Welsh Government is seeking to appoint members of the Woodland Strategy Advisory Panel for Wales.

The current Woodland Strategy Advisory Panel (WSAP) term ends on 31 December 2014.

The role of WSAP is to act as an informal stakeholder group to assist the Welsh Government Forestry Policy Team in developing woodland policy in Wales and monitoring the delivery of the Wales Woodland Strategy. The Strategy is available at [www.forestry.gov.uk/wwstrategy](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/wwstrategy).

The panel will be required to provide advice that represents the sectors involved in the development of wide ranging woodland policy that supports the following Welsh Government priority areas, as well as the need to provide woodland advice within the context of natural resource management and in helping to address and tackle the poverty agenda:

- **Economic** - with a focus on increasing the contribution forestry makes to the Welsh economy through the creation of sustainable jobs, increasing skills and the provision of training opportunities
- **Environmental** – with a focus on the relationship between trees and water, agriculture and the development of a low carbon economy
- **Social** – with a focus on enabling people to derive increased health and educational benefits from woodland
• Diversity and Resilience – with a focus on driving increased diversity of the Welsh woodland estate (public and private) to promote biodiversity and resilience.

To reflect the four areas of focus described above a panel of between 12 and 16 persons will be appointed but its final number is dependent on the expertise of the applicants. Applicants may have knowledge and experience in more than one of the areas described above and this will be considered when making the appointments in order to appoint the strongest panel possible. If you are interested in becoming a panel member, please submit a personal statement together with your CV to Jayne Sherrard at jayne.sherrard@wales.gsi.gov.uk. The closing date is 8 December 2014.

Other areas of interest

Wales is recycling more and sending less to landfill

The latest recycling statistics confirm that Wales is recycling more than ever, with 54.3% of municipal waste reused, recycled or composted in 2013-2014.

Wales has the best statistics in the UK for recycling, with local authorities and households recycling more and sending less to landfill.

For more detailed information on Wales’ recycling statistics, please visit http://wales.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/local-authority-municipal-waste-management/?lang=en

Minister sees recycling success in Conwy

Carl Sargeant, Minister for Natural Resources, visited Gofer bulking station in Conwy recently, to meet staff and see the new stackable recycling box system. The Trolibocs system consists of three boxes that stack together on a trolley, which can easily be wheeled out for collection.

Conwy was the first council in the UK to use the system and the Trolibocs will help its environment team to collect more high quality recycling. By separating materials in the separate boxes, more materials can be recycled in Wales, bringing benefits to the Welsh economy.
Conwy Council worked with WRAP Cymru and the Welsh Government to pilot the system, with a grant to fund the boxes provided through the Welsh Government’s Collaborative Change Programme.

Visit www.wrapcymru.org (external link)

**€4.1m funding for promotion of Welsh Lamb and Beef in Europe**

Deputy Minister for Farming and Food, Rebecca Evans has welcomed a €4.1million funding boost which will help further promote the sales of Welsh lamb and Welsh beef across Europe.

Hybu Cig Cymru – Meat Promotion Wales working with Welsh Government has been successful in its application to the European Commission’s promotion of agricultural products programme. The three year programme, co-financed by Europe will give HCC a further €4.1million – or just over £3,214,000 for the promotion of Welsh lamb and beef in Germany and Italy and Welsh lamb in Denmark and Sweden.

**Get ready to Grow Wild**

Grow Wild has thousands of free seed kits to share so people can transform their local spaces into beautiful, inspiring and colourful wild flower havens. Supported by the Big Lottery Fund and led by Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; Grow Wild is an exciting four-year programme that will bring people together to sow UK native wild flowers. Grow Wild believes that together we can transform and bring colour to where we live: turning unloved spaces into wildlife-friendly wild flower havens.

Join one of the UK’s biggest-ever seed sowing campaigns and help to create over one million square metres of wild flowers in spring 2015.

Register today to receive wild flower seeds native to your country for you to share with people in your formal and informal group/s, including activity clubs, societies, work places, schools and neighbourhoods.

There are 120,000 free kits up for grabs (6,000 in Wales) and all you need to do to register on behalf of your group/s is fill in Grow Wild’s simple two-minute form at www.growwilduk.com/register-seed-kit?partnerid=e6054030 (external link)

Registration closes at midnight on 14 February 2015 and the kits will be sent out in late March, just in time for spring sowing.

Please pass on this registration web link to other groups you know that might also like to join.

**Welsh poultry owners urged to be vigilant to avian influenza**

Welsh poultry owners are being urged to be vigilant for signs of avian influenza following the outbreak in England.

On 16 November the Chief Veterinary Officer for the UK confirmed an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza on a duck breeding farm in East Yorkshire. Avian influenza is a notifiable disease and so any suspicion should be reported immediately to the local Animal Health and Plant Agency (formerly AHVLA) office.
Signs of the disease include respiratory distress, diarrhoea, fewer eggs being laid, loss of appetite and blue discolouration of the neck and throat.

For up to date information on the outbreak visit: https://www.gov.uk/avian-influenza-bird-flu

**Bathing Water in Wales achieves top classification**

This year’s bathing water quality results for Wales show that more bathing waters than ever before have met the highest European standard.

Of the 102 bathing waters in Wales, 90 met the higher Guideline standard, with the others all achieving the Mandatory European standard. These results demonstrate the excellent bathing water quality which both the people of Wales and visitors can enjoy.

The bathing water statistics in Wales are taken from samples taken by Natural Resources Wales at regular intervals during the bathing season (15 May to 30 September) and are verified by the European Commission.

**Ways to keep updated**

To learn more about the Natural Resource Management Programme please visit: www.wales.gov.uk/naturalresourcemanagement

The web pages include frequently asked questions (FAQs), an information pack and some case studies.

You can also keep up to date with developments on Facebook and Twitter by following @WG_NatResMin and liking the Welsh Government’s Facebook page.

If you have any questions or if you want to join the mailing list, please email us at naturalresourcemanagement@wales.gsi.gov.uk