

# Environment (Wales) Act 2016



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

## FAQs

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### What are the main aims of the Act?

The overarching aims of the Act are to enable Wales' resources to be managed in a more proactive, sustainable and joined-up way and to establish the legislative framework necessary to tackle climate change.

### What does the Act do?

The Act ensures we have a joined-up legislative approach to enable the sustainable management of our natural resources.

Some of the specific provisions in the Act include:

- Helping to plan and manage Wales' natural resources at a national and local level, through a State of Natural Resources Report, a National Natural Resources Policy and area statements.
- Providing Natural Resources Wales (NRW) with a general purpose that aligns fully with the statutory principles for the sustainable management of natural resources.
- Providing NRW with powers to undertake land management agreements and experimental schemes.
- Providing public authorities with a reshaped requirement to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote resilience of ecosystems.
- Placing statutory emission reduction targets and carbon budgeting to support their delivery.
- Enabling improvements to the existing scheme for single use carrier bags.
- Providing the Welsh Ministers with powers to take action to achieve higher levels of recycling for business waste, food waste treatment and energy recovery.
- Clarifying the law for a number of existing environmental regulatory regimes including marine licensing, shellfisheries management, land drainage and flood risk management.

## Why do we need this Act?

The evidence is clear from recent reports such as the UK National Ecosystem Assessment on the state of UK ecosystems showing declining ecosystem services as well as continuing declines in biodiversity reported in the 2013 State of Nature Report.

In order to tackle this, there is international recognition of the need for a more joined-up approach to managing our natural resources, which better recognises the value of our ecosystems and the services they provide.

We need a modern legislative approach that recognises that our water, land and air are all interlinked and our economy, society and environment are all interdependent.

This Act provides the legislative changes needed to enable a joined-up approach to managing our natural resources.

## How does the Act help to plan and manage Wales' natural resources better?

The Act helps to plan and manage Wales' natural resources at a national and local level, through the following:

- **The State of Natural Resources Report**

NRW will lead on this report, which will provide an assessment of the state of natural resources in Wales. It will track the progress being made towards achieving the sustainable management of natural resources and will also serve as essential evidence base to underpin the National Natural Resources Policy.

- **The National Natural Resources Policy**

The Welsh Ministers will set out key priorities, risks and opportunities for the joined-up management of our natural resources, to optimise social, economic and environmental benefits at the national level. The Welsh Ministers will be required to have regard to the State of Natural Resources Report in the preparation and review of the National Policy.

- **Area Statements**

NRW will, in collaboration with others, prepare and publish area statements, which will facilitate the implementation of the National Natural Resources Policy. Area statements will be an important evidence base for bodies operating within an area as they will include information on the natural resources and the priorities, risks and opportunities for sustainably manage natural resources.

NRW's new purpose to pursue sustainable management of natural resources and apply the supporting principles will require NRW to deliver all of their functions in a way that achieves the sustainable management of natural resources.

## What is an area and how is it defined?

The Act does not define an area. Instead, NRW will, in applying the principles of sustainable management of natural resources, determine the scale and location of an area which can best implement the priorities, risks and opportunities identified in the National Natural Resources Policy and help to deliver their functions in a coherent and efficient way. This approach recognises that ecosystems, and decisions taken about their management and use, happen at different scales.



## How does the Act help to halt declining biodiversity?

Part 1 of the Act draws upon the 'ecosystem approach' for the sustainable management of Wales' natural resources. This approach, developed by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity has been acknowledged internationally as the most effective method of addressing biodiversity decline.

The ecosystem approach is an application of joined-up planning and management processes that look at ecosystems as a whole and seeks to build the resilience of those ecosystems and the multiple benefits that they provide. As biodiversity underpins the resilience of ecosystems, it is a fundamental component of the approach.

An iterative process of evidence gathering, policy development and delivery across Wales will help to address the pressures on biodiversity. The State of Natural Resources Report will provide evidence on the state of biodiversity while the National Natural Resources Policy will identify priorities and opportunities to address this. These priorities will be translated into local action set out in area statements.

The Act also introduces an **enhanced biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty**. This duty replaces the existing biodiversity duty for public authorities that exercise functions in relation to Wales.

The duty requires these public authorities seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the proper exercise of their functions.

The duty also helps to deliver the sustainable management of natural resources as it will require public authorities, in delivering the new biodiversity duty, to promote the resilience of ecosystems.

Public authorities will also be required to report on the actions they have taken to improve biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience.

To assist in complying with the new duties, specified public authorities must prepare and publish a plan on how they intend to comply with the biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty and take into account relevant evidence as listed in the act. These public authorities must also review their forward plans in light of the findings in their report.

## Why does the Act strengthen the existing biodiversity duty?

The Act replaces the duty in section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) Act 2006 in relation to Wales, with a duty on public authorities to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity.

The aims are to:

- Improve the consideration of impacts on biodiversity in the decision-making processes covered by the Environment Act.
- Ensure that the duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity is not an additional burden on public authorities, but instead, an integral component of the legislative framework under the Environment Act.
- Illustrate the role biodiversity contributes to the long-term sustainability of the ecological and physical processes that underpin the way ecosystems work.
- Enhance the capacity of our natural resources to provide essential ecosystem services, such as water management, climate regulation and crop pollination, as well as enhancing our environment.

The duty will apply, in relation to Wales, to those authorities that fall within the current biodiversity duty in NERC 2006.

## What is the timing of the biodiversity duty?

The Act became law in March 2016, with the new biodiversity duty taking effect two months later.

Whilst the Act does not specify when a public authority must prepare and publish its first plan setting out what it proposes to do to comply with the duty, the intent is that this shall be within the first year of the Act coming into force.

The first report on complying with the duty must be published by 2019 and then every three years after this date.

## How are NRW affected by the Act?

NRW have a central role in the delivery of sustainable management of natural resources. For example it is under a duty to provide the State of Natural Resources Report which provides the evidence base for policy on how natural resources are managed and sustainably used. NRW are also required to produce and implement area statements in order to implement the National Natural Resources Policy at an appropriate spatial scale.

The Act provides NRW with a new general purpose that places sustainable management of natural resources at the core of how it carries out its activities. This new purpose ensures consistency with its new obligations under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. It also provides NRW with enhanced powers to undertake land management agreements and experimental schemes in line with those principles.

NRW was created as a new organisation with the fundamental purpose to deliver a more integrated approach to the management of natural resources. The provisions in the Act are therefore integral to the way the organisation will work in the future.

NRW has been closely involved in the development of the Act.

## What has NRW done to plan for their requirements under the Act?

NRW has already taken forward work to enable the integrated approach to be embedded, and it is working to further align operational delivery structure to facilitate delivery of the new duties in the Act.

NRW has led on three area trials in Tawe, Rhondda and Dyfi to explore how to embed an integrated approach to natural resource management within the operation of NRW, within specific geographical areas.

The trials have helped to deliver practical benefits on the ground for the communities within each trial area. They have also helped to demonstrate how Natural Resource Management can be applied in practical terms whilst importantly capturing the learning along the way. The information and learning gathered from the trials will be used to develop area statements setting out the key local challenges, opportunities and priorities for the future use and management of natural resources.

These trials have set out to deliver as many benefits as possible for the people, environment and businesses of Wales, through capitalising on the opportunities identified collaboratively throughout their development and implementation. This has been done alongside measures to build healthy and resilient ecosystems that provide and sustain these benefits. The trials have also been an opportunity to raise awareness of the role of other public bodies, land managers and private business in the sustainable management of natural resources.

## How does the Act take account of Wales' landscapes and special places?

Our landscapes provide an opportunity to deliver the sustainable management of natural resources at an appropriate scale as they represent environmental, social, economic and cultural connections within a defined area. These interconnections are reflected in the principles of sustainable management of natural resources, which include a requirement to consider the appropriate spatial scale which best address a specific issue, priority or opportunity. An appropriate spatial scale is not solely based on ecological boundaries but also social, cultural and economic factors.

The principles also require consideration of the different benefits that we receive from our natural resources, including cultural services. These include aesthetic, spiritual and recreational values, for example, and therefore all the components of landscape and more are covered by this approach.

## What is the role of Wales' National Park Authorities in implementing the Act?

Under the Act, National Park Authorities are required to take account of the State of Natural Resources Report and area statements when publishing, adopting or reviewing their management plans.

National Park Authorities are also under a duty to provide NRW with information or assistance in the preparation of the State of Natural Resources Report) or an area statement, if NRW makes such a request. They are also under a duty to assist NRW in the implementation of an area statement, if NRW makes such a request.

National Park Authorities, however, will not be required to comply with these requests where to do so would be, for example, incompatible with its duties.

National Park Authorities can work with NRW to implement an area statement for example by addressing any of the priorities, risks and opportunities identified in the statement.

National Park Authorities will also be required to meet the new biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty.

## What will be the role of local authorities in implementing the Act?

Local authorities, as a public body under the Act, are under a duty to provide NRW with information or assistance in the preparation of a State of Natural Resources Report or an area statement, if NRW makes such a request. They are also under a duty to assist NRW in the implementation of an area statement, if NRW makes such a request.

Local authorities, however, will not be required to comply with these requests where to do so would be, for example, incompatible with its duties.

Area statements will provide local authorities with a clear and consistent evidence base, which they can take into consideration when carrying out their activities and can clearly identify the opportunities, risks and constraints presented by natural resources in their area. This will support our commitment to a strong, efficient and accessible public service and will better inform the direction of sustainable economic growth and development needed in each area.

Local Planning Authorities are required to have regard to area statements when preparing their Local Development Plans. Public Service Boards must also take into account area statements when they are undertaking their local well-being assessment and this will therefore contribute to and inform delivery of the well-being objectives of public bodies and local well-being plans of public services boards. As required under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Local authorities are also required to meet the new biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty. Doing so can help them in discharging their duties in the Well-being of Future Generations Act.



## How does the Act help tackle climate change?

The Act introduces statutory emission reduction targets and carbon budgeting to support their delivery.

The new approach for the sustainable management of natural resources in Wales helps to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. This is done in a number of ways:

- It strengthens the health of our natural resources to reduce the impacts of climate change on them. It will help to identify the pressures on our natural resources and how we make them more resilient.
- It enables us to look at the services that natural resources provide and identify opportunities to provide green growth so that we can adapt and mitigate the effect of climate change.
- It enables resilience to be considered as part of the decision making process such as looking at the impact of a particular activity on resilience from the outset.

## What targets are introduced in the Act?

To ensure that Wales is contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas emission, the Act places a duty on the Welsh Ministers to ensure that the net Welsh emissions account in 2050 is at least 80% lower than the baseline.

Interim emission targets will also be set for 2020, 2030 and 2040 and will be introduced by the end of 2018. These interim targets will assist in evaluating the progress made towards meeting the long-term 2050 target.

## The Welsh Government has already set climate change targets. Why are targets included in this Act?

The Act includes statutory long term climate change targets in order to accelerate our action on climate change. As a government we are committed to ensuring that climate change is at the heart of the approach of managing our natural resources outlined in the Act.

Including statutory targets and a carbon budgeting approach in the Act allows us to better evaluate progress, provide certainty to help drive investment for a low-carbon economy. Together with the sustainable management of natural resources provisions, the Act ensures Wales has a prosperous economy alongside a healthy and resilient environment.

As the science of climate change evolves and more information becomes available, the Act provides flexibility to ensure that the targets and carbon budgets reflect the most up to date information. The Act enables the Welsh Ministers to amend targets and carbon budgets in response to new scientific evidence or European and International developments. Before setting or amending any target or budget, the Welsh Ministers must obtain advice from the advisory body.

## **What happens if the climate change targets in the Act are not met?**

The Act puts our ambitions to reduce emissions on a statutory footing. The Welsh Ministers have a duty to abide by the law and this in itself is of great importance.

Our view is that the duties in the Act – including the requirement to meet the targets and budgets and reporting on progress – are stringent and legally enforceable.

The statutory basis means that any failure to meet a target or budget carries the risk of judicial review, with remedies available at the discretion of the courts, which no government will risk lightly.

Under the Act, there are many provisions for Welsh Ministers to lay a report before the National Assembly for Wales setting out proposals and policies to compensate for the excess emissions in later budgetary periods. This provision is to ensure that we stay on progress to meet our targets.

## **Why is the 2050 climate change target not higher?**

Our aim for at least an 80% target reduction by 2050 is in line with wider UK and EU obligations. Wales, along with the UK is part of a leading group of countries taking legislative action to tackle climate change.

The provisions in the Act require that a minimum of 80% reduction in emissions should be achieved by 2050. The Act sets down a long term framework for action, and there are also provisions to increase this target in the future to keep up to date with advances in technology, international policy and the latest scientific evidence.

This target is very challenging and to achieve this stretching target there will have to be major changes in how we use and generate energy. Energy efficiency will have to increase dramatically across all sectors. In facing the challenge of climate change, it is key that all of us in Wales – government, business, public sector and voluntary and community organisations, communities and families – play our full part.

## **Will stringent climate change targets mean that Wales' economy and businesses suffer?**

Climate change poses a number of opportunities to the Welsh economy around green growth and reducing emissions. Wales is already making great strides in its transition to a low carbon, green economy. The green economy is an established and growing sector of the economy in Wales, contributing £5.5 billion to the economy in 2011/12. During the recession jobs grew in this sector by around 2.4% and sales by around 9.3%. Together Welsh Government and business are already investing billions of pounds in Wales to secure green growth jobs and ensure the resilience of our communities and businesses against climate change and resource scarcity.

A clear pathway for decarbonisation in Wales will not only provide transparency but also certainty and clarity for investment. The carbon budgeting approach will be developed on expert advice, in particular from the UK Committee on Climate Change, to ensure that we reduce emissions in a way that not only delivers on our obligations but maximises the economic and social benefits to Wales of doing so.

The UK Climate Change Committee has estimated the benefit for the UK economy of taking early action on climate change as between £100 and £200 billion by 2030.



## Why are we seeking to change the Carrier Bag Charging Scheme?

The existing carrier bag charge has been very successful in significantly reducing demand for single use carrier bags. To build on that success and continue to reduce the number of new carrier bags supplied, the Act gives the Welsh Ministers more powers to adapt to any emerging consumer trends or unintended consequences of the charge, such as, an increase in the demand and inappropriate disposal of carrier bags that are not intended for single use.

## What do the carrier bags provisions cover?

The provisions extend the Welsh Ministers' existing powers so that they can make regulations which will set a minimum charge for any type of carrier bags as well as for those intended for single use. The provisions also impose a duty on retailers through regulations to apply the net proceeds of the carrier bags charge to charitable purposes which relate to environmental protection or improvement and, that directly or indirectly benefit the whole or any part of Wales. An exception is provided for retailers who give notice that they intend to continue with any existing arrangement they may have with non-environmental good causes.

## Are you proposing to place minimum charges on other types of bags?

Only if future monitoring and evidence suggests that it is necessary. For example if evidence shows that the demand and improper disposal for other types of bags is creating an enhanced risk to the environment the Welsh Ministers might decide that the best way to tackle the increase in demand is by making regulations to place a minimum charge on other types of bags.

## Are you proposing to make regulations to place a duty on retailers to pass on their net proceeds to good causes?

Yes. The Act provides that the Welsh Ministers must make regulations requiring retailers to pass on their net proceeds to charitable purposes which relate to environmental protection or improvement and, that directly or indirectly benefit the whole or any part of Wales. An exception is provided for retailers who give notice that they intend to continue with any existing arrangement they may have with non-environmental good causes. Details of how and, to whom the net proceeds must be donated, and the circumstances in which the exception will apply, will be set out in the new Regulations.

## What is the timetable for the regulations relating to carrier bag charges?

It is not our intention to amend the current regulations to place a minimum charge on other types of carrier bags until evidence does identify that this course of action is necessary. In terms of imposing the duty on retailers to apply the net proceeds of the carrier bag charge to good causes, it is anticipated that this provision will come into force by an order made by the Welsh Ministers on a day agreed by them.



## How does the Act affect marine planning and Wales' fishing industry?

The first statutory National Natural Resources Policy, while setting out the Welsh Government's priorities in relation to the management of natural resources as a whole, will point to the Wales National Marine Plan as the framework for sustainably managing Wales' marine natural resources. The UK Marine Policy Statement 2011 and the EU Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning 89/2014 requires an ecosystem approach to be taken in marine planning. The first Wales National Marine Plan will reflect the context of the ecosystem approach for Wales' marine area. The Welsh Government's intention is to consult on Wales' first Marine Plan later this year in advance of the process of formal adoption and introduction of the Plan.

The Act ensures that the Welsh Ministers can comply with their environmental obligations whilst creating sustainable economic development opportunities in Wales, which will lead to more stability and growth for the industry.

The extended powers provided through the Act enables the marine licensing authority for Wales to charge fees associated with administering marine licences. This enables the marine licensing authority to charge where possible for:

- Advice and assistance, for example in relation to pre-application work.
- Dealing with applications for variation, transfer, suspension or revocation of a licence.
- Monitoring of a marine licence, to include assessment of monitoring reports, discharge of conditions and compliance testing.

## What are the timescales for the Act?

The Act received Royal Assent on 21 March 2016.

The first statutory State of Natural Resources Report is intended to be published in Autumn 2016.

The first statutory National Natural Resources Policy is intended to be in place by Spring 2017.

## How have the cost and benefits of the provisions been assessed?

The Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) is an integral part of the Welsh Government's policy-making and legislative development process. For legislative proposals, a RIA is required to provide best estimates of:

- Gross administrative, compliance and other costs to which the provisions of the Act would give rise.
- Timescales over which the costs would be expected.
- On whom the costs will fall.

An RIA for the Act has been undertaken and forms part of the Explanatory Memorandum which was laid with the Environment Bill when it was introduced into the National Assembly for Wales in May 2015. An updated version of the RIA was published in March 2016 to take into account the amendments made to the Bill following its passage through the National Assembly.

## How have you sought views from stakeholders?

The Environment Bill White Paper was published for consultation on 23rd October 2013. This provided us with an opportunity to engage with stakeholders directly and inform them of our approach to natural resource management. The consultation also provided an opportunity for stakeholders to input their views and help to inform and shape the Bill. The consultation closed on 15 January 2014 and 182 responses were received in total.

During the consultation period we held a series of consultation events across Wales. The events focused on discussing some of the specific questions and issues from the White Paper and encouraged a wide range of stakeholders to take part.

In March 2014 a summary of the consultation responses was published. The consultation process established that there was broad positive support for the package of proposals in the White Paper.

In addition to the consultation, there has been ongoing dialogue with stakeholders including through the Natural Resources Reference Group. The Reference Group has met approximately every two months since the publication of the White Paper and will continue to do so. There has also been regular discussion with stakeholders including through organising and attending workshops, conferences and one to one meetings.

## How will businesses benefit from the Act?

The benefits for business are:

- More effective planning of the regulatory processes.
- Clearer information on environmental outcomes, opportunities and constraints to aid investment decisions.
- A more predictable and consistent framework for environmental decision-making, by reducing uncertainty in planning and other regulatory systems.
- Support for new markets in environmental services such as carbon and water management.
- Ensuring costs of compliance are appropriate to the extent of environmental risk.
- Saving costs to businesses through avoided landfill tax.
- Increased business competitiveness through reduced material costs.
- Increased employment through creation of jobs in collection and reprocessing.
- Increased generation of renewable energy from business waste.
- Greater security of supply of resources to our manufacturing sector.
- Helping achieve a green circular economy for Wales through the use by Welsh manufacturing businesses of recyclate collected in Wales.

## How will Wales' communities benefit from the Act?

The Act provides the following benefits for communities:

- Positive investment in targeted local environmental improvements.
- A greater focus on local needs, opportunities and concerns.
- Greater opportunity for local input to decision making.



## How will the environment and nature benefit from the Act?

The benefits for the environment are:

- More targeted investment in environmental improvements.
- Positive action to address the fundamental drivers of environmental change.
- Increased resilience to pressures from climate change and reduction of the effects of climate change.
- A strategic approach to promoting restoration and recovery of species and habitats.
- A fuller reflection in decisions of the benefits we derive from our environment.
- Providing more effective, efficient and integrated regulatory processes.
- Providing clearer information on environmental outcomes, opportunities and constraints to aid investment decisions.
- Providing a more predictable and consistent framework for environmental decision making.

## How will the Act affect farming in Wales / how will farmers benefit?

The Act helps farmers and landowners understand the role of the natural resources on their land and the potential impacts of their land management.

It can help farmers and landowners identify potential opportunities for Payments for Ecosystems Services and other payment instruments.

The Act also promotes landscape scale working and offer opportunities for land managers and farmers to work in partnership or co-operatives with other landowners or other businesses.

The Act also provides NRW with a power to enter into land management agreements to work with landowners or businesses to enter into voluntary land management agreements to manage their land in a more sustainable way. An agreement could, for example, require a landowner, in return for payment, to carry out activities on their land to better manage the flow of water through the land to support flood alleviation downstream.

## How does the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 work with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Planning (Wales) Act 2015?

The principle that connects these three pieces of legislation is our commitment to sustainable development as the best way to improve the well-being of Wales now and for future generations.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 works towards achieving the well-being goals applying the sustainable development principle, the Environment (Wales) Act puts in place a modern statutory process to help plan and manage our natural resources in a more joined up way and the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 creates an efficient process to ensure the right development is located in the right place.

The overarching aim is to put in place the legislation needed to secure the long-term well-being of Wales. While the three pieces of legislation focus on different areas of law, the changes are needed to ensure that progress is made to achieve the seven well-being goals.

## How does the duties in the Act contribute to the achievement of the well-being goals required through the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015?

The Environment Act complements the provisions within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The seven well-being goals aim to secure the long term future of Wales through applying the sustainable development principle.

The Environment Act provides multiple benefits which can enable public authorities to deliver against the well-being goals. For example, the provisions in the Environment Act can support the well-being goals by helping to create a low carbon economy, using resources sustainably; taking action on climate change and maintaining and enhancing a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems. The Environment Act can also provide other multiple benefits such as improving the quality of green space which can create benefits for physical and mental well-being and provide opportunities to participate in sport and recreation. It also helps to make a more equal Wales, by providing the opportunity for communities to get involved in decision-making at the local level on how best to manage natural resources in their area.

A fundamental element of the sustainable management of our natural resources is to improve the resilience of Wales' ecosystems and ecosystem services, to support the environmental, social, cultural and economic well-being of Wales. In order for the management to be sustainable, it should ensure that the benefit of the use to the present generation does not diminish the potential to meet the needs and aspirations of future generations. The Act puts in place a modern statutory process to help plan and manage our natural resources through sustainable development that will contribute to the achievement of the well-being goals and apply the sustainable development principle.

In addition, the Environment Act introduces area statements which must be taken into consideration in the preparation of assessments of local well-being, which in turn will inform the local well-being plans for public services boards.

As NRW will be a member of the Future Generations Commissioner's advisory panel and public services boards, it will have a key role ensuring that the sustainable management of our natural resources is at the heart of the Future Generations Commissioner's periodic report on behalf of future generations in Wales.

## Will the Act lead to more complexity and bureaucracy for Wales' public services?

Public bodies under the Environment Act will be under a duty to provide NRW with information or assistance in the preparation of a State of Natural Resources Report or an area statement, if NRW makes such a request. They will also be under a duty to assist NRW in the implementation of an area statement, if NRW makes such a request. They will not however be required to comply with these any requests that are incompatible with its duties.

The Environment Act complements the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 in terms of seeking to introduce collaboration and a more joined up approach. Both pieces of legislation aim to reduce complexity by providing a coherent framework of evidence, policy and implementation.

While the biodiversity duty will include a reporting requirement, this is not expected to be a detailed or lengthy report and should not be a burden. Public authorities could, for example, comply with it by including a couple of pages about biodiversity within any of their existing reports.

With the passing of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, there is an opportunity to amalgamate reporting requirements. The intention is that those bodies that fall under the Well-being Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the enhanced biodiversity duty will be able to report on how they are delivering the biodiversity duty in their reports on how they are meeting their well-being objectives. Whilst this will be at the discretion of public bodies, the Welsh Government will encourage this practice through guidance.

## How do I find out more information?

If you have any questions, or want any further information, please email us at:

[naturalresourcemanagement@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:naturalresourcemanagement@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

If you wish to join the mailing list, please email us at:

[NRBulletin@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:NRBulletin@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

Visit our website at <http://gov.wales/environmentact> to see a short animated film about the aims of the Act and to view some factsheets.

To see how the Act progressed through the legislative process in the National Assembly for Wales, please visit: [www.assembly.wales](http://www.assembly.wales)

For further information on the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 and the Planning Act 2015, please visit:

<http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/future-generations-act/?lang=en>

<http://gov.wales/legislation/programme/assemblybills/planning/?lang=en>

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.  
This document is also available in Welsh.