



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Consultation – summary of responses

Just Transition Framework – Executive summary

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Title:
Just Transition Framework –
Executive summary

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Views expressed in this report are those of the researcher and not necessarily those of the Welsh Government

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1. Executive summary

1.1. Project background

- 1.1.1. Recognising that a fair transition must be effectively planned and coordinated, the Welsh Government has proposed a Just Transition Framework for Wales. This Framework, informed by a Call for Evidence¹ and discussions with stakeholders, aims to create a common vision for implementing actions to tackle climate change while also considering social equity. To actively engage the public and inform the final Just Transition Framework, the Welsh Government launched a consultation² on the proposed Framework and a series of 'Climate Conversations'³ events.
- 1.1.2. The consultation on the Just Transition Framework was open from 4 December 2023 to 11 March 2024 and included 12 open-format questions focusing on eight key areas: integration, vision, guiding principles, evidence base, mobilising stakeholders and engagement, toolkit, planning and effects on the Welsh language. In parallel, Welsh Government funded Climate Conversations were held before, during, and after Wales Climate Week 2023, exploring how to tackle climate change fairly.

1.2. Respondent overview

- 1.2.1. The Just Transition Framework Consultation received a total of 106 responses, with 59 per cent submitted through an online form and 41 per cent via e-mail. Among these, 49 were from individuals and 57 from organisations. A majority of individual respondents (82 per cent) were over the age of 50, and 17 per cent of them identified as Welsh speaking. The top sectors represented amongst respondents were Agriculture (17 per cent), Energy and Heat Generation (14 per cent), Residential Buildings (13 per cent), and Forestry and Land Use (13 per cent).
- 1.2.2. Separately, 37 reports were submitted from Climate Conversations events, which had nearly 2,000 attendees in total. Communities⁴ hosted the majority of the events, accounting for 62 per cent. Local authorities and educational institutions (such as

¹ 'Just Transition Call for Evidence Synthesis', available at: <https://www.gov.wales/just-transition-net-zero-wales> (Accessed 16 May 2024).

² 'Just Transition Framework', available at: <https://www.gov.wales/just-transition-framework> (Accessed 16 May 2024).

³ 'Climate Conversations', available at: https://www.climateweek.gov.wales/EN/pages/Climate_conversations (Accessed 16 May 2024).

⁴ This includes organisations within the third sector (e.g. voluntary groups, cooperatives and other types of networks representing marginalised groups).

schools, colleges, and universities) each organised 14 per cent of the Climate Conversations, while charities hosted 11 per cent. The largest event hosted 330 participants and the smallest event was attended by four people, with the average number of participants being 56.

1.3. Findings of analysis of Just Transition Framework Consultation

Overarching Themes

- 1.3.1. Three main themes were raised throughout the consultation and were categorised as overarching themes. These were (i) the importance of inclusion and engagement of all relevant stakeholders throughout the design, production and implementation of a just transition, with particular emphasis on co-production and engaging communities; (ii) general disagreement with a transition to net zero, with these respondents opposing net zero targets and raising concerns of negative economic impacts; and (iii) ensuring equality for groups that might be adversely impacted by the transition.
- 1.3.2. The remaining sub-sections follow the structure outlined in the consultation document.

Framework section: Introduction

- 1.3.3. This section included three questions, which focused on the proposed Vision, approach, and overarching structure for a just transition in Wales. Respondents broadly welcomed the Vision, but often called for the Vision to have an increased focus on nature and environmental preservation and equitable access to energy-efficient transport and housing. The first area, nature and environmental protection, was suggested by both individual and organisational respondents, with the majority of the organisations raising this area of focus representing environmental issues. Respondents generally agreed with the proposed approach, with a large number specifically welcoming the role of the Well-being of Future Generations Act⁵. Respondents to the third question tended to welcome the overarching structure. However, some criticised its lack of specificity and called for clearer guidance.

⁵ 'Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015', available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2015/2/contents> (Accessed 16 May 2024).

Framework section: Part 1 – Integrating the just transition in our decision-making

- 1.3.4. This section included two questions, one focusing on the guiding principles for a just transition and the other focusing on a proposed approach to planning a just transition, by considering geospatial, organisational, policy development, and more holistic contexts. Some respondents criticised the guiding principles for being too ambiguous and called for clarity on how the principles would affect decision-making. On approaches to planning transitions, respondents often raised the importance of including all relevant stakeholders in these discussions and called for case studies and examples for ‘Team Wales’ stakeholders to learn from and implement.

Framework section: Part 2 – Building our evidence base

- 1.3.5. This section included one question, focusing on the proposed lenses from which to explore the economic, cultural, and environmental outcomes of a just transition. Most respondents welcomed the lenses, especially the spatial lens which recognises that different areas of Wales will be impacted differently. A mix of individual and organisational respondents, with the majority of organisations representing environmental issues, called for a stronger focus on nature preservation as part of these lenses. Another set of respondents emphasised the importance of the business and employment lens.

Framework section: Part 3 – Mobilising Stakeholders and Coordinating our Collective Response

- 1.3.6. The questions in this section addressed proposed roles and responsibilities for delivering a just transition and how to best involve the people and communities of Wales. Respondents generally emphasised the importance of including all stakeholders in the delivery of a just transition, suggesting that responsibility be integrated into existing partnerships like Public Service Boards. They also urged the Welsh Government to utilise existing organisations – such as trade unions, local authorities, and community groups – to promote community involvement and raise awareness of a just transition, rather than creating new bodies.

Framework section: Part 4 – Toolkit

- 1.3.7. This section focused on a proposed toolkit for implementing a just transition. Some respondents provided specific recommendations to improve the toolkit – notably to

ensure simplified and tailored versions are available to organisations, with specific case studies of best practice – but otherwise broadly welcomed the toolkit.

Framework section: Part 5 – Welsh language and open-comment question

- 1.3.8. This section included three questions. Two of these questions focused on the potential impact of the Framework upon the Welsh language. Respondents had mixed views on this, with the most frequent theme to Question 10 being that the Framework would likely promote the Welsh language by supporting the availability of well-paying jobs in Welsh-speaking communities, mostly in the agricultural and renewable energy sectors.
- 1.3.9. The final question left space to mention any related issues that have not been specifically addressed in previous questions. Some respondents used this space to voice their general disagreement with transitioning to net zero. Another set of respondents supported the Just Transition Framework but emphasised the need for a stronger focus on key areas, with nature preservation being the most cited priority.

1.4. Findings of analysis of Climate Conversations

- 1.4.1. Climate Conversation events were centred around the overarching theme ‘How do we tackle climate change in a fair way?’ For Question 1, organisers were asked to discuss with attendees how emissions can be reduced while considering fairness, along with ensuring better places to live and work. However, it has to be noted that many reports did not focus on the ‘fairness’ aspect of the overarching question.
- 1.4.2. The most frequent theme raised in reports was the view that the Welsh Government should enable and support community-level solutions to ensure actions were fairer by better catering and responding to community needs. Reports often called for greater financial support and incentives, ensuring equal opportunities for all individuals to access and adopt sustainable practices, along with the need for more significant investment in transport infrastructure. Education was commonly highlighted as crucial, with some reports emphasising the importance of equal access to green education and its integration into school curriculums. The discussion also focused on job and skills training to ease the transition for workers affected by decarbonisation, particularly for individuals from low-income brackets. There were calls for greater inclusion of communities in decision-making, policy changes to address social and economic disparities, and improved monitoring and accountability to ensure businesses meet environmental goals.

1.4.3. The discussion for Question 2 centred on involving people fairly in climate change action and identifying key decision-makers. The most common suggestion was to ensure the inclusion of vulnerable groups in the decision-making process. A holistic approach involving diverse stakeholders, including government, scientists, local residents, and community groups, was recommended to enrich the dialogue. On how to involve groups, many reports highlighted the need for greater community engagement through regular meetings and events in various languages to broaden outreach. There was a call for improved communication strategies to make climate change information accessible to all, as well as a stronger focus on education to encourage active participation. Practical actions and financial incentives were suggested to promote community-driven sustainability projects. Lastly, some reports stressed the importance of inclusivity and representation, with an emphasis on engaging minorities and addressing their under-representation in environmental roles.

1.5. Conclusion

1.5.1. The Welsh Government's Just Transition Framework for Wales aims for net zero while promoting social equity. The consultation and Climate Conversation events revealed the need for a clear, actionable strategy with robust stakeholder engagement.

1.5.2. Respondents to the Just Transition Framework Consultation highlighted the importance of inclusivity and equality throughout the transition, the importance of including concrete guidance in the Framework, such as examples and case studies of best practice, and they welcomed the role of the Well-being of Future Generations Act in supporting a holistic approach and the proposed approach to planning for different types of transitions.

1.5.3. The analysis of the Climate Conversation event reports underscored themes such as community-level solutions, financial support, enhanced transport infrastructure, and investment in education and training. Reports called for fair involvement in climate action, particularly engaging vulnerable groups.

1.5.4. There were themes that were raised in both the consultation and the Climate Conversations, including the importance of (i) considerations around business and employment, (ii) implementing community-based initiatives, and (iii) the need for inclusive stakeholder involvement.

1.5.5. Overall, the insights highlight the necessity for a clear, inclusive, and actionable Just Transition Framework that leverages existing partnerships and empowers communities, ensuring a fair and equitable transition to a greener future for Wales.