Environment Bill progressing through Stage 1 Scrutiny in National Assembly

Following the Bill’s introduction into the Assembly on 11 May, the Bill’s passage through the Assembly is well underway.

As part of the Stage 1 scrutiny, the Minister for Natural Resources has provided evidence to the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee on 1 June, the Environment and Sustainability (E&S) Committee on 24 June and the Finance Committee on 9 July.

The E&S Committee have also held a number of evidence sessions with stakeholders, which took place on 24 June, 2 July, 8 July and 16 July. A broad range of stakeholders have also provided written evidence to the Committee.

The Assembly will be in recess from 20 June to 13 September. When the Assembly returns for the autumn term it is expected that the Minister will be invited back to the E&S Committee to give further evidence. The Committee is due to report to the Assembly on the general principles of the Bill by 9 October.

You can follow the progress of the Bill through the National Assembly for Wales through the link below, including what has happened so far during Stage 1:


Recent events and useful information

To help raise awareness of the Bill with young people, we recently held a poster competition for primary schools. Following this the Minister attended a debate on 29 June with secondary schools around the theme of “If we look after Wales, Wales will look after us” (a quote taken from the winning poster). The aim of the event was to help involve young people in thinking about how to adapt to a changing climate and use our natural resources in a sustainable way.
A series of factsheets explaining the changes that the Bill will make can be viewed and downloaded via the Welsh Government’s website. Some additional factsheets have now been produced on Fisheries & Marine Licensing and the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources.

Alongside the factsheets are a series of ‘frequently asked questions’ which will be updated as the Bill progresses.

We’ve also produced a short animated film to explain the key features of the Bill.

These materials are all available at:

[http://gov.wales/environmentbill](http://gov.wales/environmentbill)

The Environment Bill put in place the legislation needed to enable Wales’ resources to be managed in a more proactive, sustainable and joined-up way, while establishing a robust framework to help to accelerating our performance in addressing climate change. To find out more about Natural Resource Management please click the link below to access our animation.


You can also keep up to date with developments on Twitter by following #EnvBillWales.
Towards Implementation

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) is taking forward three area trials in the Dyfi, Rhondda and Tawe catchment areas.

The trials are helping NRW prepare for the requirements we’re proposing through the Environment Bill. As well as delivering practical benefits on the ground for the communities within each trial area, the trials will help demonstrate how Natural Resource Management can be applied in practical terms while importantly capturing the learning along the way.

The area trials will also inform their process going forward for the development of Area Statements proposed in the Environment Bill which will help to identify key local challenges, opportunities and priorities for the future use and management of natural resources in a way that reflects local characteristics, needs as well as the local landscape and environment.

For more information about the area trials and to be put in contact with the respective Area Trial leads please email NRW at:

enquiries@cyfoethnatiolcymru.gov.uk

The area trials are one aspect of a breadth of activity to deliver our approach to integrated management of our natural resources in Wales.

A total of £5m has been invested via the Nature Fund, to twenty projects to help demonstrate how Natural Resource Management can be applied in practical terms.

The fund has aimed to support innovative and collaborative action on the ground to improve biodiversity whilst also delivering economic and community benefit across Wales. It supports land owners and managers, private, public and third sectors to work together to enhance and improve Wales’ wildlife and habitats, while also providing natural resource opportunities to deliver economic and social benefits.

The projects are already delivering real benefits to our communities. An infographic showing a summary of the progress that has been made to date, as well as a series of factsheets describing the projects aims, who is involved and the benefits the project will bring to the environment, society and the economy are available at: