



# Climate Ready Gwent

Following the devastating wildfires and floods experienced in Gwent over the last few years it became clear that for Climate Action to be successful, it would require new and innovative ways of working. The Climate Ready Gwent network, a collection of Public Services Boards in Gwent overseen by Natural Resources Wales, has been sharing good practice and working together to help tackle climate change. Working collaboratively the network has provided 220 individuals with carbon literacy training, helped facilitate the Blaenau Gwent Climate Assembly where members can vote on recommendations for public service organisations' climate action, and have delivered 62 Electric Vehicle charging points across Gwent.

# Contributes towards:

## A Prosperous Wales by:

- Increase of green skills
- Realisation of benefits to a circular economy
- EV charging infrastructure to shift towards low carbon society



## A Globally Responsible Wales:

- Leading the way with low carbon green economies in Wales
- Ensuring socially acceptable allocation of greenhouse gas reduction responsibilities within Wales



## A Healthier Wales:

- Protecting and reconnecting with the natural environment to improve mental and physical well-being



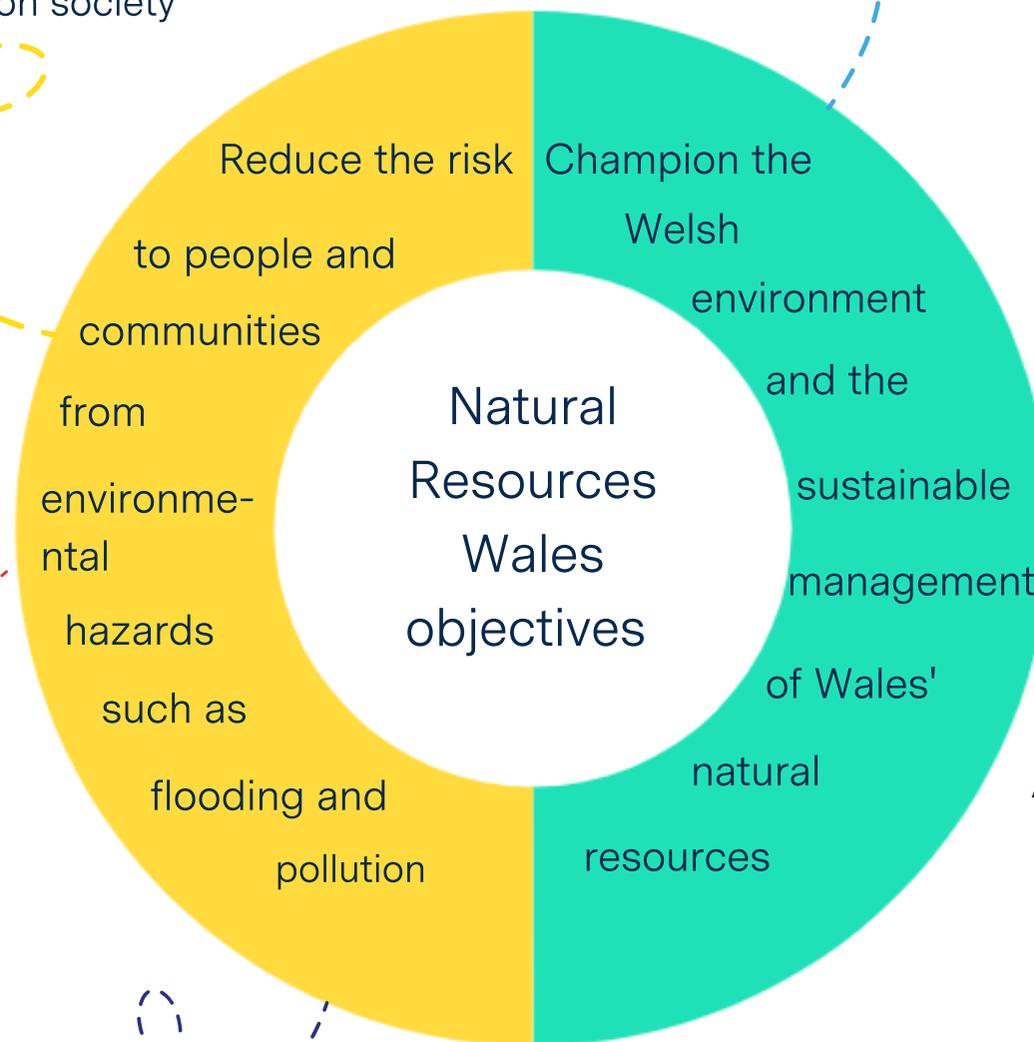
## A Resilient Wales:

- Increasing green skills in the public sector in the Gwent area
- Reduced carbon emissions can help protect biodiversity



## A Wales of Cohesive Communities:

- Ensuring voices are heard and deepening understanding around the risks of climate change to communities



## The Future Generations Commissioner's advice:

- This work aligns well with many of the steps in the [Journey to a Resilient Wales](#).
- The Future Generations Report 2020 recommends that public bodies and organisations develop a knowledge of nature and increase awareness of the importance of a bio-diverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems, and prepare people with skills fit for the future.
- Feedback to Natural Resources Wales from the Commissioner's monitoring of progress:
  - "We would encourage NRW to show leadership in mapping and advocating the type of skills that will be needed in the future to support and improve ecological resilience"
  - "We would encourage you to develop a role, where you are presenting opportunities to improve ecological resilience with partners - not just merely responding to requests".



# Vision of success



**The health of our ecosystems are maintained and, where necessary, enhanced**



**Natural resources are utilised at sustainable levels**



**Fair and equitable distribution of benefits from nature and natural resources**



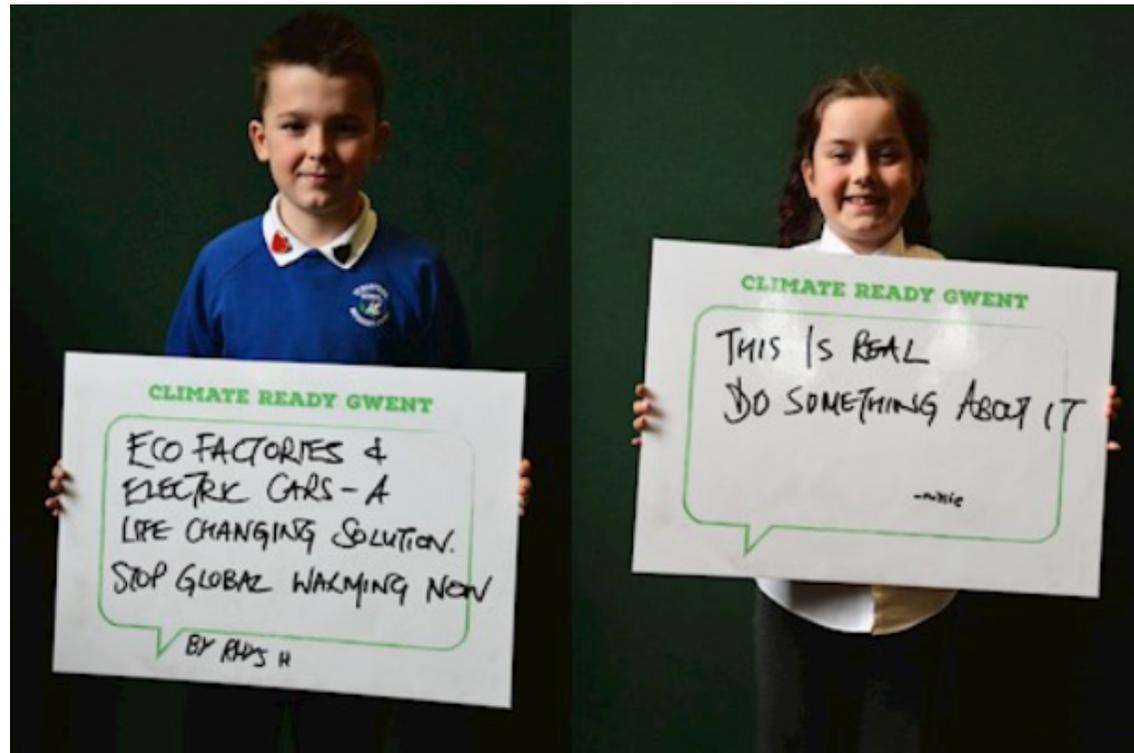
**Using our natural environment to support our well-being**



# Climate Ready Gwent: Collaboration

# 75

Attendees at  
the November  
2020 workshop



# 220

Carbon literacy  
accredited  
individuals

**Climate Ready Gwent's  
only agenda is to work  
together, better, and see  
what can happen.**

**Conversation and  
collaboration are key to  
affecting real change.**

**County Councils**

**Housing Associations**

**Fire and Rescue Services**

**University Health Boards**

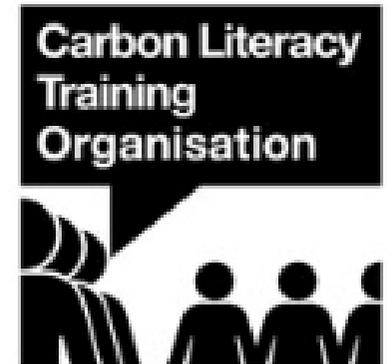
**Police Services**



# Examples

## Carbon literacy training

- Between February and March 2021, 220 individuals across the Gwent Public Sector, including Chief Execs and Elected Members, received training
- Designed a Gwent Specific Carbon Literacy training course with hope of rolling this out further through a “train the trainer” programme
- A number of cross border initiatives and pledges have emerged, through participant conversation which Climate Ready Gwent will continue to support.



- Delivered training including:
  - **Climate Action leaders** - a course designed specifically for elected members, executive officers and high-level managers;
  - **Climate Action Champions** - a course designed for officers who are leading lights within their own organisations and are keen to see climate action embedded within their own work and that of others;
  - **Climate Action Catalysts** - a course designed to support operational colleagues who hold or manage assets or service portfolios where action must be accelerated to help us reach our net zero ambitions by the 2030 deadline.



## Examples

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### Blaenau Gwent Climate Assembly

- 47 members that vote on recommendations for what public service organisations, communities, and individuals can do to address the climate crisis
- Main themes:
  - Housing
  - Nature / Green Space
  - Transport
- [Main sessions](#) all took place during March 2021
  - Lead Experts present information to provide context for discussions
- Initiated by the work of Steve Cranston of United Welsh, who galvanised support for the project during Climate Ready Gwent workshops, the climate assembly provides a platform for collaboration and conversation on a topic requiring long-term preventative solutions



**Cynulliad Hinsawdd  
Climate Assembly**



## Examples

### EV Infrastructure

- Delivered in partnership between the five Gwent local authorities: Caerphilly County Borough Council, Torfaen County Borough Council, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Newport City Council and Monmouthshire County Council.
- 62 new dual electric vehicle 22kw fast charging units have been installed at thirty-four sites across Gwent, now operational.
- A grant of £465,000 was provided for the project from the UK Government's Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV), with match funding provided by each local authority.
- Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales both contributed funding towards a feasibility study to support development of the project.



# Approach

## Challenge

Climate Action: Changing the ways we work together to prepare for a different future by achieving net zero and building resilience.

## Prevention

- Building resilience within Gwent to ensure a proactive response to the climate crisis.
- Providing climate literacy training to ensure all policy, strategy and delivery is preventive rather than reactive.

➤ **Prosperous, More Equal and Globally Responsible Wales**

## Collaboration

- Facilitates collaboration and conversation between different organisations and policy makers across Gwent.
- Collective bid for funding with 5 PSBs to ensure maximum output for EV charging infrastructure.

➤ **A Resilient and More Equal Wales of Cohesive Communities**

## What next?

- Increase the collective understanding of climate change risks and opportunities across Gwent and the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Build the capacity of organisations and individuals to allow them to adapt to the impacts of climate change and effectively decarbonise.
- Improve community resilience by improving health and resilience of our ecosystems.

## Long Term

- Working together to identify opportunities to adapt to the biggest long-term challenge future generations face.
- Improving resilience and increasing green skills for people and places in the Gwent region.

➤ **Prosperous, Resilient and Wales of Cohesive Communities**

## Involvement

- Engaging with individuals, residents and communities through the 'Adapting to Climate Change: From Lived Experience to Strategic Action project'.

➤ **More Equal and Wales of Cohesive Communities**

## Integration

- Looking holistically at many Local Authorities' well-being objectives to allow Climate Ready Gwent to maximise cross-cutting potential of projects and tailor work to meet numerous objectives at once.

➤ **Potentially contributing to all well-being goals through objectives**

