



# Addressing the climate and nature emergencies

What the Future Generations Report 2020 means for Welsh Government







# A vision for Wales and future generations



By 2050 Wales will have achieved its target of reducing emissions to net-zero, while contributing to all national well-being goals.

Our future generations will be living in a world where they don't have to fear their future; a low-carbon society that consumes within its means, has net-zero emissions, and is not contributing to climate impacts globally.

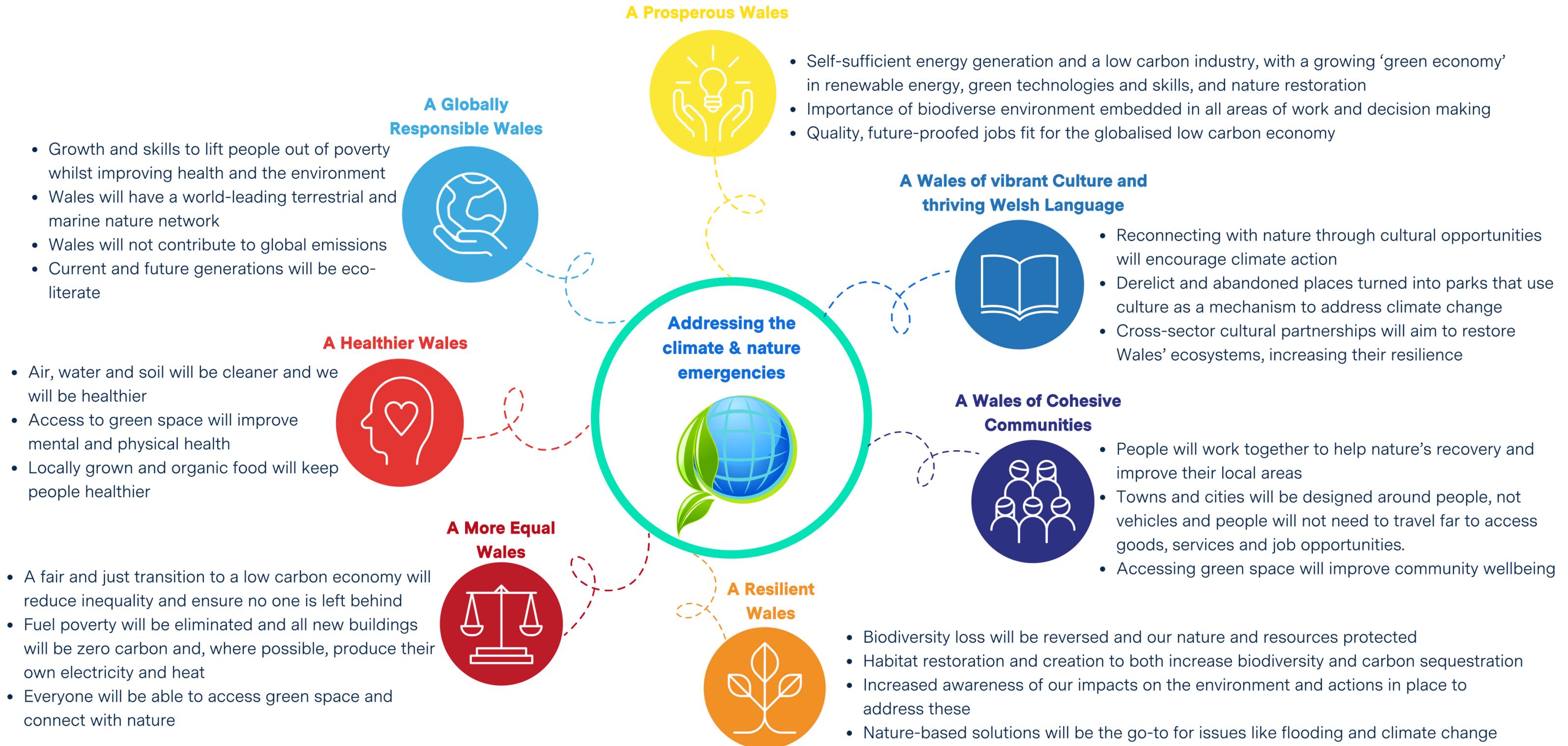
We will have reversed the decline of our biodiverse natural environment, developed a better awareness of our impacts as individuals and organisations and our future generations will be ecologically resilient, with healthy ecosystems, that support community well-being.

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Sections on [Decarbonisation](#) and [A Resilient Wales](#),  
Future Generations Report 2020



# How can this vision contribute to the 7 well-being goals?



# A Green & Just Recovery

The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed deep structural inequalities in our economy and society including wage poverty, health inequalities, racial disparities, food poverty, job insecurity and imbalances in quality of housing. At the same time climate and ecological breakdown is escalating, and we risk exacerbating all of these challenges if we go back to the way things were.

**Wales' recovery from the pandemic is an opportunity to enact change and build back better, that's why I have created a 5 point plan towards a green and just Covid-19 recovery for Wales:**

1

Invest in skills and training to support the transition to a better future, creating new greener jobs.



2

Invest in nature and prioritise funding and support for large-scale habitat and wildlife restoration, creation and connectivity throughout Wales – including for natural flood defences, to implement the new national forest, and to ensure land use management and agriculture supports secure local food chains and distribution.



3

Invest in better ways to connect and move people through improving digital connectivity, active travel and public transport.



4

Invest in the industries and technologies of the future, and support for businesses that will help Wales to lead the low carbon revolution and lock wealth and jobs into local areas with investment in the foundational economy.



5

Develop an economic stimulus package that leads to job creation and supports the decarbonisation of homes, through building new low carbon affordable housing and investing in a national programme to improve the energy efficiency of existing homes.



## A National Nature Service

The National Nature Service is a framework to rapidly establish new and future focused opportunities around skills, jobs and the restoration of Wales' natural environment, whilst also better aligning the existing mechanisms in place.

I have recommended that Welsh Government seek to deliver a National Nature Service to respond to the nature and climate emergencies and help address the economic and social (justice) fallout of the pandemic. It would do this by upskilling and expanding the workforce with good quality livelihoods in a sector shown to have significant job creation potential as part of a green and just recovery.

# What can you do to contribute to this vision?



Main recommendations to Welsh Government:

**Welsh Government should commit to large-scale habitat restoration, creation and connectivity throughout Wales, which includes setting statutory targets for nature recovery and specific species recovery measures to help prevent extinction; they should set out a long term investment plan of how they will fund the climate emergency and support more ambitious commitments and targets for sectors within their control.**

## Welsh Government should also:

- Set standards to ensure people can access natural green space within 300 metres of their home.
- Restore forests and peatland and encourage more sustainable land-use to protect nature. Work with public bodies to deliver 20% tree canopy cover in every town and city in Wales by 2030.
- Develop a food system strategy for Wales.
- Ensure a transition to sustainable land management, as proposed in ‘Sustainable Farming and our land’, while ensuring Wales’ farmers have the resilience they need to thrive.
- Fully implementing the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive in Wales and prohibit the use of pesticides by public bodies.
- Assess opportunities for biodiverse green infrastructure across all policies and departments.
- Resource and prioritise carbon and eco-literacy training for all politicians, elected members and senior officers of public bodies
- Implement accessible, longer-term funding programmes to restore the natural environment.
- Ensure the natural environment is incorporated into all economic and political decision-making.
- Create a vision and plan to ensure Wales becomes the most eco-literate country in the world.
- Assess the carbon impact of their spend, especially capital spend, and also publish details on the overall carbon impact of their budget and major investment/infrastructure decisions.



\*These are the only the recommendations most relevant to the work of you and your team. There are more recommendations contained in the Sections on [A Resilient Wales](#) and [Decarbonisation](#) of the Future Generations report, which you might wish to look at.

# What can you do to contribute to this vision?



## (Continued) Welsh Government should also:

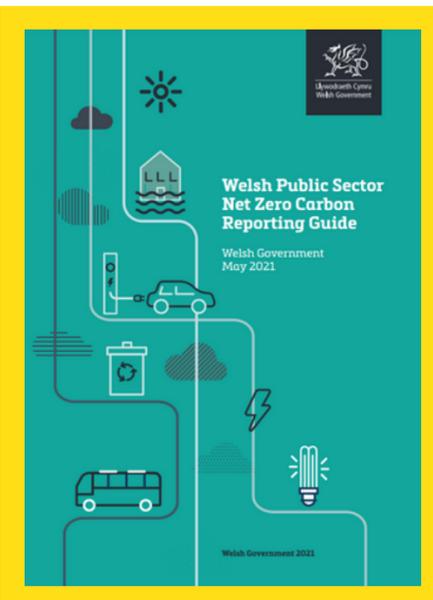
- Work in collaboration with our office to ensure there is guidance and effective accountability mechanism on the reporting of the Section 6 duty and the well-being goal of a Resilient Wales.
- Complete and protect the protected site network.
- Analyse the provision of and access to nature by socio-economic disadvantage.
- Build upon the successes of Wales for Africa and Plant, that demonstrate Wales' commitment to being globally responsible.
- Raise public awareness about the impact of consumption on climate and nature, and promote sustainable community and individual action.
- Ensure all policy officials understand and implement the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, State of Natural Resources Reports, Natural Resources Policy and Planning Policy Wales.
- Increase investment in nature-based solutions. Ensure the new “National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management” provides a comprehensive and holistic plan with adequate funding focussed on prevention.
- Aim to increase spending year on year in line with the recommendations of the UK Committee on Climate Change and as set out in my [10-point plan on the climate and nature emergency](#).
- Require all publicly funded buildings to be carbon neutral.
- Put in place a long-term investment plan to fund the decarbonisation of homes.
- Continue to promote and incentivise local renewable energy schemes.
- Establish a Climate Justice Advisory group to involve relevant stakeholders in decisions on how Wales' transition is providing funding and support for the delivery of sustainable and active travel.
- Ensure that all decisions, including pension fund investments, are compatible with the climate emergency.
- Ensure support and sufficient capacity to achieve a carbon neutral public sector by 2030.
- Consider how you can require zero waste construction through procurement processes.



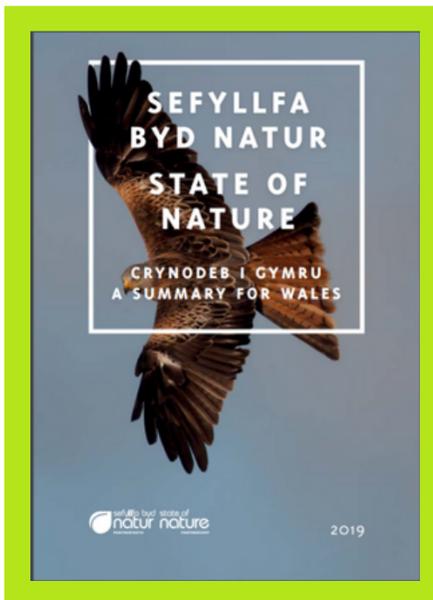
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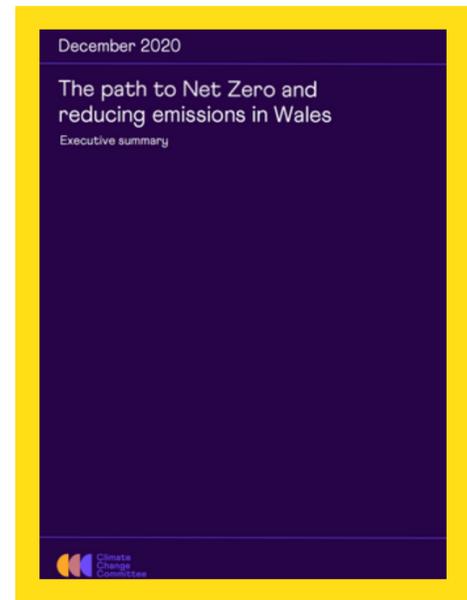
# Useful resources and tools, which can help you follow these recommendations:



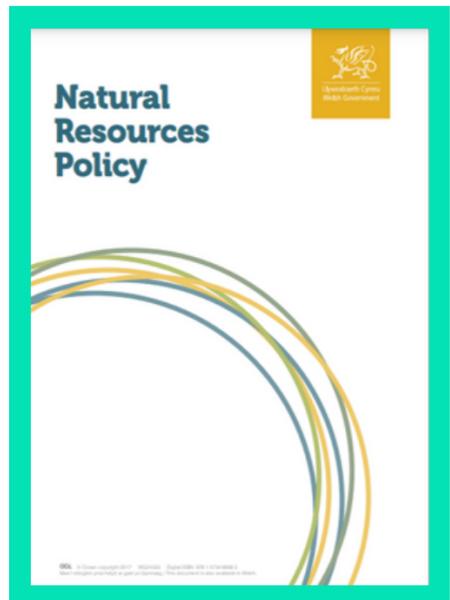
A once in five years report, setting out the Commissioner's assessment of progress made in implementing the Act within the reporting period.



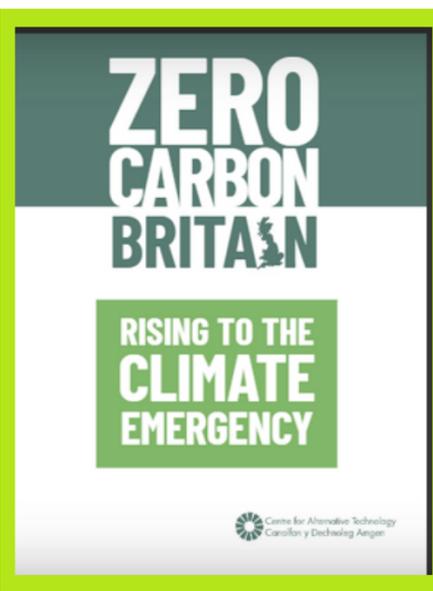
The RSPB 'State of Nature' 2019 Report provides a summary of wildlife in Wales and key findings from their research



In December 2020, the UK Committee on Climate Change produced two reports with advice to ministers on Wales' climate targets between now and 2050, and an assessment progress on reducing emissions to date.



Welsh Government outline their 3 priorities for managing natural resources and what they will do to support them.



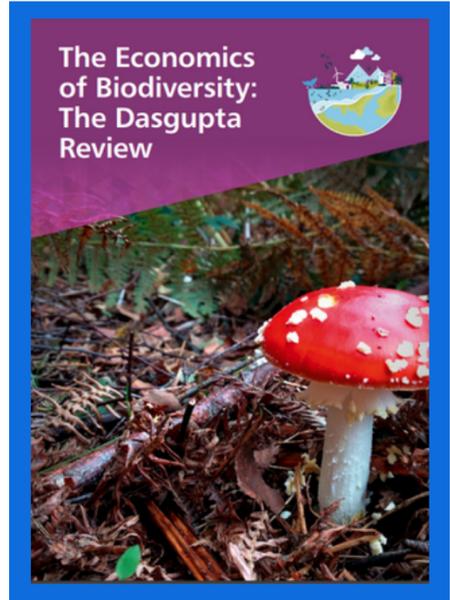
Zero Carbon Britain: Rising to the Climate Emergency explores how we can achieve what is necessary. The scenario describes one possible future end point, in which the UK has risen to the challenges of the 21st century.



IPCC & IPBES participated in a four-day virtual workshop to examine the synergies and trade-offs between biodiversity protection and climate change mitigation and adaptation. This report details the findings and outcomes of the workshop.



NRW's 'Second State of Natural Resources Report 2020' looks at Wales' sustainability management of natural resources and the impact Wales has on the World. You may also wish to look at NRW's [Area Statements](#).



This is an independent, global review on the Economics of Biodiversity commissioned by HM Treasury. The report calls for changes in how we think, act and measure economic success to protect and enhance our prosperity and the natural world.

# Useful contacts to support you with following these recommendations:

