



July 2019



Welcome

Welcome to the summer edition of the Decarbonisation Programme Newsletter providing latest news from across the Programme

Shortly after the [Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales](#) was published, the Welsh Government declared a climate emergency. This was followed by the National Assembly becoming the first Parliament in the world to vote in support of such a declaration.

To address the emergency in June, the Welsh Government accepted the UK Committee on Climate Change's advice for a 95% emission reduction by 2050 and also committed to going even further and achieving net zero emissions no later than 2050. Read on to find to more.

Climate Emergency

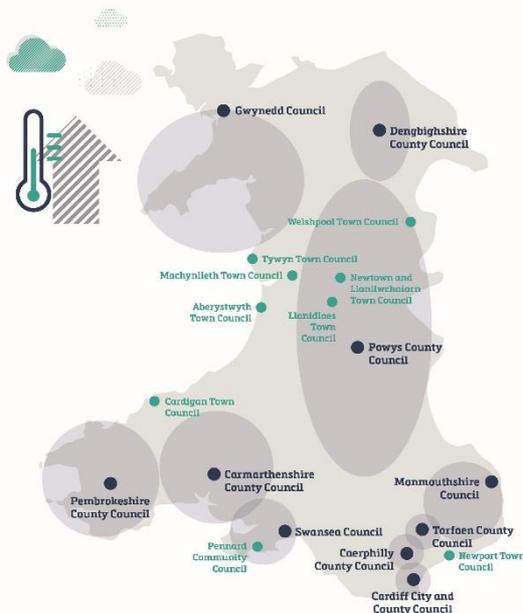
The Welsh Government declared a [Climate Emergency](#) on 29 April to harness this momentum and to galvanise and trigger action across Wales and further afield to meet the challenge. On 1 May the National Assembly for Wales the first parliament in the world to pass a Climate Emergency declaration. The next step to meet the emergency is to raise our ambition by increasing our legislative targets.

We demonstrated our commitment to tackling the Climate Emergency on 11 June accepting the UK Committee on Climate Change (CCC) recommendation for a 95% reduction in Wales. This represents Wales's fair contribution to the UK's commitment under the Paris Agreement. We also declared our ambition to go further and reach net-zero by 2050. See our Tweet [here](#) to see what else we have done.

We all need to take action – Welsh Government action will not be enough to tackle the climate emergency.

Has your organisation, council or business also declared a climate emergency or increased action following Wales' declaration?

Local Authorities, Town and Community Councils that have declared a Climate Emergency in Wales



Please let us know by sending details to our Decarbonisation Mailbox.

We will be using our autumn conference to help gather ideas for action from across Wales.

UK Committee on Climate Change Advice

In response to a request from the Welsh, Scottish and UK Governments to reassess the UK's long-term emissions targets, the CCC published 'Net Zero – The UK's contribution to stopping global warming' on [2 May](#). The Committee's headline recommendation is for the adoption of a target to reduce UK greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.

In order for this target to be reached, their advice recommends the Welsh Government adopt a target to reduce emissions by at least 95% by 2050 against the 1990 baseline.

The Welsh Government's current legally binding target is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 'at least 80%' in 2050, in the Environment (Wales) Act. The advice from the CCC makes it clear the increase from 80% to 95%.

On 11 June the Welsh Government accepted the recommendation of the CCC to indicate the Welsh Government is committed to delivering the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions required to make our contribution to a net zero target for the UK. The following day the UK Government also agreed to the CCC recommendations, making the UK one of the first major nations to propose this target.

Regulations will be brought to the Welsh Assembly next year to amend the existing 2050 target to 95%. At the same time we will bring regulations to set our third carbon budget and amend our interim targets and existing budgets, as necessary.

Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales

In March, we published Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales containing detailed sector-by-sector emissions profiles and 100 policies and proposals to achieve a low-carbon Wales.

The plan makes our position clear – we believe we must continuously raise our ambition in order to meet the challenge of climate change and to secure maximum benefits for the wellbeing of Wales through the transition to a low carbon economy.

The first Plan covers our first carbon budget (2016-2020) and will get us to our 2020 emissions target and set the foundation for greater efforts which we are starting to generate. A summary infographic of the Plan and supporting fact sheet for each sector are now available [here](#).

Consultation Response

Last year we consulted on a range of potential actions to decarbonise Wales to 2030. We had 220 substantive responses and in April we published [a summary of what people told us](#). Our response to the consultation is will be published shortly.

Emission Reduction Progress

We're making good progress towards our 2020 target. Data published on 11 June shows we achieved a 25% reduction compared to 1990. This is a big improvement on 2016, largely because of a reduction in coal power generation but also shows how Wales' emissions are different to others in the UK, as they can fluctuate quite a lot.

News from the States and Regions

The latest figures show that 669 jurisdictions across 15 countries have declared a climate emergency, with a number of state and regional governments from across the Under2 Coalition joining Wales in the pledge. These include Scotland, Catalonia and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). Wales was a founding signatory to the Under2Coalition with other states and regions. To read about the Climate Group and how they are supporting members to declare a climate emergency click [here](#).

Climate Change Conference

The autumn Climate Change Conference will be held on 16 October. Further information on the Conference and how to register your interest to attend will be provided over the summer.

Young People

We are already collaborating and involving young people in a number of ways. This year in preparation for Conference of Parties (COP25) we want even more young people learning about the climate change. Size of Wales are running a programme of five Mock COP events across Wales, similar to the UN Climate Change COP talks, where different countries come together to look at how they can collectively reduce their emissions. The aim is to have 50-80 Welsh secondary schools represented, with the final event being held in November. Through this programme of work they will be looking to identify and develop youth "Climate Change Champions" in Wales showing how young people across Wales can have a voice and help make the changes needed. More information can be found on their [website](#).

Other News and Information

The CCC [annual report](#) to Parliament, assessing progress in reducing UK emissions over the past year.

The report, 'Better Homes, Better Wales, Better World', on the Decarbonisation of Homes in Wales was published on 18 July – full report can be found [here](#).

Written and Oral Statements have been issued since March include:

- [UK Committee on Climate Change advice on long-term emissions targets](#)
- [Welsh Government declares Climate Emergency](#)
- [Oral Statement on Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales](#)

Forthcoming Events

- The Centre for Climate Change and Social Transformations launching on 18 September
- 11th Annual New York Climate Week – 23-27 September
- Conference of Parties 25 – Santiago, Chile – 2-13 December

Contact Details

Email – Decarbonisationmailbox@gov.wales

Address - Decarbonisation Team
3rd Floor, Cathays Park 2

CF10 3NQ

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