Nature Fund

The Minister for Natural Resources has announced further £3m funding for projects to tackle declining biodiversity and deliver benefits to communities.

The eighteen projects range from work to improve river catchments and marine ecosystems, to a peatlands restoration project in Snowdonia and a project to involve local communities in managing woodland in the Brecon Beacons.

A full list of the collaborative projects receiving funding from the Nature Fund can be found on the Welsh Government website: Nature Fund.

‘A Child’s Future in Wales’ Conference

The second Natural Resources Departmental conference is taking place on 26 November 2014 at the SWALEC Stadium in Cardiff. The conference will have the central theme of ‘A Child’s Future in Wales’. It will consider the local environments in which today’s and tomorrow’s children will grow up. It will examine the challenges to the resilience and prosperity of places, and the effect that the public, private and third sectors can have on prospects for future wellbeing.

This conference follows the successful Making the Best of Wales’ Natural Resources in the 21st Century conference in 2013.

The conference will create an opportunity for all those organisations whose work concerns, affects or depends upon the environment of local communities, to look at them more deeply from the perspective of today’s and tomorrow’s children. It will explore the ways in which communities can take ownership of their unique opportunities and challenges and, taking the Cynefin approach, will open up conversation between families from different communities and those responsible for the services and support provided to them. There will be discussion about the challenges of living, growing up and working in rural, urban, and peri-urban communities in Wales, with the aim of capturing creative and collaborative ideas and solutions during the day.

If you are interested in learning more about the conference and how we can all put children at the centre of our work to develop resilient and sustainable places for the future, please contact Sarah.Melkevik@wales.gsi.gov.uk.
Green Growth Wales

On 9 October, the Minister for Natural Resources made a Written Statement on his intention to take forward a Green Growth fund for Wales. The proposed Green Growth Wales fund aims to increase and accelerate projects to deliver green investment in Wales. The Minister’s Statement can be found here: Written Statement - Green Growth Wales. For further information on Green Growth Wales, please visit Green Growth Wales.

Climate Change Policy Refresh

On 21 October, the Minister for Natural Resources made an Oral Statement on the Climate Change Policy Refresh confirming the priorities of our refreshed approach to climate change. The Minister’s Statement can be found here: Oral Statement - Climate Change. For further information on how we are trying to tackle Climate Change, please visit Climate Change.

The Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales

The Minister for Natural Resources has asked Professor Terry Marsden of Cardiff University to lead an independent review into the role and functions of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The review will firstly consider the purposes of these designated landscapes, before exploring the most appropriate governance arrangements to ensure that they become international exemplars of sustainable development. The review will report during 2015.

This review will be split into two stages. Stage one will examine the designations themselves and stage two will follow on, examining the governance arrangements of designated landscapes in light of the first stage recommendations to the Welsh Ministers.

Stage One
• the merits of classifying Wales’ designated landscapes under one type of designation.
• the purposes of these designated landscapes.

Stage Two
• the governance and management arrangements of these designated landscapes.
• how any future governing body/bodies would best promote collaboration and joint working while avoiding duplication
• how any future governing body would best reinforce local accountability and decision making.

In conducting its work, and informing its report and recommendations it will be particularly important to gather evidence from both stakeholders and members of the public. Workshops for the general public will be held all over Wales, to give communities and users an opportunity to contribute. The workshops considering Stage One of the review are due to place during the week commencing 10 November. Keep an eye on the website for locations and times.

More information can be found on the website here Designated Landscapes.

Any views you may have can be e-mailed to: designatedlandscapesreview@wales.gsi.gov.uk
The review team would encourage colleagues and stakeholders to promote the review to their networks and contacts.

The panel is accepting submissions and evidence up until 27 November.

Questions concerning the review should be directed to the designatedlandscapesreview@wales.gsi.gov.uk mailbox.

Other areas of interest

**Planning (Wales) Bill Introduced**

The Planning (Wales) Bill was introduced on 6 October 2014 by the Minister for Natural Resources, Carl Sargeant.

The Planning (Wales) Bill introduces a series of legislative changes informed by a comprehensive evidence base and extensive consultation. The Planning (Wales) Bill aims to deliver reform of the Welsh planning system to ensure that it is fair, resilient and enables development. Taken together with proposed changes to secondary legislation, policy and guidance, the Bill will support delivery of the homes, jobs and infrastructure that Wales requires, whilst providing opportunities to protect and enhance our most important built and natural environments and support the use of the Welsh language.

For more information visit the Welsh Government website www.wales.gov.uk/planning

Keep up to date with the latest Planning Bill bulletin here: Planning Bill Bulletin.

Follow us on twitter:
  #planningbillwales; #bilcynllunio
  #positiveplanning; #cynlluniocadarnhaol

**The development of an Energy Efficiency Strategy for Wales**

Stakeholders are invited to contribute to a call for evidence on Energy Efficiency as the first stage in the development of a new strategy for Wales.

Energy efficiency benefits households, businesses and the public sector, by saving them money, by reducing energy security risks, and by supporting more sustainable business practices and lifestyles. It is the most cost-effective way to support the move to a low carbon energy system.

Improving energy efficiency in Wales is a major challenge, but the opportunity for Wales is immense.
The Welsh Government is keen to address this challenge and set out actions to be taken forward. Power to take action on energy efficiency is not fully devolved to Wales, so our role is limited to the promotion of energy efficiency while the regulation of energy efficiency rests with the UK Government. We are building upon considerable efforts to date by us and our partners.

In addition, Wales has access to UK wide action through initiatives such as the Green Deal and the Energy Company Obligation.

We propose to develop a new strategy that considers not just Welsh Government’s role in driving this agenda but also the role of other organisations, businesses and householders.

As a first step we are calling for evidence. We want your views on how we could improve energy efficiency performance in Wales. The deadline for responses is 12 January 2015.

Please visit: Energy Efficiency Strategy

If you have any queries, please email us at FuelPovertyandEnergyEfficiency@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Resource Efficient Wales

On 21 October 2014, Natural Resources Minister Carl Sargeant launched Resource Efficient Wales, a new service to provide trustworthy information, advice and help for people to save on energy, waste and water. Resource Efficient Wales provides a single point of contact for information on resource efficiency (i.e. energy, waste and water).

The service has three main components:

1. The Resource Efficient Wales contact centre based in the Welsh Government office in Nantgarw. This provides a consistent place for service users to go, simplifying access to the range of services on offer from Welsh and UK Government and others. The team can help people in Wales find the right support to become more efficient, including information on what support is available or referring callers to a range of support services.

2. A suite of services, procured through the Resource Efficient Wales framework contract, which meet the needs of the public, private and domestic/community sectors. The framework has providers ranging from sole traders to major businesses, enabling service users in Wales to have access to the expert support they need. We have appointed ‘client managers’ who will provide ongoing support for service users, and work with the other providers to obtain the technical support that service users may need.

3. The Resource Efficient Wales framework contract, administered by the National Procurement Service (NPS), also enables all public sector organisations to easily procure advice and support on resource efficiency from a range of providers, with a minimum of bureaucracy.

If you are interested in finding out what the service has to offer, you can call 0300 123 2020 between 9 am and 5 pm, go to the website www.wales.gov.uk/resource-efficient or e-mail ResourceEfficientWales@Wales.GSI.Gov.UK
Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Stakeholder Database

The Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework is the Welsh Government’s plan for improving animal health and welfare standards for kept animals. The ten year plan was launched at this year’s Royal Welsh Show. To receive latest news and information on animal health and welfare in Wales and for opportunities on how you can get involved in the implementation of the Framework, register your interest to join our partnership network here: Animal Health and Welfare Framework

Taking Welsh Food and Drink to the World

Bwyd a Diod Cymru Food and Drink Wales

The development of both existing and new export markets for Welsh food and drink products will be essential towards realising the Welsh Government’s vision to grow sales in the food and drink sector by 30% by the year 2020.

A programme of supported events to promote the quality of Welsh food and drink products has been put in place to assist both new and experienced Welsh exporters to develop domestic and international trade.

We are looking for high quality brands / companies to exhibit as part of our ‘Food and Drink Wales’ pavilion at the following events which are subsidised and therefore provides a great opportunity for businesses to reach their target markets.

- Gulfood, Dubai – 8 – 12 February 2015
- Foodex, Tokyo, Japan – 3-6 March 2015
- IFE, ExCel, London- 22-25 March 2015

Further information can be found at: Food and Drink Wales

Or by contacting: bwyd-food@wales.gsi.gov.uk.

Welsh National Marine Planning Workshop and Marine Protected Areas Animation

We recently shared our Marine Planning animation through the NRM e-bulletin, we also explained what we are doing in relation to developing the Welsh National Marine Plan. We want you to have your say and will be holding a workshop to discuss our progress to date and the next steps for developing the WNMP. If you’re interested in being involved, please go to our website and register your interest.
Following on from our Marine Planning animation, the latest in our series focuses on Marine Protected Areas in Wales. This short film highlights the importance of Welsh seas to the species that live here and the variety of habitats that support them – some of which we've taken recent steps to protect for our seabirds. The animation also draws attention to the vital role Welsh seas play in supporting our economy and jobs. Marine Protected Areas Animation

First Minister celebrates Draig Tex Community Partners – Wales’ first third sector textiles export centre

On 18 September, the First Minister officially opened Wales’ first third sector textiles export centre. Draig Tex, based in Conwy is a social enterprise founded by a consortium of three not-for-profit organisations - Crest Co-operative, Seren Ffestiniog Cyf and Antur Waunfawr. The social enterprises all collect and sort textiles and sell the products in their respective shops. Previously the three enterprises worked with external, national companies to export textiles. Now however, they have teamed up and work together to export the textiles themselves. The aim is to keep the value of textiles and unwanted clothing in Wales to support the work and social values of the social enterprises and therefore benefit Welsh communities.

The scheme helps to reduce landfill, support those living in poverty and has created local jobs, together with training and volunteering opportunities that help prepare people to get back into the job market.

You can find out more about Draig Tex and its community partners online at http://www.draigtex.com/ (external link)

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