area making its full contribution.

To achieve this goal over a generation, we will need to reduce the total resources we currently use to sustain our lifestyles, by at least two thirds. By the lifetime of a generation, we mean that we wish to see these changes brought about by the time our children are grown up.

To reduce this we must:

- Radically reduce by 80-90% our use of carbon-based energy, resulting in a similar reduction of our greenhouse gas emissions. This reflects the latest estimates for action needed to address damaging climate change. It would support our commitment to make annual 3% reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in areas of devolved competence.
- Have a radically different approach to waste management, moving towards becoming a zero waste nation. This will build on our stated goal of achieving 70% recycling across all sectors, and diverting waste from landfill, by 2025.
- Organise the way we live and work so we can travel less by car, wherever possible, and can live and work in ways that have a much stronger connection with our local economies and communities.
- Have a resilient and sustainable economy that is able to develop whilst stabilising, then reducing, its use of natural resources, reusing sites and buildings and reducing its contribution to climate change.



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- Source more of our food locally and in season, within a natural environment, where ecosystems are managed sustainably.
- Do all of the above in ways which make us a fairer society, reducing the gap between rich and poor, building on our commitments to tackling child and fuel poverty.



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Mae'r Siarter Datblygu Cynaliadwy yn fenter gan Lywodraeth Cymru a weinyddir gan Cynnal Cymru – Sustain Wales.

The Sustainable Development Charter is a Welsh Government initiative administered by Cynnal Cymru – Sustain Wales.