

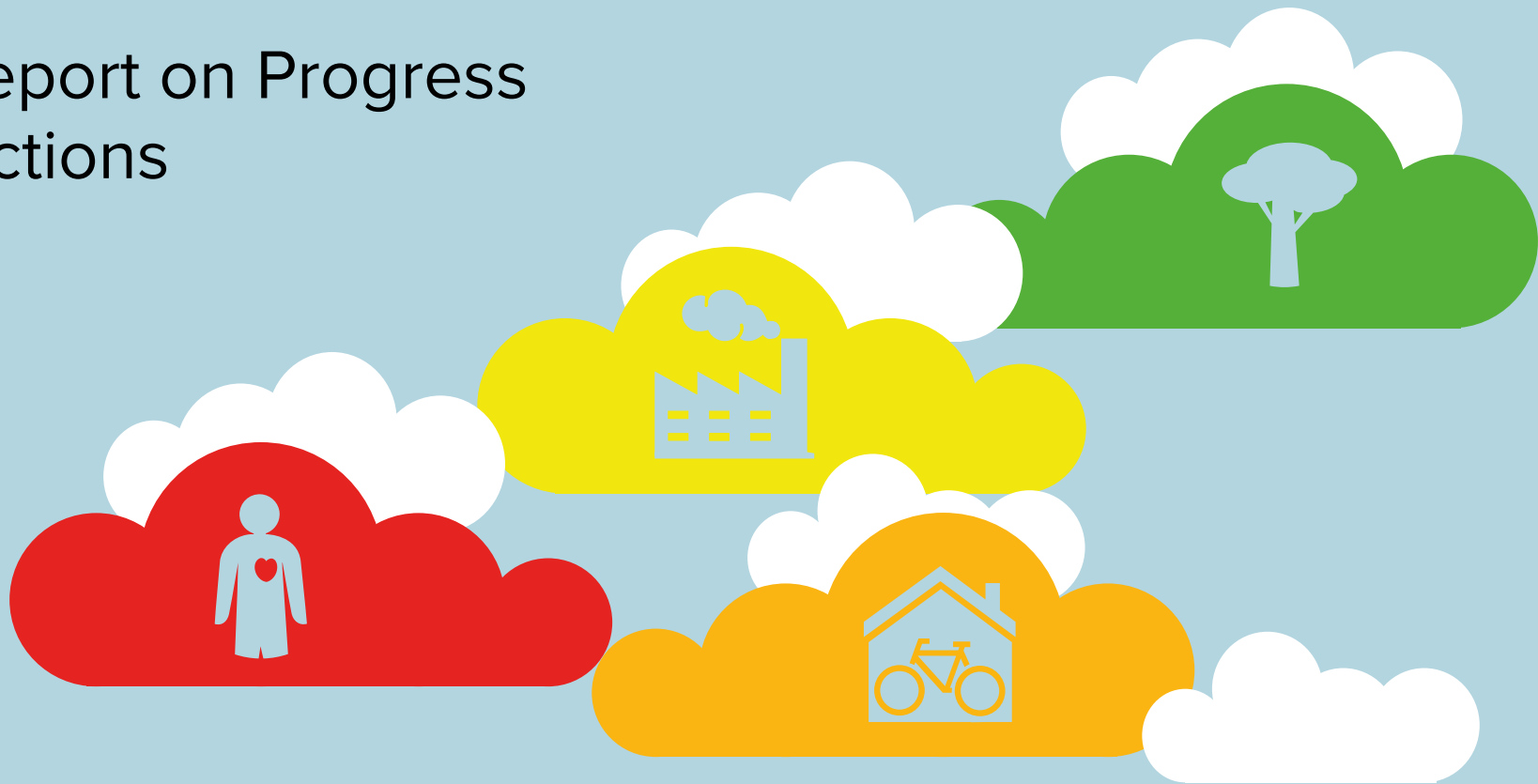


Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

The Clean Air Plan for Wales

Healthy Air, Healthy Wales

Update Report on Progress
Against Actions



September 2024

People

Protecting the health and well-being of current and future generations

Actions	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
Monitoring and Assessing Air Quality in Wales					
<p>We will enhance our monitoring and assessment capabilities to support targeted action on air pollution. We intend to implement a national air pollution monitoring and assessment service by December 2022. The service will support annual reporting on the state of air quality in Wales. In addition, it will make recommendations on interventions required to reduce air pollution and the harm it causes to public health and the environment. We are working in partnership with Natural Resources Wales, Local Authorities, Public Health Wales and other partners to design the framework for air quality monitoring, modelling, assessment and evaluation by autumn 2021.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 		<p>ON TRACK</p>	<p>The Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Act 2024 requires Welsh Ministers to monitor progress being made towards meeting any new targets being set. Arrangements for obtaining such data will be considered when deciding on the target and would require air quality monitoring and/or modelling be put in place. For PM_{2.5}, we expect monitoring arrangements to be considered in summer 2025. Future monitoring requirements for additional pollutants are subject to the development of the specific air quality target proposals, affordability and Ministerial consideration.</p>

Actions	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
New targets to reduce exposure to air pollution					
<p>We are working closely with the Clean Air Advisory Panel to receive independent and expert advice on the development of evidence-based and effective air quality targets for the benefit of current and future generations.</p>	●	●		ON TRACK	<p>The Clean Air Advisory Panel continues to provide evidence-based, independent advice which supports the Welsh Government in shaping future policies and legislation under our National Air Quality Strategy.</p> <p>The panel is currently transitioning to a formal, remunerated and fully independent Panel status. Professor Paul Lewis was appointed as Chair of the Clean Air Advisory Panel on 15 March 2024. Panel membership will be agreed by September 2024.</p>
<p>We will develop and enact a new target for fine particulate matter, taking account of the WHO guidelines on air quality. This will drive reductions in public exposure to air pollution as part of the development of a Clean Air Act for Wales and its regulations.</p>	●	●		ON TRACK	<p>The Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Act 2024 received Royal Assent in February 2024 and established an air quality target setting framework with a duty for Ministers to set a PM_{2.5} target by February 2027.</p> <p>We plan to develop evidenced target options by spring 2025 for consideration by relevant Cabinet Secretaries, as actions to deliver targets cover multiple portfolios. Following this, we expect to develop and hold a public consultation during autumn 2025 on these options. Responses to the consultation will be published in spring 2026, with a view to regulations being laid in the Senedd during autumn 2026.</p> <p>The Act also gave Ministers powers to make long-term air quality targets in respect of any matter relating to air quality in Wales.</p>

Actions	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
Managing air quality in the event of a pollution incident					
<p>Working with NRW, during 2020-2021, we will update air quality incident monitoring equipment and build on the existing services provided by the Air Quality Cell to ensure arrangements are in place to respond to air quality incidents 24/7, 365 days of the year, anywhere in Wales.</p>	●	●		COMPLETE	<p>The Welsh air quality incident monitoring service was established in February 2023. The service ensures two teams are on standby to respond to air quality incidents anywhere in Wales.</p> <p>The Welsh Government has invested just over £1 million for this service across a three-year period. This funding has enabled procurement of new air quality monitoring equipment and supports emergency arrangements in the event of any major air quality incident affecting Wales.</p>
Local Air Quality Management (LAQM)					
<p>We will introduce LAQM policy changes by 2023 to ensure the regime is public health focused and proactively finding and tackling areas of pollution.</p>	●	●		ON TRACK	<p>The Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Act 2024 was introduced in March 2023 and received Royal Assent in February 2024. It contains changes to the LAQM regime which will require local authorities to undertake a review of air quality annually and set compliance dates where an air quality management area is in place. It is hoped that introducing these as statutory measures will enable authorities to proactively tackle areas of pollution and ensure they are accountable for being proactive in their approach to improving air quality within their areas. We are in the process of developing guidance to support the legislative changes which will be brought into force in 2025.</p>

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					The Local Air Quality Management Support Fund was launched in 2021 to support authorities in proactive action on air quality within their areas, and to encourage innovation. The 2024-25 round was launched in May 2025 and allocations have been made to five local authorities.
We will consult on LAQM legislative intent in a White Paper by the end of this Senedd term.	●			COMPLETE	We published a White Paper on a Clean Air (Wales) Bill in 2021. We are in the process of implementing the Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Act which received Royal Assent in February 2024. It included a section on Local Air Quality Management. We are in the process of developing guidance to support the legislative changes which will be brought into force in 2025.
Designation of Clean Air Zones/Low Emission Zones					
We will publish our Clean Air Zone Framework in spring 2021, taking into account the findings of our review of road user charging which will report by autumn 2020.		●		DELAYED	We have delayed this action to allow for joint policy development of wider Road User Charging policy with Transport. Under our Wales Transport Strategy, Llwybr Newydd, there is a commitment to develop a wider strategy, or framework, for fair road user charging as part of a broader package of measures to improve travel choices. The timescale for this work, as set out in the National Transport Delivery Plan, is 2022-26.

Actions

	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
Smoke Control Areas (SCAs)					
We will amend existing Smoke Control regulations, through a Clean Air Act for Wales in the next Senedd term. This will ensure Local Authorities have the tools required to undertake effective enforcement against offenders.	●	●		ON TRACK	The Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Act received Royal Assent in February 2024. The Act includes changes to the smoke control regime. We are in the process of developing guidance to support the legislative changes which will be brought into force in 2025.
In 2021, we will investigate the contribution domestic bonfires and fireworks make to levels of PM _{2.5} emissions. We will work with other UK administrations to develop further regulatory and/or non-regulatory action, where it is needed in this, taking an approach which is sensitive to the cultural significance of these practices.		●		ON TRACK	A review of emissions from domestic bonfires and fireworks was undertaken by Welsh Government in 2021. Emissions from bonfires are being considered as we develop our broader policy on tackling emissions from domestic burning. Concentrations of harmful substances and airborne sound waves are both attributes of our local air environment, indoor and outdoor. Local air quality and airborne noise problems and their solutions are often closely interlinked. Welsh Ministers and officials engaged with the UK Government to press for tighter England and Wales regulations on fireworks in relation to their use and sale to the public. Welsh Ministers are keen to work constructively with any UK Government administration that is open to improving the laws governing the sale and use of fireworks in England and Wales.

Actions	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
					Further information on current Welsh Government policy around fireworks can be found in the Noise and Soundscapes Plan 2023-2028 . When considering fireworks use in Wales, policy consideration is given to their impact on PM _{2.5} emissions, local air quality and our intention to ensure that in future they are quieter and used at more predictable times, thus reducing the distress that loud fireworks cause to vulnerable people and animals.
We will shortly be consulting on domestic burning, and this will include consideration of whether outdoor solid fuel burning appliances and the fuels they use should be subject to regulation. We will develop necessary regulations during 2021.	●	●		COMPLETE	The outcome of the consultation on domestic burning of solid fuel, which ran from 13 January 2021 to 16 June 2021, was published in October 2023. We have committed to restrict the most polluting forms of domestic solid fuels.
Domestic Combustion					
We will prohibit the sale of wet wood and traditional/bituminous house coal, subject to consultation. We aim to introduce the necessary legislation in 2021, with bans commencing during 2023.	●	●		DELAYED	The Welsh Government has committed to restrict the most polluting forms of domestic solid fuels and these regulations are expected to be in force by autumn 2025.

Actions

	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
We will regulate to ensure only the most efficient appliances are available for purchase and installation by 2022. The regulation will include installation of second-hand appliances.	●	●		DELAYED	The outcome of the consultation on domestic burning of solid fuel, which ran from 13 January 2021 to 16 June 2021, was published in October 2023. The Welsh Government intends to develop an online list of authorised fuels and approved appliances which will be published in due course. EcoDesign standards apply to all new stoves sold from May 2022.
We will regulate to require annual maintenance of domestic burning appliances by a certified professional, subject to review. This review will be undertaken by 2023.		●		POLICY CHANGE	The outcome of the consultation on domestic burning of solid fuel, which ran from 13 January 2021 to 16 June 2021, was published in October 2023. The responses received did not support the requirement to have annual maintenance of domestic burning appliances performed by a certified professional, so the Welsh Government will not be taking forward this proposal.
We will work with industry and other governments to establish test standards for new manufactured solid fuels entering the market by 2024 to ensure they are compliant with appropriate regulations on smoke and sulphur emissions.		●		DELAYED	The outcome of the consultation on domestic burning of solid fuel, which ran from 13 January 2021 to 16 June 2021, was published in October 2023. The Welsh Government has committed to restrict the most polluting forms of domestic solid fuels throughout Wales and these regulations are expected to be in force by autumn 2025.

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Improving domestic energy efficiency					
We will investigate options to support households to ensure no-one slips into or remains in fuel poverty as a result of any prohibition on fuels or appliances, or an extension to the use of SCAs. We aim to have a scheme in place by 2022, before any transition period for use of prohibited solid fuels expires.		●		DELAYED	The outcome of the consultation on domestic burning of solid fuel, which ran from 13 January 2021 to 16 June 2021, was published in October 2023. The Welsh Government has committed to restrict the most polluting forms of domestic solid fuels throughout Wales and these regulations are expected to be in force by autumn 2025.
Indoor air pollution					
We will continue to work with academia, public health organisations and other partners to develop and respond to new evidence on indoor air pollution as it emerges.	●	●	●	ON TRACK	We have begun our consideration of the recently published recommendations of the Air Quality Expert Group on indoor air quality. We have commissioned a peer-review report on the link between wood-burning stoves and indoor air pollution. The report can be found here .

Actions

	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
We will raise people’s awareness of indoor air pollution through communication interventions, including ways to reduce exposure risks.	●	●	●	ON TRACK	In line with the “integration” way of working set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act, we have noted the inter-relationships between different aspects of indoor environmental quality (IEQ) affecting human health. The Noise and Soundscape Plan for Wales 2023-2028 , published in December 2023, noted: “The complex interaction between different indoor environmental health risks, including noise, extremes of temperature, excessive moisture and indoor air pollutants, must be recognised and solutions sought by everyone from architects and planning officers to the occupants themselves, their employers, and anyone else with a duty of care towards them.” We have begun working across departments and public bodies to develop this thinking further, to maximise benefits and minimise conflicts between our policies and our messaging on IEQ.
A Clean Air Act for Wales					
We will publish and consult on a White Paper on a Clean Air Act for Wales before the end of this Senedd Term.	●			COMPLETE	The Welsh Government consulted on the White Paper on a Clean Air (Wales) Bill between January and April 2021. Responses informed development of the Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Act which received Royal Assent in February 2024.

Actions	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
Communications and behaviour change					
<p>We will enhance the existing Air Quality in Wales website to develop a communications and information hub.</p> <p>The initial redesign will be complete by the end of 2021 and we will add and develop new features over the next five years.</p>	●	●		ON TRACK	<p>Work is underway to update the Air Quality in Wales website during the 2024-25 financial year.</p> <p>This will include making it easier to access local monitoring data and updated information on the impacts of air pollution and ways concentrations and exposure can be reduced.</p>
<p>Over the next five years, we will deliver national air quality communications and campaigns such as Clean Air Day.</p>	●	●		ON TRACK	<p>We have provided funding to Global Action Plan in support of Clean Air Night 2024 and Clean Air Day 2024. This funding has enabled the development of a bilingual Clean Air Day Wales page and education materials for schools and the public, which are available all year round.</p> <p>We continue to fund and seek opportunities to improve information on air quality through our Air Quality in Wales website and our Local Air Quality Management Support Fund.</p> <p>We are currently developing a promoting awareness of air pollution delivery plan, for publication by spring 2025. This will set out how we intend to promote awareness of air pollution and ways it can be limited or reduced over the following four years.</p>

Actions

	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
Over the next five years, we will work with local organisations to support delivery of local air quality initiatives.	●	●		ON TRACK	We are supporting local initiatives through our Local Air Quality Management Support Fund. The Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Act 2024 includes a duty on Welsh Ministers to promote awareness of air pollution impacts and mitigating actions. A promoting awareness of air pollution delivery plan is planned for publication in spring 2025.
Education and the new Curriculum for Wales					
We are working with education partners to promote and develop educational resources in support of the new curriculum in advance of its introduction from 2022. This includes developing opportunities which lead to greater understanding of air quality, pollutants, evidence and interpretation, and developing personal awareness and responsibility.	●	●		ON TRACK	We continue to work with environmental and farming organisations across Wales to ensure that high quality resources on tackling climate change are available for schools - including topics such as air quality and emissions. Our promoting awareness of air pollution delivery plan is likely to include some actions to promote awareness in educational settings. This is planned for publication in spring 2025.

Actions	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
Empowering workforces to improve air quality					
By 2022, we will produce new statutory guidance for the public, private and voluntary sectors to empower workforces to tackle air pollution, subject to consultation.	●	●		POLICY CHANGE	<p>Following feedback on the White Paper consultation, the Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Act 2024 now includes a duty on Welsh Ministers to promote awareness of air pollution impacts and mitigating actions. This is a broad provision that can include action relevant to workforces where appropriate.</p> <p>We are currently developing the promoting awareness of air pollution delivery plan which is planned for publication in spring 2025.</p>

Environment

Taking action to support our natural environment, ecosystems and biodiversity

Actions	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
Evaluating evidence to support policy					
A suite of indicators is under development to monitor the state of biodiversity in Wales. This includes the National Indicators under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, and an indicator for air quality. It is expected the majority of these indicators will be in place by the end of 2021.	●	●		DELAYED	The high-level Well-being of Future Generations Act indicators and milestone are in place. We have delayed developing the lower-level biodiversity indicator suite to align with the development of legally binding biodiversity targets and refresh of our Nature Recovery Action Plan as part of our response to the new Global Biodiversity Framework targets agreed at COP 16.

Actions	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
Improve biodiversity and ecosystem health to enhance resilience to air pollution and climate change impacts					
We will develop actions to reduce the impact of air pollution in the context of wider proposals highlighted in the Nature Recovery Action Plan.	●	●	●	ON TRACK	We are developing a Nature Networks map which identifies priority ecological networks and opportunities to buffer and connect our protected sites to improve the resilience and condition of these sites. Area statements are building the evidence to inform place-based actions to improve ecosystem resilience and the ecosystem services we get from our natural environment.
Supporting a Greener Wales					
Through our Local Places for Nature Programme, we will support communities to create ‘nature on your doorstep’, with a particular focus on urban and peri-urban areas.	●	●		ON TRACK	The Local Places for Nature Programme is in its fifth year and is successfully meeting all the measures under the Programme for Government commitment to creating Green Spaces. We have supported the creation or improvement of more than 2000 green spaces. The final year of the existing programme is set to be the most extensive year of delivery to date. Work is currently underway to look at the future for the programme post 2025.

Actions

	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
Intelligent tree and hedge planting supporting air quality improvements					
We will increase the amount of woodland by at least 2,000 hectares per year, rising to 4,000 hectares. This will deliver a range of ecosystem benefits, including the interception of air pollutants.	●	●	●	DELAYED	In 2022-23 we planted 1,190 hectares of new woodland, which was double the year before and the most for around 40 years. We have continued to build on the new woodland creation schemes launched in 2022 to make woodland creation more attractive to landowners and managers in Wales, including a substantial uplift in the payment rates for tree planting, fencing and maintenance of the trees, which had not been increased for several years.
We will deliver a National Forest for Wales, which includes new areas of community woodlands in urban and rural areas. These will help to reduce people's exposure to air pollution.	●	●	●	ON TRACK	The National Forest has begun to develop. There are currently over 100 individual National Forest sites helping to support, maintain and restore woodlands across Wales including some ancient woodlands. In time, the National Forest will form a connected network throughout Wales, continuing to create social, economic and environmental benefits.

Actions

	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
We will promote guidance and best practice to Local Authorities and urban planners to better design urban tree planting and plant species which maximise benefits by reducing people's exposure to air pollution.	●	●		ON TRACK	Natural Resources Wales (NRW) have updated their webpages to include those on urban trees, greenspace and green infrastructure assessments. These include links to guidance and best practice to provide a range of benefits including improved air quality. These NRW webpage links were included as footnote references in the update to Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales (PPW) edition 12 which was sent to all Heads of Planning in local authorities in October 2023 and later incorporated into the full PPW 12 update published in February 2024. Work is on-going to wider publicise the guidance available.

Actions	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
Agriculture and land use					
Information and advice					
<p>We will make sure Farming Connect continues to give farmers advice and support to ensure best available practices are adapted to lower ammonia emissions. This will include supporting farmers to make informed decisions as they apply for current and future support schemes, such as the Nutrient Management Investment and Small Grants – Efficiency Schemes, which support farmers to invest in infrastructure and technologies to achieve these reductions.</p>	●	●	●	COMPLETE	<p>A new £22.9m Farming Connect programme started on 1 April and is available for farmers in Wales until 31 March 2025. The themes for the new programme include sustainability and improved environmental performance. In year one of the Programme 94 e-learning modules were completed linking to the clean air action plan as well as 25 accredited training courses; 15 Strategic Awareness events were delivered, benefitting 173 individual businesses; plus 653 instances of 1:1 subsidised advice. In financial years 2022-23 and 2023-24 there were three applications windows for the Small Grants – Efficiency scheme, with a budget of £5m per window. There was also an application window for the Nutrient Management Investment (NMI), with a budget of £15m. The contracts for NMI are ongoing with investments to be completed by March 2025.</p> <p>The Code of Good Agricultural Practice guidance on reducing ammonia losses from agriculture in Wales is currently being updated and a revised version will be published by the end of September 2024.</p>

Actions	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
Sustainable farming scheme					
<p>In December 2020, we will consult further on proposals for a reformed regulatory framework and financial support scheme to support delivery of SLM outcomes through the Agriculture in Wales White Paper. SLM outcomes include air quality, which will be supported through actions on the land to improve soil and animal husbandry, habitat and nutrient management and tree planting.</p>	●	●		COMPLETE	<p>The Agriculture (Wales) Act became law in 2023. It established a framework of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) objectives to underpin agricultural support, including the Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS). The Act provides Welsh Ministers with the power to provide support (financial or otherwise) for or in connection with 15 purposes, including ‘Improving air quality’. Welsh Government published a consultation on the SFS which closed in March 2024. Welsh Ministers will not be making final scheme design decisions until further stakeholder work is undertaken. The SFS is now due to commence in 2026.</p>
Regulation					
<p>We intend to consult on a new Technical Advice Note, by the end of 2020. This will make sure planners know how to access the right advice to help prepare LDP policies and robustly determine planning applications.</p>	●			DELAYED	<p>The preparation of the TAN has been paused while work on planning guidance is undertaken to respond to excess phosphorus in riverine special areas of conservation. Consultation is now anticipated early in 2025.</p>

Actions

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We will introduce regulations to tackle agricultural pollution, which will contribute to achieving air quality targets including Wales' contribution to a 16% reduction of UK ammonia emissions by 2030.	●	●	●	COMPLETE	<p>The Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations came in to force on 1 April 2021. There will be transitional periods for some measures to 1 January 2023 and 1 August 2024.</p> <p>The four-year review of the Regulations has been initiated and is to be completed before April 2025. The review will consider the effectiveness of the Regulations to prevent or reduce agricultural pollution, which includes atmospheric emissions.</p>
In co-ordination with other UK administrations, a consultation on reducing emissions from manufactured fertilisers will take place before the end of 2020 to ensure Wales' contribution to a 16% reduction of UK ammonia emissions by 2030 is achieved.	●	●	●	DELAYED	<p>The Welsh Government has been monitoring developments on plans to reduce ammonia emissions from manufactured fertilisers across the UK and is considering its approach, in the context of the implications of international events on fertiliser supplies and costs.</p> <p>The Welsh Government is engaging with stakeholders on agricultural ammonia emissions through the Wales Land Management Forum Sub-group on Agricultural Pollution.</p> <p>This work will be considered as part of the four-year review of the Control of Agricultural Pollution Regulations.</p>

Prosperity

Working with industry to reduce emissions, supporting a cleaner and more prosperous Wales

Actions	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
Industrial Air Pollution					
<p>We will review process guidance for Small Waste Incineration Plant (SWIPs) and crematoria. This will bring them up to date to support more effective emissions controls at these sites.</p>		●		ON TRACK	<p>A public consultation exercise was undertaken on the draft Crematoria Guidance (PGN 5/12) from October to December 2023. The summary of responses is currently being prepared and it is intended that the finalised guidance be published immediately thereafter.</p>
<p>We will consider the evidence on emissions from small-scale combustion plant, including commercial biomass combustion plant. This includes combustion plant in the 500kW to 1MW thermal input range, where initial evidence suggests there is a regulatory gap. We will introduce new regulatory controls where evidence supports this.</p>		●		ON TRACK	<p>We intend to consult on a number of combustion related proposed changes to our Environmental Permitting Regulations during summer 2024.</p>

Actions	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
<p>We will consider the evidence on emissions from Specified Generators used for research, development and testing, introducing measures excluding them from the provisions of the environmental permitting regime if the evidence supports this. This would align them with the provisions which apply to Medium Combustion Plant used for research, development and testing purposes.</p>	●	●		ON TRACK	<p>This is being considered as part of a broader programme of work in relation to combustion activities, referred to above, which we plan to consult on later in 2024.</p>
<p>Best available techniques</p>					
<p>We will implement a new, domestic, process for developing and adopting BAT Conclusions. This will ensure pollution control techniques applied by industry in Wales, including those used to reduce emissions to air, continue to develop and improve according to best evidence from the EU and elsewhere.</p>	●	●		ON TRACK	<p>The Welsh, UK and Scottish Governments, and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), Northern Ireland, consulted jointly on proposals for 'A future regime within the UK' in 2021. A joint summary of responses was subsequently published in January 2022. This confirmed the first two tranches (four industrial sectors in Tranche 1 and five in Tranche 2) to be reviewed and updated under the new arrangements. Three of the four 'Tranche 1' sectors (related to ferrous metals forming and galvanising, and Textiles) have been completed through Technical engagement and will be subject to public consultation in the spring/summer 2024 once the review of Waste Gas Treatment in the chemicals sector has concluded.</p>

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Pollution in Port Talbot and the Swansea Valley					
We will undertake a review of our Short Term Action Plan (STAP) for Port Talbot in 2021 to ensure it remains effective and fit for purpose in its aim of minimising short term air pollution (PM10) episodes in the area.		●		DELAYED	We continue to work closely with partners to ensure short term air pollution episodes in the area are investigated and the mitigation procedures are put in place. Due to the announcement from TATA Steel regarding the closure of their blast furnaces in 2024, a review of the Short Term Action Plan will continue once future plans are available.

Actions	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
Resource Efficiency					
<p>We are determined to accelerate the transition from diesel powered waste and recycling vehicles to ultra-low emission powered vehicles (ULEVs). We recognise the contribution it can make to air quality alongside the fact Welsh Government and many Local Authorities have declared a Climate Emergency and resolved to be a net zero carbon user within ten years (2030).</p>	●	●	●	ON TRACK	<p>To date the Welsh Government has invested c.£10m of grant funding to secure 53 of the c.1,000 strong local authority heavy waste fleet vehicles as ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEV).</p> <p>Over half (13 out of the 22) local authorities have now started the journey to convert their fleets from diesel to ULEV.</p> <p>To help build support for the electrification of waste vehicles across Wales, any local authority benefitting from Welsh Government grant support is required to loan the vehicle to a minimum of two other Welsh local authorities for 30 days each during the first 18 months. Furthermore, to ensure that the benefits are fully realised, the requirements include a condition that the vehicles must replace an equivalent diesel vehicle. This ensures that there are clear carbon and air quality benefits.</p>

Actions

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We are working on a proposal for all new cars and light goods vehicles in the Public Sector fleet to be ultra-low emission by 2025 and where practicably possible, all heavy goods to be ultra-low emission by 2030.	●	●	●	ON TRACK	The Welsh Public sector has set an ambition to be collectively net zero by 2030 and make low carbon the default choice in everything we do. We have worked directly with public sector stakeholders and published a Routemap to support this ambition, together with the Emissions Reporting Guide , to ensure all organisations report in a common, consistent format. The Welsh Government Energy Service has provided funding, supply chain, technical and strategic support.

Place

Creating sustainable places through better planning, infrastructure and transport

Actions	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
Planning policy supporting air quality, noise and soundscape improvements					
<p>We will produce further planning guidance specifically on air quality, noise and soundscape for local planning authorities and developers in Wales, within this Senedd term.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 			<p>ON TRACK</p>	<p>Consultation on Technical Advice Note 11: Air Quality, Noise & Soundscape, took place between 21 October 2022 and 20 January 2023. Responses are currently undergoing analysis and publication of the final document is expected to follow by the end of 2024.</p> <p>Relevant content in the draft Technical Advice Note (e.g. Annex on the role of green infrastructure in air quality and soundscape management) has been incorporated in the Noise and Soundscape Plan 2023-2028 and so is now confirmed policy, and local planning authorities must have regard to it when exercising their functions.</p>

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The National Infrastructure Commission for Wales					
We will amend NICW’s remit so the commission looks for opportunities to safeguard and improve air quality.		●		ON TRACK	<p>The current remit letter, issued 7 April 2022, requires a focus on “[Making] our cities, towns and villages even better places in which to live and work.”</p> <p>The Commission has considered and commented on the Roads Review report, publishing an article on ‘Cars and Roads in Wales’ to their website in June 2023. The Commission reflected that road projects should go further than considering active travel but also health and well-being, noise and air pollution, benefits to nature, mitigating and reducing flood risk in whole catchments, and good design.</p> <p>The Commission further noted that air pollution arising from private vehicle use presents a health epidemic.</p>
Transport Emissions					
Wales Transport Strategy					
We will develop a new Wales Transport Strategy in 2020-21, which will set out our policy framework to achieve our decarbonisation targets and required air pollution reduction.	●	●		COMPLETE	We published Llwybr Newydd: the Wales Transport Strategy in 2021.

Actions	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
<p>Promoting the shift from the private motor vehicle to active travel and public transport</p>					
<p>We will continue to work with partners to achieve improved provision of public transport.</p>	●	●	●	ON TRACK	<p>Our National Transport Delivery Plan sets out how we will deliver against the priorities and ambitions within our Wales Transport Strategy. This includes delivery, over the next 5 years, of our ambitious plan for modal shift and improved provision of public transport.</p> <p>New electric trains have entered service on the Core Valley Lines during 2024, and we are continuing to increase capacity on some north-south services as more new trains are delivered. In March 2024, in partnership with Transport for Wales, we published a roadmap setting out the steps to achieving a new Welsh bus network. This includes exploring further opportunities to transition our bus fleet to zero tailpipe emissions</p>
<p>We will be issuing updated Delivery and Design Guidance, setting out planning and consultation approaches and requirements and the design specifications for walking and cycling infrastructure by autumn 2020.</p>	●			COMPLETE	<p>The Active Travel Act guidance GOV.WALES was published in 2021.</p>

Actions

	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
We will provide tools and training to support Local Authorities in effective planning and design of active travel infrastructure, as well as community engagement, by end of 2020.	●			COMPLETE	An Active Travel Mapping application was developed for DataMapWales in 2022 and all local authority Active Travel Network Maps have been developed and can be viewed on the system. The CommonPlace platform was provided for active travel engagement and consultation throughout the pandemic.
As part of the work to introduce default 20mph speed limits in built up areas, we will develop a monitoring and evaluation framework to track and assess impacts, including on air pollution.	●	●		ON TRACK	We published an interim report in March 2023 and a Phase 1 report in February 2024 containing monitoring data for the phase 1 areas up to the end of May 2023. A further Phase 1 report (Jacobs) was published in May 2024. This contains data and analysis up to April 2024.
Our Active Journeys Programme, which promotes walking and cycling to school, was refreshed in 2020 and is running until 2023. This is in close collaboration with over 400 schools over the next three years and provides curriculum resources and support available for all schools in Wales.	●	●		ON TRACK	The scheme has been re-procured for the next three years from 2024-25, subject to funding, with the possibility of extension for another year.

Actions

	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
We are funding cycle training for children and adults and child pedestrian training. In 2021, we will review how this training can be optimised to go beyond acquisition of skills to include behaviour change elements.	●	●		ON TRACK	We continue to fund cycle and pedestrian training and encourage local authorities to offer more adult and family training as well as inclusive cycle training, and continue to strengthen the links between road safety skills acquisition and travel behaviour change. In 2023-24 we awarded over £100,000 additional funding to widen the reach of cycle training to address skills gaps. This is complemented by behaviour change programmes such as Active Journeys, Living Streets' Walk to School Programme, and Momentwm in Newport.

Actions	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
Public Transport					
Bus and Taxi					
<p>We are developing a vision document, delivery plan and governance structures to progress the work of reforming the provision of Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles. This will include the key themes of how we achieve air quality improvements as well as the decarbonisation of the fleet to meet our bold aim for a zero exhaust emission taxi fleet by 2028.</p>	●	●		ON TRACK	<p>We published a White Paper in March 2023 on reforming the licensing regime through the Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles (Wales) Bill. A summary of responses was published in September 2023. The aim of our proposals is to make taxi and private hire vehicle provision in Wales safer, fairer and greener. At the heart of this will be the introduction of national standards to ensure consistency in approach across Wales. On 3 October 2023 the then Deputy Minister for Climate Change, Lee Waters MS, made an oral statement in which he committed to continued engagement with the trade and passengers in the development of legislation. The Deputy Minister also noted that Wales could not expect to move faster than the rest of the UK in its transition to zero emission vehicles. This followed the announcement by the UK Government to push back the end date for the sale of petrol/diesel engines to 2035.</p>

Actions	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
Rail					
<p>We will increase capacity through the delivery of new and innovative Metro systems. The South Wales Metro will bring about a step change in the integration and frequency of public transport services to offer a compelling alternative to car journeys by 2023.</p>	●	●	●	DELAYED	<p>There have been some delays to the transformation of the Core Valley Lines with the majority of works now due to be completed in 2024. The transformation of the Core Valley Lines continues to progress at pace, delivering brand new electric trains from summer 2024, along with more services and increased capacity from June 2024.</p>
Ultra-low emission vehicles					
<p>We are working with UK Government, Local Authorities, the energy sector and business to plan for and implement the roll out of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure. By investing £2M by 2020 we will help create a network of rapid charging points to enable longer distance travel by electric vehicles throughout Wales. We will consult on an Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy to inform wider investment in autumn 2020.</p>	●	●	●	COMPLETE	<p>We published the Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy and an associated action plan in 2021. We continue to invest in the provision of EV charging infrastructure to deliver on the commitments set out in the EV Charging Strategy and Action Plan.</p>

Actions

	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
We are working on a proposal for all new cars and light goods vehicles in the Public Sector fleet to be ultra-low emission by 2025 and where practicably possible, all heavy goods to be ultra-low emission by 2030.	●	●	●	ON TRACK	As part of the ambition for Welsh Public Sector to be collectively net zero by 2030, stakeholders are progressing action according to the published Routemap and over 70 organisations now voluntarily report their emissions annually to monitor this progress. The public sector ambition includes the requirement for all cars and light goods vehicles to be low emission by 2025 and heavy goods vehicles by 2030 where practically possible. This ambition is supported by Welsh Government via Energy Service grants for vehicles and charging infrastructure.
We will further examine the evidence base for strengthening anti-idling measures and will set out our proposals during 2020, in our Clean Air Act White Paper.	●	●		COMPLETE	Following the White Paper on a Clean Air (Wales) Bill in 2021, the Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Act was introduced into the Senedd in March 2023 containing proposals for tackling vehicle idling. The subsequent Act received Royal Assent on 14 February 2024. We will consult in 2024 on regulations setting a penalty range for the offence of stationary engine idling, increasing the deterrence effect of enforcement through the potential for higher penalties. We have also been developing a national awareness raising and behaviour change communications campaign and will be supporting local authorities with guidance on implementing anti-idling strategies. We expect to consult on our proposals in 2024.

Actions	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
Tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations in Wales					
We will publish an updated NO ₂ Plan (Welsh Government supplemental plan to the UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations 2017) by November 2020.	●	●		DELAYED	The process of finalising the NO ₂ update plan has been delayed while further assessment is made of more recently identified exceedance locations on the trunk road network. WeITAG Stage 2 reports for the additional two exceedance areas have been finalised and Stage 3 assessment is underway. Publication is now expected during autumn 2024 as part of a consultation on mitigations at the newer exceedance locations.
We will publish annual data, each March, on levels of emissions concentrations at the locations of exceedance on the Welsh Government Managed Road Network.	●	●	●	DELAYED	An annual release was not published for the 2022 calendar year as it was intended to include this within a consultation on an update to our Air Quality Plan. However, the intended update, as noted against the above action, was delayed. It was therefore decided, instead, to publish a report detailing air quality data for both the 2022 and 2023 calendar years in a single, combined, document. This is expected to be released in 2024.