



Comisiwn Cymru ar y
Newid yn yr Hinsawdd
Climate Change
Commission for Wales

Climate Change Commission for Wales

Manifesto – 2015

The Climate Change Commission for Wales (CCCW) brings together key sectors and organisations to build agreement on the action needed to tackle the challenges of climate change in Wales. Over the last seven years the Commission has played a key role in addressing the challenges of climate change, providing advice to government, building consensus for action and independently reviewing progress.

Later this year, global leaders will be coming together in Paris for the United Nations Climate Change Conference to agree a legally binding and universal agreement. This is a key opportunity for Wales to demonstrate continued leadership and ensure that we accelerate the transition to a low carbon future as a matter of urgency.

The Climate Change Commission for Wales has 7 key areas for action – here are our top asks:

1. ACCELERATING THE TRANSITION TO A LOW CARBON ECONOMY:

ENERGY

- A clear long-term strategy and roadmap for developing & supporting **low carbon energy generation** in Wales, supported by renewable energy targets, a clear strategy for incentives and a commitment to facilitating growth of small-scale community renewable energy schemes, supporting energy recovery schemes, district heating and smart grids.
- Develop a clear **low carbon heat strategy** including a renewable heat targetⁱ.
- Introduce **Carbon budgeting** across the whole government (as proposed in Environment Bill) to assess the carbon impact of policies and programmes as well as publishing a carbon budget alongside the financial budget every year.
- Creation of a single energy portfolio at Ministerial level to lead on energy & climate change issues within Welsh Governmentⁱⁱ.

BUSINESS

- Investment in low carbon business development and innovation through a coherent approach to **Green Growth** and a partnership with industry and academia to accelerate the transition to a low carbon economy.

2. REDUCING EMISSIONS FROM THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT: ENERGY EFFICIENCY & BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- **Commitment to energy efficiency as a long-term national infrastructure plan priority**ⁱⁱⁱ backed up with a multi-billion pound capital investment programme that can leverage in private funding and gives the same clarity, purpose and focus as other major infrastructure project in Wales.
- Support a **national retrofit programme**^{iv} and set a minimum goal for all homes in Wales to achieve an Energy Performance Certificate of Band C by 2025 to support a reduction in fuel poverty.
- Commit to making **all new homes zero carbon** from 2016 and all new non-domestic buildings zero carbon from 2019^v so Wales can continue to demonstrate leadership in this sector.
- Maximise the value of the **smart meter** roll-out in Wales by
 - a. making it central to their energy efficiency programme and providing added value investment to maximise the opportunity as the most significant transformation for energy consumers
 - b. Implementing in parallel appropriate engagement and behaviour change interventions for all communities
- Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan to support **infrastructure projects** that support **Green Growth**, reduce emissions during construction and lifetime, and are resilient to the impacts of climate change.
- Recognise the value of **Green Infrastructure (GI)** in delivering cost effective interventions for health and wellbeing, economic development, social inclusion, social justice and climate change.

3. THE TRANSPORT CHALLENGE

- Clear strategy and support for **efficient, low emission (electric) vehicles**.
- A long-term investment strategy from government to develop **safe walking and cycling routes** to schools as part of implementing the **Active Travel Act**^{vi}.
- Review the proposed M4 relief road, and direct investment to support more sustainable forms of transport across and between Welsh cities.

4. MANAGING OUR LAND USE

- Focus action on **resource efficiency** to improve both the financial, carbon efficiency and multiple benefits of the **agricultural sector, peatland restoration and tree planting** in both rural and urban areas, to maximise carbon sequestration and safeguard the natural environment while reducing the heat and water quality impacts on urban areas.
- Provide appropriate channels and resources to enable communities and the non-expert environmental sector to obtain advice and support, and contribute to this work.
- Incorporate and encourage **Green infrastructure (GI)** solutions across all departments, sectors and stakeholders.

5. ADAPTATION & BUILDING RESILIENCE TO MANAGE THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

- Higher priority for actions that **assess vulnerability to climate change impacts**, and make the economic case for **building our resilience** to the impacts of climate change across all sectors.
- Provide support for the development and implementation of the **Sectoral Adaptation Plans (SAPs)** for Communities, Business & Tourism, Infrastructure, Natural Environment & Health, by taking a 'systems' approach, recognising the many inter-dependencies between different organisations and sectors.
- Build on programmes that support and incentivise **community engagement** in trialling and then mainstreaming locally-determined and replicable solutions, such as [Strong Roots](#).

6. LEADERSHIP ACTION IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

- **Public sector accountability & reporting** – new legislation (Well-being of Future Generations Act and forthcoming Environment Bill) to include targets for public bodies to benchmark and report on climate change objectives and performance (both mitigation & adaptation); including consideration of how this has influenced others downstream (e.g. in procurement, catering, decision-making across Departments).
- **Strengthen the leadership role of the education sector** – schools, colleges and Higher Education institutions to ensure that future generations have the relevant knowledge, skills and attitude to deliver a low carbon future.
- **Bold leadership** and a call for local authorities to provide an enabling framework for community action on climate change so that local action supported by one part of the public sector is not unduly stymied by another due to inconsistent approaches or regulations.

7. ENGAGING CIVIL SOCIETY

- Recognise, and continue to incentivise, **the role that civil society** has in kick starting local action, education and enterprise initiatives that promote climate friendly living. Community supported agriculture, the community reuse sector, surplus food cafes, sustainable travel, community woodland and habitat management projects are examples.
- Recognise the key '**trusted messenger**' role that third sector organisations play in engaging members and beneficiaries with climate change issues and ensure there is adequate support and resources available for this to continue.

ⁱ As recommended by the UK Committee on Climate Change [2015 Report](#) – they put forward key recommendations in 5 key areas: electricity & power sector; buildings; transport; infrastructure & land management

ⁱⁱ As recommended by Renewable UK Cymru

ⁱⁱⁱ [EST report by Frontier Economics](#) & [EST report](#) commissioned by WWF

^{iv} As recommended by Construction Industry Leaders & see Arup's National residential retrofit programme for the UK

^v As recommended by Construction Industry Leaders; see also Dutch [Energiesprong](#) scheme, [Ty Solar](#) Homes, [Solcer](#) House, Maes Yr Onn.

^{vi} As recommended by Sustrans Cymru