



Future Generations October Newsletter



Foreword

We are at Code Red for Humanity.

November sees the 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) take place in Glasgow and I will be heading there with a very clear message: climate change is already causing irreversible damage – now is the time to act and to act without delay.

As Commissioner I represent a Wales which boldly and unapologetically strives to be a Globally Responsible Nation - as per one of the Well-being of Future Generations Act's well-being goals.

It is also within my role to advise public institutions and others on the practical steps it can take to achieve this.

Building on policy commitments to be a Nation of Sanctuary, and Wales' world-leading recycling levels, COP26 is the opportunity to share Wales' achievements in applying the Well-being of Future Generations Act, drawing on activity across Wales.

We want to share what Wales is doing loud and proud in the hope that others will be inspired and join our Movement for Change.

I want the voices of our country to echo wide and am fully supportive of efforts by organisations such as Climate Cymru who are aiming to take 10,000 voices from Wales to the summit to tell leaders just how much we care about the nature and climate emergencies.

I hope my voice as Commissioner resonates in highlighting just what can be achieved when a country puts sustainability and long-term thinking at the heart of what it does.

*Among what we are calling for at the summit is that **every country in the world needs future generations governance and institutions** to limit the impact of the climate and nature emergencies.*

We all have a duty to protect future generations from the harm they'll suffer without action. This is my call to countries, institutions, policy makers and businesses at COP26.

OUR CALLS TO ACTION:

- Every country should have a Future Generations approach to government to protect people not born yet from the impacts of the climate and nature emergencies.
- Solving the climate and nature emergencies will create stronger communities, meaningful jobs, restore our natural environment and create a legacy of better physical and mental health.
- Welsh Government and public bodies must, by law, use the Well-being of Future Generations Act to improve Wales' well-being as a whole as we race to net zero, using well-being economics on all investment decisions.

Indeed, there is much to be done, as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has recently warned that the world is currently not on track to limit global warming to 1.5oC; in fact the report has been called "code red for humanity" with evidence that human activity is changing the climate in unprecedented and sometimes irreversible ways with warming potentially reaching well above 3 degrees by the end of the century.

This puts pressure on global leaders, and everyone involved, to push for ambitious action that keeps the 1.5oC target within reach and make this the decade of delivery.

The lives and livelihoods of current generations of everyone in Wales, and the planet, are at stake – not to mention the prospects for future generations to survive and thrive.

The WFG Act says that, by law, the way we get to net zero has to improve well-being as a whole and I hope other countries can take inspiration from our small nation and ensure that well-being economics underpin all investment decisions, improving both local and global well-being.

We know that climate change already has a bigger impact on the most vulnerable in society and so we must seek to solve the climate and nature emergencies in a way which addresses this disadvantage.

With the right policy interventions and investment, decarbonisation can create stronger communities, meaningful jobs and a legacy of better physical and mental health as well as restoring our natural environment.

As guardian of future generations, I feel it is essential that the voices of young people are front and centre at COP26.

Not only have young people contributed least to the causes of the climate and nature emergencies, but it is their futures, and the futures of generations yet to be born, that are going to be most affected.

A recent global study of more than 10,000 young people across 10 countries found that 45% of global youth are affected by “climate anxiety and distress” with 75% of respondents believing “the future is frightening”.

At this summit I’ll be working with partners to amplify the voices of young people, supporting MockCOP events and highlighting the Manifesto asks from the Youth Climate Ambassadors.

We owe it to younger generations both now and in decades to come to give them a future full of hope and not fear.

Sophie Howe

Future Generations Commissioner for Wales



Movement for Change

Over the last few months, we have been trialling a new way of working with public bodies which has allocated a dedicated point of contact for each of the 44 public bodies (outside of Welsh Government) covered by the Act.

Members of our team have been speaking to staff in public bodies across Wales about their implementation of the Act. These positive conversations are providing insight into the growing movement of change across Wales and, also, the remaining challenges of implementing this ground-breaking legislation.

As a result of these conversations, we've also collected numerous examples of good practice and inspiring work already happening in Wales which we are keen to highlight.

We hope this new approach will help to build stronger links between our team and the organisations covered by the Act as well as building a movement of change and improving well-being for the people of Wales.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

The Vale of Glamorgan Council's Transport Services department is working to promote the health benefits of active travel and are encouraging their residents to walk, cycle and scoot by working with partners to develop a range of healthy and low carbon travel options.

As part of this work, they've been working closely with Sustrans to combat issues around congestion and parking on Dryden Road, Penarth, where Fairfield Primary School is located.

For years there have been issues on this road and surrounding streets and some of the problems identified were:

- Too many cars around the school entrance
- Increased traffic in the school vicinity around school hours
- Inappropriate parking when pupils are being picked up/dropped off
- Amount and perceived speed of traffic in the school vicinity



In September 2020 the Council commissioned Sustrans Cymru to deliver a Community Street Design to encourage and facilitate active travel to school by combining infrastructure improvements and behaviour change to create a safer environment; making the route more attractive for active travel and to ensure the health and safety of parents, pupils, the school and residents.

Their brief was to work with residents and involve them in re-designing a safer street suitable for active travel while also raising awareness of the benefits of active travel and creating a whole school culture that can be sustained over time. Sustrans were also asked to provide the Council with a future model for creating safer routes to other schools, ensuring the project had long-term impacts across the county.

Some of the objectives of the scheme are to:

- increase the number of active journeys being undertaken by 25% within one year of scheme completion
- reduce the number of cars along Dryden Road by 30% within one year of completion
- improve people's perception of the safety of the route and to encourage walking and cycling as the preferred means of travel to all areas within Penarth, but particularly to the school
- reduce CO2 emissions
- encourage the level of fitness for the whole community and reduce the risk of accidents throughout
- establish safe walking and cycling routes to school and other facilities

"The scheme they've been working on is very unique and will be a real positive in encouraging pupils to walk, cycle and scoot to school. Improving active travel infrastructure and making the area around

the schoolsafe for pupils will benefit all in the area. Feedback has been really positive, and I am hopeful this scheme will be mirrored throughout the Vale of Glamorgan in years to come.”

Kyle Phillips, Group Manager Transport Services



1 - Sustrans Cymru



2 - Sustrans Cymru

They're also working to achieve and use the five ways of working throughout the scheme through:

Long-term: Instilling active behaviour into pupils from a young age, improving the community's long-term health and reducing carbon emissions.

Prevention: Improving on previous projects and ideas that have already been implemented and haven't been successful (including Keep Clear markings and guard rails) through meeting the Active Travel Design Guidance and ensuring better infrastructure now and for the future while also working with Local Authorities to become an Active School and instil healthy and active habits in the community.

Integration: Working with the Police, the Community, the school and the public in relation to addressing road safety concerns and understanding the contribution of everyday physical activity to health and the environmental benefits of low carbon active travel.

Collaboration: Working closely with Sustrans Cymru, schools, various council departments, local councillors and residents of the community to create design concepts and discuss the scheme and local issues.

Involvement: Held numerous workshops with students, school staff, parents, residents and members of the community alongside a consultation and close communication with local councillors.

You can find more information on the scheme and its development on the Sustrans website [here](#) and the Vale of Glamorgan Council website [here](#).

Ysbyty Gwynedd's Green Group

In 2019, doctors, nurses and health professionals at Ysbyty Gwynedd joined together to form a Green Group, seeking to relocate their oath to 'do no harm' within the context of planetary health and create a supportive platform for discussion and action around sustainability; where members could share and develop knowledge, cultivate skills, and envision local sustainability projects at the hospital and beyond.

Now, with more than 80 members, Ysbyty Gwynedd Green Group is organised according to three working groups (Learn, Connect and Transform) where they aim to reduce the hospital's impact on climate change and to promote the delivery of environmentally sustainable healthcare.

Connect: connect staff with the wider climate and health movement and its leading organisations, use position as trusted members of the community to raise the profile of climate change and the loss of biodiversity as pressing health issues, and engage staff and patients to become part of the solution.

Learn: cultivate knowledge through educational events, training, webinars and directly up-skilling colleagues, integrate sustainable health care into post-graduate and undergraduate curriculum.

Transform: transforming working practice at the hospital and leading sustainability projects in the wider community. Key areas identified by staff for action were clinical, waste, energy, transport, food and biodiversity.



Inspired by the Bevan Commission's Prudent Healthcare Principles, Ysbyty Gwynedd Green Group also have Six Principles for Planetary Health which include:

1. Collaboration - Working in equal partnership with patients and the public.
2. Leadership - Leading by example and empowering patients to take a greater role in managing their own health while appreciating there is no perfect model and that it is all our imperfect efforts to be more sustainable which is the key to transforming our services.
3. Mitigation - Streamlining care systems to minimise wasteful activity. Prioritising treatment and technologies with a lower environmental impact and decarbonising health care by 2030.
4. Resilience - Preparing for the impacts of extreme weather and the shifting burden of disease.
5. Regeneration - Protecting the source of human health-nature. Measuring success holistically in terms of health and well-being.
6. Justice - Promoting health and preventing disease by tackling the causes of illness and inequality, including racial, gender, socio-economic and intergenerational inequalities. Balancing short term needs with long term needs and acting in a way that is globally responsible.

They're currently developing a climate-smart clinical network of Green Groups across Wales and are working to create a pack of resources and a 'green group template' that could act as a blueprint for others seeking to establish Green Groups or improve sustainability in their own healthcare practice.

On the 11th November, they're holding a workshop on 'How to establish your very own Green Group' to provide those interested with all the information needed to set up a Green Group. Open to anyone working in healthcare, the workshop is inviting everyone to get involved and learn more about how their work can help tackle the climate emergency. Find out more about the workshop [here](#).





Ahead of COP26, Ysbyty Gwynedd Green Group and Green Health Wales have also been working to get Welsh health workers' voices heard through:

- contributing to World Health Organisation's COP26 Special Report on Climate Change and Health which outlines the global health communities' priorities for the COP26 climate negotiations and highlights how integrating health and equity into climate policy gives the opportunity to protect people's health.
- signing the Healthy Climate Open Letter to national leaders and COP26 country delegations, calling for real action to address the climate crisis.

For more information on how Ysbyty Gwynedd's Green Group is using the vision of the Act to achieve a healthier and more resilient Wales, read our case study '[Making connections to improve environmental sustainability at Ysbyty Gwynedd](#)'.

Black History Month

Throughout October we've celebrated Black History Month #ProudToBe with stories from Black people across Wales on the lessons Black history can teach us about the future.

As part of this, we've worked with Emma Evans to tell the story of:

- Phillip Henry, community educator, artist, beekeeper and founder of The Honeycomb Cooperative.
- Jessica Dunrod, author, translator, and education and inclusion consultant and believed to be the first Black children's author born in Wales.
- Vernesta Cyril OBE, honoured midwife, founder of South East Wales Race Equality Council, patron of Black History Wales and spokesperson for a new Windrush Cymru exhibition.

You can read their full stories on our [website](#) but here are some snippets.

[Phillip Henry](#) - People of the Caribbean have a deep history with agriculture that is often overlooked.

"I've always had a love for nature, and I gravitated towards it. Nature taught me what society wasn't willing to.

People of the Caribbean have a deep history with agriculture that is often overlooked. Re-connecting with my roots and culture, the Windrush generation before me, meant returning to nature.

I'm a volunteer caretaker of land in Penarth and Cwmgors. I'm also the founder of The Honeycomb Cooperative, (soon to be rebranded as TigerBay Honeycomb Cooperative) based in Cardiff. We are a Pan-African and Welsh non-profit organisation of apiarists who strive for a healthy, bee-friendly future.

I want to celebrate Black people's history with and connection to agriculture and nature and provide more opportunities for Welsh BAME people to develop sustainable life skills and green enterprises."



[Jessica Dunrod](#) - **There is so much Black history that people just don't know – it's time to start learning.**

"I started writing children's books during the pandemic.

"It is believed that I am the first Black children's author born in Wales, and I feel it's so important to have children's books available in Welsh.

When I was growing up, I didn't see Welsh language books, and that's what inspired me to create the AwDuron Fund which aims to fund the translation costs of 10 children's books written by Black British authors into Welsh.

I'm very proud to be Black and Welsh. It's important to me. Everything I do is about acknowledging Wales because we're such a minority culture. Black History was part of my upbringing. I had it

instilled in me from my family –who we were, where we are from – a legacy of strength and resilience.

Generally, I wish we would learn more about the heroes of African culture and celebrate their civilisations before the Europeans interrupted with their legacy of slavery."

[Vernesta Cyril OBE](#) - I felt that if we sit and watch the television and shout when we see injustice, it doesn't help anyone. If you go out and put your head above the parapet, then a little change makes things better for people.

"I've always had a thing about people, so I was always going to do nursing or teaching. Nursing was my forte, and I always had this thing about wanting to delve into midwifery. I was told that if I was to go to the UK, my nursing and experience was better than me doing it in the Caribbean.

It was an adventure for me, coming to the UK, I didn't think twice, but the experience in the beginning was quite harsh. Being, sometimes in an all-white hospital or an all-white ward, there was hostility at times, and it made you feel as though you didn't know anything or couldn't do anything.

There's a saying, that when you're Black, you have to work harder to be acknowledged. I left no stone unturned, and looking back I feel that I gave it my all and I gave it my best, and no matter what they tried to do, I always bounced back like a tennis ball."





Wales to the World - the World to Wales

Inspiring Wales' future leaders

We are delighted to say that next month we will be welcoming the latest cohort of our [Future Generations Leadership Academy](#).

Run in partnership with UpRising and Academi Wales, the programme involves engaging with leaders from Wales and around the world and sees participants learn how to design their own approach to applying the Act to their work, sector, or community.

Following a successful pilot in 2019-2020, the second cohort of the Academy will begin in November and will run until June 2022 with 60-80 hours of training delivered. 12 partners have signed up and we anticipate having 30 participants, representing every corner of Wales.

The first cohort of the Academy have formed an Alumni network which meets regularly with members of our team and who have joined events, both in Wales and at a global level, to promote the Act and advocate for the interests of future generations.





Wales' relationship with Ireland

On [Friday 22nd October](#), the First Minister welcomed Simon Coveney ([Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ireland](#)) and an Irish delegation for the inaugural Ireland-Wales Ministerial forum to strengthen our connections in trade, economy, energy, and climate action. This forum was an opportunity for Irish and Welsh Ministers to review the progress of their joint action plan signed in March 2021.

Following the Ministerial forum, the delegation attended a lunch in the National Museum, Cardiff and were joined by the Commissioner and three young leaders from our Leadership Academy – Emily-Rose Jenkins, Dan Tram and Najma Hashi – whose talks focused on how we could collaboratively promote and facilitate a future generations approach. Following this, Minister Coveney expressed his commitment to working together with Wales, as friends and partners, and would like to transfer the concept of legislating to ensure the well-being of future generations across the Irish Sea.





3 - Matt Horwood

Our latest work and resources

- **We're recruiting – work with us!**

Are you a Welsh speaker with a passion for detail and supporting others? **You could be our next Team Support Administrator!**

Are you a passionate and self-motivated person who can articulate difficult concepts into easily understandable communications products? **You might be interested in our Impact Communications Creator position!**

We value difference and operate a Guaranteed Interview Scheme.

Find out more about the roles on our website:

- [Team Support Administrator](#)
- [Impact Communications Creator](#) - closing date is Friday 29 October 2021



WE ARE
RECRUITING

find out more on our website:

futuregenerations.wales/careers

- **39 Ways to Save the Planet**

The Commissioner recently took part in the BBC Radio 4 podcast '39 Ways to Save the Planet' where they discussed the Happiness Index and debated whether we need new ways to judge the success of a national economy. Listen to the full episode here: <https://bbc.in/30koZad>.



Contact Us

Want to catch up on previous issues of the newsletter? You can find them on our website [here](#).

For more information get in contact here:

futuregenerations.wales / futuregenerations2020.wales

contactus@futuregenerations.wales

@futuregencymru

Please note the office is currently closed and the best way to contact us is via our email address above.

