



Comisiynydd
**Cenedlaethau'r
Dyfodol**
Cymru

**Future
Generations**
Commissioner
for Wales

Future Generations

Commissioner for Wales

Performance Report 2021-2022

Summary

Acting today,
for a better tomorrow.



Foreword

Sophie Howe

Future Generations Commissioner for Wales



My vision for Wales is one connected by trees. Where paths are paved from Amlwch to Aberdare, Rhyl to Rossili, not by roads but by a continuous stream of deciduous woodland lit by dark sky stars. A Wales where we eat the fruits of the land, and our children have full bellies and warm hearts. A Wales where we are guided at night not by cats' eyes but by the eyes of hedgehogs and deer. A Wales where you hear hoots instead of horns, smell pine instead of pollution and the Welsh language rings above the crashing waves. A Wales where we count smiles instead of coins and recognise and act on our shortcomings in creating a Wales that truly serves everyone. A Wales where we grow trees instead of cutting them down in far-away lands and open our arms to our brothers and sisters around the World who need a home. A Wales where we work and learn in our green spaces and welcome all to enjoy our culture and share the earth beneath our feet.

This vision has been with me from the beginning of my term as the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, and that has not changed as I transition into my final year as the guardian of those not yet born.

What has changed, is the number of people who are part of this vision. Over the last few years, there have been many people passionate about future generations but have found their passion blocked by institutions refusing to change. Now, we are in a position with less frustrated champions and the well-being goals are seeping into our DNA.

This year we have also made progress with organisations outside of the public bodies. Businesses have redefined what sustainable development and well-being means for the private sector by embedding well-being in the everyday decisions they make. We are yet to convince everyone that we have found the path to true happiness for all, but the movement for change is undeniable, and the voices of the people are proving powerful.



As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic and a second year of unprecedented disruption and increased inequalities, we have a new sense of togetherness and an appetite to move forwards rather than revert to the status quo. Through struggle and hardships, we found innovation and pursued collaboration beyond what I have seen before. And I believe the different approach we have taken here in Wales through the Well-being of Future Generations Act - one of partnership and collaboration, one of citizens involvement and one of considering wider well-being - has been a significant factor in the different and more effective approaches we took during the pandemic. We worked together on Test Trace and Protect, on taking a 'no one left behind' approach to almost eliminating homelessness and on procuring essential equipment with the aim of delivering broader social value.

While we know the pandemic also exposed long-term policy failings, for example in tackling the wider detriments of health, and has left us with huge challenges to face we must be focused on feeding the appetite and fuelling those who are hungry for real change in order to meet the challenges and seize the opportunities that face us.

One of the biggest challenges is the threat to our planet and to our well-being. We continue to be in a 'code red' situation for humanity and we are running out of time to prevent irreversible harm.

We have eight years left to save the planet. The Welsh Government's new Climate Ministry is demonstrating that the Government is upping its game considerably on tackling the climate emergency. But they are playing catch up. Despite the very strong commitment, brave decisions, and the shift in policy and resourcing decisions, based on current commitments, the UK Climate Change Committee has advised that we are not going to meet our 2030 targets and Wales is currently not on track to meet an 80% emissions reduction target by 2050, let alone net-zero.

And the picture is more worrying in other public bodies. Nearly every part of Wales has declared a variation of a climate or nature emergency, which is welcomed, but this is only a gesture when 80% of our public bodies do not have decarbonisation plans in place. This tells me that we simply aren't moving fast enough. We have the tools, and we have the drive, now we need an acceleration in action to ensure the new clear direction from the Government is implemented on the ground.

This means divesting in fossil fuels, reshaping how and when we travel, rewilding our lands, and fighting inequality at every turn. Because it is not just our planet that is hurting, but our people too.

We are seeing the effects of our inaction, and a lack of preventative and long-term thinking.

The cost of living remains a challenge that is likely to get worse. But the cost-of-living crisis is no black-swan event. It has been strongly predicted, and it was preventable. If we had been more purposeful and braver in our investment into renewable energy and retrofitting our homes, then it is likely that we wouldn't be seeing the same cost of living crisis as we are now; we'd have less people worried about heating their homes and putting food on the table.

This needs to be a stark reminder that the decisions we make (or do not make) have a direct effect on the lives of our communities and the health of our planet. It is also a reminder that we need to act now to prevent issues arising from the changing nature of work. We know that many of the jobs we have today won't be needed in the future as we transition to a green, technology-led economy, but we cannot leave people behind in the transition. We risk exaggerating current inequalities due to the skills gap and gender gap in future-fit jobs.

As our population gets older, we also know there will be an extra care burden, most of which will fall on women in our communities. So, we must look to the well-being goals and ways of working to create connected solutions which meet our targets. That means understanding the health and environmental benefits of energy efficient homes and procurement, reducing the cost of transport and tackling the cost-of-living crisis, all while upskilling our workforce and directing resources at young people, women and people of colour, disabled people and those furthest from the job market. We know there may be job losses and hard times ahead, and so we must continue to support our communities with a universal basic income and shorter working weeks which could create thousands of jobs.



The Well-Being of Future Generations Act has turned what we know on its head, and has asked us to change regulations, change policy frameworks and change how we award funding. For so long, we have been rewarded for operating on the short-term and grown up with quick fixes to our problems. It would be naïve to think this could all change overnight when it is so ingrained in our culture. But we have had seven years of the Act now. There is no excuse for inaction.

Moving forward, we have to fight against the status quo and challenge our learnt norms of how the World should run. This will be uncomfortable at times, but what is more uncomfortable are the predictions for the future of our planet.

I, for one, prefer my own prediction for the future of our planet - one that is equal, prosperous, connected, healthy, resilient, thriving with culture, and is truly globally responsible.

Sophie Howe
 Future Generations Commissioner for Wales
 13 July 2022



Summary of impact in 2021-22

1. Influenced the new Programme for Government:

- In May 2021, I published [A Fit for the Future Programme for Government](#) and [commented](#) on the new Government's well-being statement and objectives.
- 51% of the commitments in the Programme for Government were aligned to my recommendations on issues such as housing, skills, nature, transport, food, recycling and the Welsh language.

A Future Fit Programme for Government

Welsh Government should...

- 1 Invest in green jobs for the future
- 2 Take action on gender and race gaps in green industries
- 3 Support and increase the caring workforce
- 4 Set out a long term investment plan to decarbonise Welsh homes
- 5 Create a National Nature Service
- 6 Harness the power of culture to build back creatively

What happened as a result?

- In Wales, food waste from 22 local authorities is sent to one of five anaerobic digestion plants around the country and converted into 7 MW of energy, enough to power around 12,000 homes.

2. Shaped national policy:

- **Advised on and influenced the new [national transport strategy](#) and [Roads Review](#)** – aiming to take us towards modal shift and reducing emissions in transport.

What happened as a result?

- 55 road schemes halted.
- Reduced spending on roads from two thirds to one third of the Welsh Government budget.
- Increase from [5 million to 75 million](#) investment in active travel from 2016-2021.
- Welsh Government pushing for [£8.1bn](#) investment in green infrastructure by 2025.
- Wales has a commitment to ensuring that at least 45% of journeys are made using sustainable modes of transport by 2040.



- **Produced a clear [plan](#) on how the housing retrofit challenge could be funded.** Two Senedd Committees have used this evidence on the decarbonisation of housing to make recommendations to the Welsh Government.

What happened as a result?

- Welsh Government committed an additional £150m to retrofit social homes with new technologies and insulation to help curb Wales' emissions.
- A ban on fossil fuels to heat newly built social homes, with ambitions for the private sector to follow suit by 2025.
- A commitment to building 20,000 low carbon social homes for rent over the next five years.
- All [new school and college buildings](#), major refurbishment and extension projects will be required to meet Net Zero Carbon targets from January 1 2022.

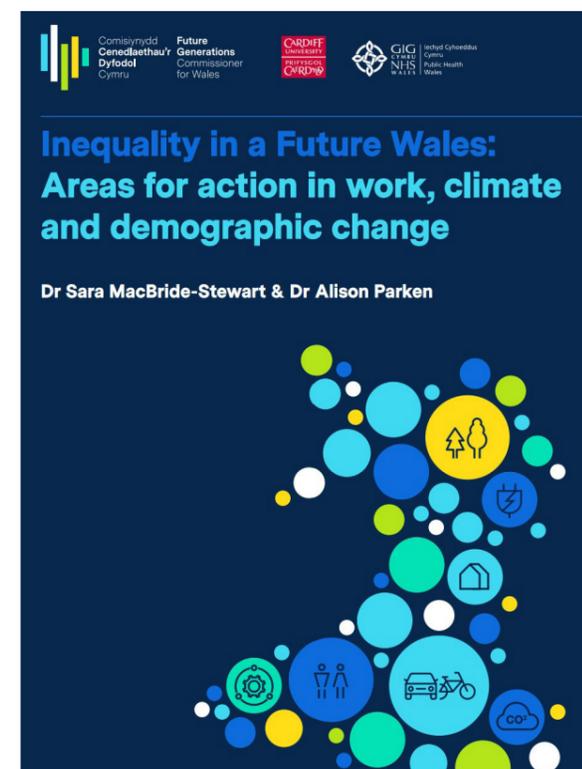


- **Influenced policy and budgetary decisions on the Welsh Government' [Net Zero Plan](#).** The new budget included increased spend on climate change. My advice and challenge have contributed to the declaration of a nature emergency in Wales, new decarbonisation targets, and the establishment of a new Climate Ministry.

What happened as a result?

- The Welsh Government budget provided a specific package of £140m of capital funding to help combat the climate emergency. In 2021-22 on top of maintaining the majority of this funding in departmental baselines, nearly £80m was allocated in additional capital to deliver interventions that promote decarbonisation and further enhance biodiversity, alongside an additional £17m of revenue funding.

- Along with others, I called for the review of **GCSEs in Wales**, reflecting our challenge that the examination system needs to be redesigned in line with the Well-being of Future Generations Act and long-term trends.
- **Influenced the new [Economic Resilience and Reconstruction Mission](#)** which is now centred on a well-being economy.
- **Published new evidence outlining how future trends are affecting [inequalities](#) in Wales**, undertaken in partnership with Public Health Wales and Cardiff University.
- **Provided statutory responses to the well-being indicators and milestones published by Welsh Government.** It has never been more important to understand the World around us and the projected world of tomorrow.
- **Produced the first comprehensive [evidence base](#) in Wales for how a Universal Basic Income could eliminate poverty and help us to reach our well-being goals.** This informed the Welsh Government's commitment to pilot a basic income for care-leavers.



What happened as a result?

- Wales will now pilot a £1600 per month basic income for care leavers starting 1st July 2022.
- My report commissioned through leading think-tank Autonomy, includes a poll showing that 69% of people in Wales would support trialling a universal basic income. This commitment to basic income by Welsh Government is incredibly significant - it's a huge moment for the campaign, which I've been proud to be a part of.



3. Secured changes in how public bodies and others implement the Act:

- Implemented recommendations from the Senedd's Public Accounts Committee by establishing points of contact for every public body covered by the Act.

“ Sport Wales has found the support, resources and advice from the team to be invaluable. ”

“ Our relationship with the Commissioner's office is excellent. I think they're hugely knowledgeable, very enthusiastic and supportive. ”

Velindre NHS Trust

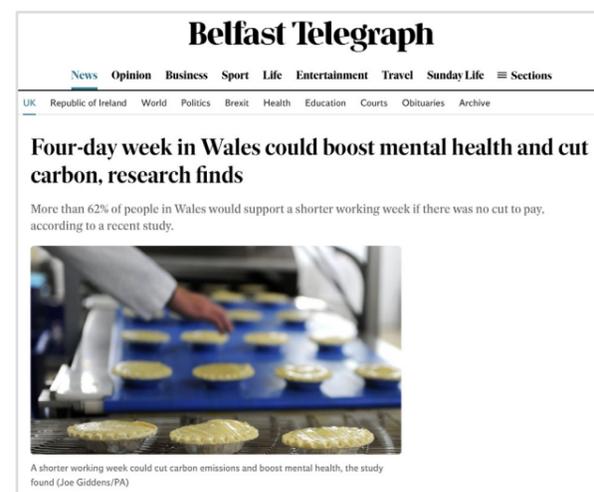
What happened as a result?

- Increased engagement and advice from my team helped to bring about changes in how public bodies tackle procurement, health, housing, food systems, adverse childhood experiences, decarbonisation, social value, community engagement and measurement frameworks.

“ We had a lot of involvement and practical support... They were willing to travel up to North Wales to give us additional information, presentations, support on how to embed the tools. ”

Anglesey Council

- Produced evidence to show the well-being benefits of a **Shorter Working Week**, making a series of recommendations of how it could be trialled in Wales and also trialling it in my own office. The report was widely covered in the media and generated huge public interest.



- Advised public services boards on their draft well-being assessments, which brought about practical changes in how they use futures thinking techniques to understand long-term trends like climate and demographic change.
- Worked closely with the Auditor General for Wales on areas of joint interest.



- Personally carried out hundreds of engagements where I provided advice to leaders and front-line staff.
- Followed-up the recommendations in my [Section 20 Review on procurement](#) published in February 2021. Raised awareness and challenged public bodies (including Government) regarding how procurement is still failing to deliver on net zero targets.

What happened as a result?

- Analysis of 65 Sell 2 Wales contracts from 20 public bodies in 2022 shows that there doesn't appear to be any requirements to reduce carbon emissions, despite many of these bodies declaring a 'climate emergency'.



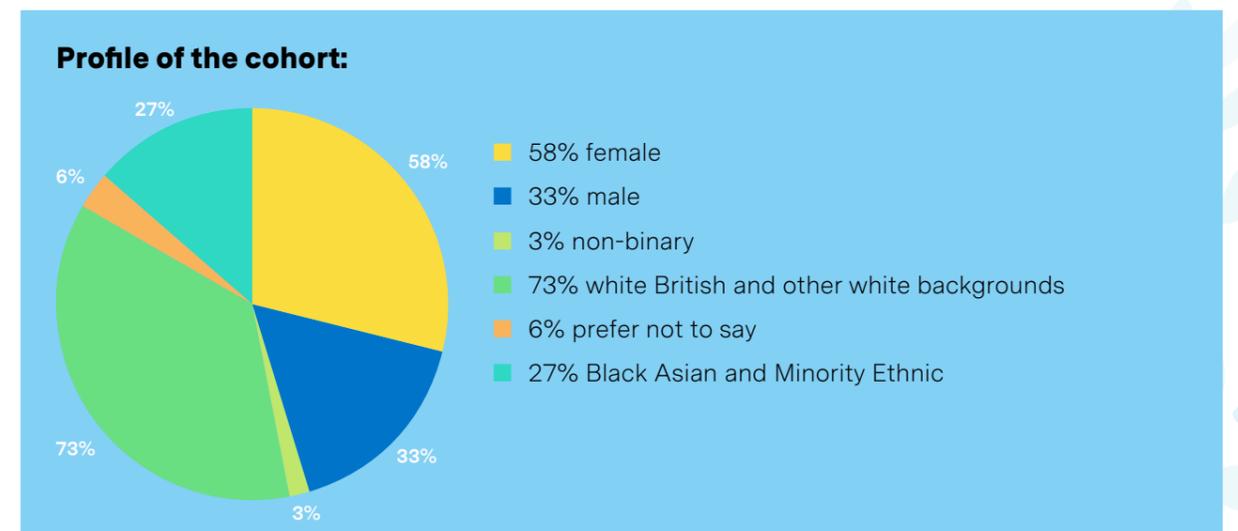
- Launched a statutory Review into how the machinery of Welsh Government is carrying out sustainable development. The intention is to secure procedural changes that safeguard the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Leadership from the Welsh Government is particularly important because they are a major public body covered by the Act and because whether or not they demonstrate the principles of the Act has a significant impact on what other public bodies do.

4. Launched a second cohort of my Future Generations Leadership Academy:

- Recruited 32 new young future leaders from the public, private and voluntary sector to my Future Generations Leadership Academy, training them in leadership to implement the Act.



Engineers, feminists, marine biologists, artists, students, graduates, retail workers, environmentalists, civil servants, lawyers and many more, make up this latest cohort of diverse Welsh participants.



- **Over 30 CEOs** (including Noel Mooney - Chief Executive of the Football Association of Wales; Dr Andrew Goodall - Welsh Government Permanent Secretary; Sarah Rees - Head of Oxfam Cymru; and Shavanah Taj - General Secretary of Wales TUC) **signed up to be reversed mentored by our young leaders.**
- **Created an alumni network for the Academy Graduates** to help them join public body advisory boards or public speaking engagements at a global level, including Ireland-Wales Inter-ministerial forum, COP26, and the United Nations Youth Environment Assembly.



Credit: Matt Horwood

5. A proud ambassador for Wales in the World:

- **Succeeded in my advocacy to the United Nations Secretary-General to adopt a future generations approach** including a UN declaration for Future Generations, the creation of a [UN special Envoy for Future Generations](#) and a UN Summit for the Future.
- **Raised the profile of Wales and the Well-being of Future Generations Act** including at COP26, One Young World and the World Expo Summit, and shared learning across the World including in Germany, the European Parliament and at the UN.

Jacob Dafydd Ellis @JacobDEllis

ANNOUNCEMENT 🗣️ 🇬🇧 🇨🇪 🇨🇦

"What Wales is doing today - the world will do tomorrow!"

[@antonioгутerres](#) intends to establish a [@UN](#) Special Envoy for Future Generations and Summit of the Future!

We've been supporting and advising UN leadership on this and today is a proud day!

Lee Waters MS and 8 others

- **Ensured the voices of young people in Wales were heard at the COP26 Climate Summit.** Three members of my Leadership Academy participated in COP26 events, raising Wales' profile in the world and the need for even further action to get to net zero.



“The whole concept of future leaders and indeed legislating to ensure the well-being of future generations is something I would like to transfer directly across the Irish Sea.”

Simon Coveney, Irish Foreign Minister

- **Supported the development and progress of future generations legislation** with the UK Parliament, the Scottish Government and the Government and civil society in Ireland amongst others, to make the case for legislation in these countries.

“Our vision for a UN Special Envoy for Future Generations is inspired by the progress being made in some countries, including Wales, which demonstrates that it is possible to legislate and take action to put the interest of future generations at the heart of government.”

Jayathma Wickramanayake, United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth





Credit: Matt Horwood

- **The Scottish government confirmed a new commission is on the way in their Programme for Government.** The First Minister of the Scottish Government, Nicola Sturgeon MSP, said that Ministers in Scotland *“will consider a new approach to ensuring the interests of future generations are taken into account in decisions made today, through a future generations commission”*.
- **Advised national, regional and city governments, and civil society groups on creating future generations governance systems** in France, Italy, the Netherlands and Australia. This has led to the development of a range of national coalitions and government commitments including pledges from councillors in the Netherlands to act in the interest of Future Generations, and a campaign for a Future Generations Act in Italy.
- **Collaborated with the [United Nations Foundation](#) and the [Foundation for Tomorrow](#) to support youth leaders from across the world to learn about and promote future generations governance.**



What happened as a result?

- Over 800 young leaders applied to this training programme through UN partners, 80% were from the global south. Youth leaders taking part in the training provided input into a message called the 'Contract for the Future' to be presented at the [UN Stockholm+50 Earth Summit](#).

6. Raised awareness and promoted the sustainable development principle

- **Achieved 200 pieces of media coverage from all over the world and significantly increased our social media profile.**



- **Involved more people, networks and organisations to highlight different views, perspectives and experiences within our work** – being part of a movement for change across Wales to build the Wales we want.
- **Secured commitments relating to the implementation of the Act and the work of my office** as a consequence of appearing before six Senedd committees. I've seen my evidence reflected in their recommendations, particularly the [Public Accounts Committee inquiry](#) into the implementation of the Well-being of Future Generations Act.
- **Provided training on the Act** to the Equality and Social Justice Committee and to the Members Research Unit which is recorded and now shared within the Senedd.

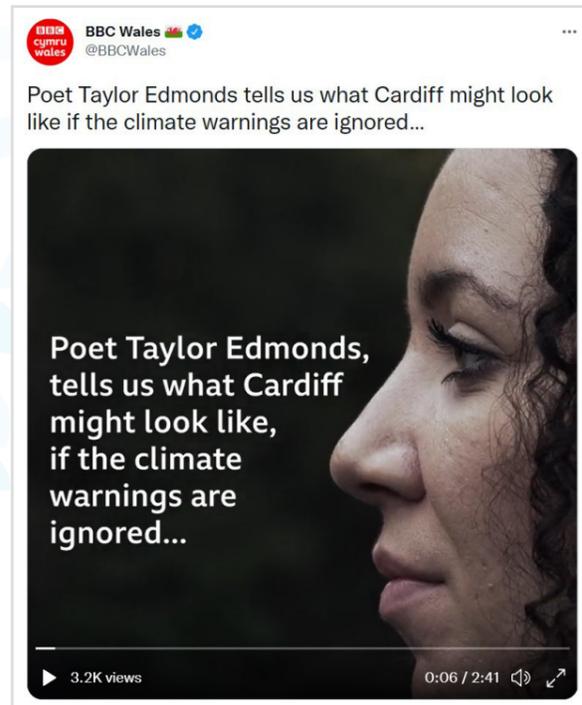
- **Supported young people to create resources for other young people about the Act**, through my partnership with [Omidaze Productions](#) and [The Democracy Box](#).



30 young co-creators have created videos, songs, poems that explain why the Act matters to them. These have been developed by the young people themselves who have been paid for their time and supported by my team.



- Found new and creative ways to communicate the goals of the Act through my Poet in Residence, [Taylor Edmonds](#). The work of the 26-year-old poet and creative facilitator explored the theme of 'Wales to the World'.



- Captured key gaps in the Welsh Government's approach to business on the Well-being of Future Generations Act. Engaged with the [Confederation of British Industry \(CBI\) Wales](#), [Federation of Small Business \(FSB\) Wales](#), [Business in The Community](#) and the [Business Council Wales](#) - all of whom agree that there needs to be a regular convening of business networks around the Act to share and promote good practice.

What happened as a result?

- Public sector procurement, Business Wales, the Economic Contract, trade and export support, the Development Bank for Wales and Welsh Government Challenge Funds which support and finance business in Wales should be dedicated to getting to net zero - and should set targets and standards to get businesses to commit to a net zero pathway.

The Well-being of Future Generations Act is influencing discussions from Ynys Môn and Mumbles to Edinburgh, Finland, New York and India!

7. Walked the Talk – be the change I want to see in others

- Introduced a guaranteed interview scheme whereby Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic candidates and disabled people applying for any posts in my office would be guaranteed an interview if they met the essential job criteria.
- Increased the diversity of my workforce, from 15% to 24%, employing 16% of colleagues from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds and launched our own **Race Equality Action Plan**. A total of 12 languages are spoken by my team and two team members are in the process of learning a new language, including British Sign Language.
- Continued to strengthen my relationships with a wide range of third sector and community organisations, seldom heard groups, businesses and international stakeholders.
- Joined with others, including with **Omidaze Productions, Public Health Wales, Literature Wales, Wales Arts International, Natural Resources Wales, the United Nations Foundation, Cardiff University, Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru and Ynys Blastig to name a few!** These partnerships enable us to amplify our joint objectives, communicate the issues facing future generations, and to value external expertise and skills. I am grateful for the support and partnership from organisations across Wales and beyond.
- Supported the campaigners from the [People's Vaccine Alliance](#) (which has over 100 members including the African Alliance, Oxfam and UNAIDS), who are calling pharmaceutical companies to openly share their vaccine science and technology. I am pleased that the Welsh First Minister adopted the campaign's advocacy asks calling on the UK Government to support vaccines for the global south.
- Promoted the use of Welsh at work. I have taken a variety of steps to encourage Welsh to be spoken without inhibition in our team. I have paid for Welsh lessons for staff and a third of our team are proficient in the Welsh language.
- Trialled reduced working hours. I instigated the reduction of a standard working day to six hours, initially to respond to the challenges of children being home-schooled during lockdown and long hours at the computer screen.
- By downsizing to Tramshed Tech, I have reduced my carbon footprint using a smaller space with less energy consumption.



8. Tracked how the recommendations in my Future Generations Report in May 2020 are changing what Welsh Government is doing and how they do it.

I recommended that Welsh Government should:	Subsequent commitments in the Programme for Government:
Invest in nature and prioritise funding and support for large-scale habitat and wildlife restoration and creation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Establish an Environmental Governance Body, a statutory duty and targets to protect and restore biodiversity. ■ Support for communities to create 30 new woodlands and connect habitat areas. ■ Establish a scheme to support restoration of seagrass and saltmarsh habitats along our coastline.
Invest in skills and training to support the transition to a better future, creating new greener jobs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Help key areas of our economy to innovate, grow and reduce their carbon footprint. ■ Deliver the Young Persons Guarantee, giving everyone under 25 the offer of work, education, training, or self-employment. ■ Support the Wales TUC proposals for union members to become Green Representatives in the workplace.
Develop a food system strategy for Wales linking together all parts of the food system from farm to fork.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Develop a Wales Community Food Strategy to encourage the production and supply of locally sourced food in Wales.
Ensure people can access natural green space within 300 metres of their home.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Expand arrangements to create or significantly enhance green spaces. ■ Develop a new major routes fund to improve the attractiveness and biodiversity of areas alongside major transport routes in Wales. ■ Create more community green space in town centres.
Commit to greening communities by delivering 20% tree canopy cover in every town and city in Wales by 2030.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Create a National Forest to extend from the North of Wales to the South. ■ Designate a new National Park to cover the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley.
Pilot a Basic Income .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Pilot an approach to the Basic Income.
Make housing a human right.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Publish a White Paper to include proposals for a right to adequate housing including fair rents and new approaches to making homes affordable for those on local incomes.
Set a national target for modal shift to enable people to adopt low carbon modes of travel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Work towards our new target of 45% of journeys by sustainable modes by 2040, setting more stretching goals where possible.

I recommended that Welsh Government should:	Subsequent commitments in the Programme for Government:
Require all publicly funded housing developments to be carbon neutral .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Decarbonise more homes through retrofit, delivering quality jobs, training and innovation using local supply chains. ■ Build 20,000 new low carbon social homes for rent.
Continue to lead the way on recycling and implement its ambition to become a zero-waste, net-zero carbon country.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Develop community recycling facilities in town centres and promote repair and re-use facilities to encourage zero-waste shopping. ■ Support 80 re-use and repair hubs in town centres. ■ Introduce an extended producer responsibility scheme to incentivise waste reduction by businesses. ■ Legislate to abolish the use of more commonly littered, single use plastics. ■ Bring together a place-based zero waste challenge network of organisations to support cultural change in businesses and communities.
Ensure that the Welsh language is fully mainstreamed into all Welsh Government policies, guidance and strategies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Streamline the process for implementing Welsh Language standards. ■ Support an increase in Welsh speaking spaces, including workplaces.

Jane Hutt, MS the Minister for Social Justice (with responsibility for the Well-being of Future Generations Act within Welsh Government) said:

“The Future Generations Report 2020 is a deep, impressive and wide-ranging document, which also recognises the many steps already taken...”

“The Report and evidence presented to the Public Accounts Committee showed that the Act is changing conversations and the ways in which public bodies work.”

A growing movement for change...

As well as the progress being made by Welsh Government, I am also seeing excellent practice emerging from public bodies.

Cardiff Council is taking action on clean air via an innovative transport strategy, active travel and place-based schemes such as Greener Grangetown. They have a One Planet initiative, recent five-year plan published to be a clean, green, safe city. Clean Air Zones deliver benefits worth £27 for every £1 spent.



Natural Resources Wales continues to take forward their carbon positive work – focusing on procurement, fleet, assets all studied in efforts to decarbonise.

Amgueddfa Cymru have teamed up with health boards to have art in pandemic field hospitals, adopt social prescribing for example offering museum collections for dementia sufferers.

Brecon Beacons National Park Authority involved people in new innovative ways – Shaping My Brecon Beacons – through Minecraft, adopting a 20-minute neighbourhood local development plan.

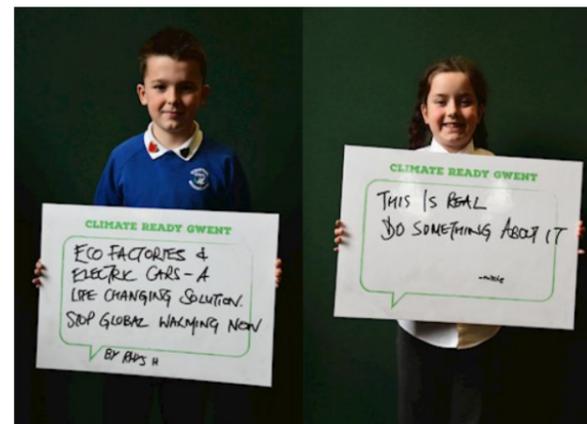


Swansea Bay University Health Board have agreed to turn over an area of land to a not-for-profit venture to grow a range of crops. A solar farm has also been established at Morryston hospital which will meet around 26% of Morryston's power (as an average across the year). The 4MW farm will supply about a quarter of Morryston's power, cutting the electricity bill by approximately £500,000 a year.

Amgueddfa Cymru widened involvement with young people to create a more equitable museum and develop their skills and creativity, by employing young 'Producers' who co-produce exhibitions, reframe policies and take over social media platforms.

Swansea Council has found long-term homes for hundreds of people during the pandemic through bringing empty properties back into use. They have also cut the carbon footprint of their pension fund by almost 60% and aim to achieve net carbon zero by 2037 by reducing the amount of money invested in oil companies and other organisations with high carbon footprints.

Gwent Public Services Board and Natural Resources Wales shared good practice and worked together to tackle climate change. They have taken forward carbon literacy training, a climate assembly and installed electric vehicle infrastructure



Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service have introduced hydrogen powered vehicles and electric bikes to encourage staff to walk, cycle or take public transport through incentives like 'Healthy Travel Charters'.

Snowdonia National Park Authority collaborated with the Woodland Trust on a project to plant 8,000 native trees and 1,800 metres of hedgerow. The trees will be from the National Park Authority's tree nursery at Plas Tan y Blwch.

Carmarthenshire County Council has mobilised pupils from 15 schools in support of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals. Pupils run events, raise awareness of climate change, lead action in their communities and share learning with decision makers, which has led to the creation of the Carmarthenshire Climate Action Manifesto. Ysgol Bro Dinefwr, Carmarthenshire is also striving to become carbon neutral.

Hywel Dda University Health Board has looked at the potential environmental and community benefits of their estates and a new hospital.

Ceredigion County Council have trained staff in 'horizon scanning', incorporated futures thinking questions into their survey, and developed 'Gorwel' with 2 neighbouring Public Services Boards to help bridge medium-longer-term data gaps.

Transport for Wales have upcycled and reused furniture to furnish their new headquarters in Llys Cadwyn.

Mumbles Community Council have involved residents in a community plan based around the goals of the Act. They have declared a Climate Emergency and have planted wildflowers, developed a community orchard and nature reserve, and are ensuring that renewables and waste reduction are at the heart of festivals and events.

Other town councils like **Pontypridd, Crynant, Pennard, Criccieth and Llandrindod Wells** are doing similar things with help from One Voice Wales.

I have promoted the work of [Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum](#), [Aber Food Surplus](#), [GwyrddNi](#), [Carbon Community](#), [The Marine Conservation Society](#) and the [2025 Movement](#) in my monthly newsletter.



This year, I surveyed Welsh businesses to understand the examples of good practice around their engagement and support for the Well-being of Future Generations Act – in order share good practice with more companies across Wales.

Dŵr Cymru

Dŵr Cymru have published a 30-year strategy and vision for 2050 - aligning itself with the well-being goals - the first large business in Wales to make that commitment. Its Customer Challenge Group reviews progress every six months and makes recommendations to the board on what should be progressed.

Arup

All of Arup's projects are mapped against the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals and, in Wales, the Well-being of Future Generations Act is used at a project level. Arup's clients include public sector bodies who have their own objectives under the Act which are written into project delivery plans.

Arup worked with Welsh Government to develop the EV charging strategy for Wales. It was clear from early scoping of the project that equality of access and inclusivity were key social objectives. Using the Act gave people on the project teams from a range of different backgrounds and technical disciplines a common and holistic framework to work towards.

Bluestone

The business has been using the Business in the Community Cymru responsible business framework and is working on the adoption of a sustainability plan which aligns with the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals and seven well-being goals within the Act.



What I will do in the next 12 months

2022-23 will be my final year as the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales. It has been an honour and privilege to be appointed to this seven-year role; the first in Wales.

My over-riding aim is to secure the position of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, future generations thinking and acting in Wales. I will do this by:

Highlighting and acting upon the key policy issues and challenges facing future generations.

The [Future Generations Report](#) will continue to underpin and be the foundation of my work. The recommendations made in [Chapter 2](#) are of particular importance as I undertake a [Section 20](#) Review into how Welsh Government implements the Act. Working with Cardiff University, I am taking a 'live time' approach with this Review to advise as we go along in a way that is helpful, rather than leaving it all to a report at the end. There will be a final set of findings to be published in November 2022.

Procurement, decarbonisation and the Welsh Government's strategic budget will be the most important areas of my policy work and I will continue to advocate for a green, equal and just COVID-19 recovery.

Public affairs (including with the Senedd, Ministers and other elected bodies) will be key to helping to get my messages out, listening and understanding the political context. I will keep a watching brief on the [independent UK Inquiry into the COVID pandemic](#).

Climate > Opinion

Wales could lead the 'green recovery' in the wake of Covid – but it has to be done the right way



The 2021 Senedd elections provide Wales with the opportunity to create the future we want – but we must support those most disadvantaged both by the pandemic and the climate crisis

[Sophie Howe](#) | Thursday 04 March 2021 07:35 | 4 comments





Supporting and challenging public bodies to use the Well-being of Future Generations Act

I will take forward a new model for how we support public bodies implement the Act. All 48 of the public bodies want some form of ongoing support – strategic and operational. The detail of how this is being scoped out and I will be seeking to work closely with others in this space such as [Audit Wales](#), [Academi Wales](#), the [Welsh Local Government Association](#) and Welsh Government. In May 2022, we will share our findings and co-create next steps with the public bodies and partners.



AcademiWales



In 2022/23, I have statutory duties relating to [Public Services Boards](#). This year, I provided individualised advice to the draft well-being assessments. Public Services Boards now have to prepare well-being objectives and plans. I anticipate being consulted between April 2022 and January 2023. Advice must be in writing and within a period of 14 weeks. I will take forward our monitoring and assessing duties in collaboration with Audit Wales.

Being part of a Movement for Change

An important part of the strategy to secure the position of the Act is being part of a movement for change which includes all sectors in Wales and the public, but also which reaches further than Wales. This is because nation-wide change needs to be cross-sectoral, where a whole range of organisations and communities work together.

To do this, I will continue to increase my media profile, deliver on the creative work, build new relationships with press and change makers outside of the office, and focus on communications and social media channels to reach new audiences. I will focus on turning words and reports into exciting visuals and videos and showing the change that's happening through case-studies and good examples.

We will maximise the capacity of the Leadership Academy alumni and young people across Wales to advocate on behalf of the Act and hold current leaders to account, including through our work with [The Democracy Box](#).



I will continue to work with Welsh Government's International Relations team to build awareness and support for future generations thinking across other parts of the UK and the World. This will include identifying opportunities to promote Wales' global responsibility and working with young leaders and youth organisations to showcase the Welsh approach to sustainability.

Advocating for adequate resourcing of my office

Public bodies have indicated that they need more support to implement the Act, including from my office. The Senedd's Public Accounts Committee and public bodies have recognised that I am under resourced and current budget levels have not enabled me to provide the level of support public bodies want and need. The Welsh Government have also recognised the huge level of demand and pressures on my Office and stated their willingness to work with me to remedy this.

Walking the Talk - being the change that I want to see in others



My proposed focus for 2022-23 will include:

Over the last six years, I have established a solid foundation for progressive policies and supporting staff well-being in a fast-paced environment.

Relocating my office to [Tramshed Tech](#), gives me an opportunity to review and reinvigorate internal policies to ensure that they reflect current practice, do not contain outdated information and maximise my own contribution to the well-being goals.

- Continuing to prioritise diversity, inclusion and anti-racism – increasing our internal capacity in this area as part of our Race Action Plan.
- Considering a social mobility pledge.
- Charity partner review.
- Community involvement linked to our new home in Grangetown/Riverside.
- Increasing the use of co-production as an approach in my work.
- Increasing the use of the Welsh language in our interactions both internally and externally, including additional support for staff who want to learn Welsh.
- Prioritising digital inclusion & well-being in our new hybrid world.
- Measuring our own footprint – exploring personal carbon allowances.
- Sharing the ways of working we are most proud of so others can follow. This links to my work on supporting public bodies to drive change.



My Magnolia Tree

By Taylor Edmonds, Poet in Residence

In this poem, Taylor has imagined a future where the places we live are lost forever, exploring the roles of creativity and adaptive thinking in tackling the climate emergency.

*All I have left of my great-grandmother is her letters.
While I was taking my first breath
she was watching the storm roll in,
lining the house with an army of sandbags,
willing the river to shush. It had given warning
in the bloat of it, with plastic bags and Stella cans
thrown up onto the grass. I know this
because my grandmother never had secrets.
She began writing me letters long before I existed,
so that I might grow into something good,
something brave.
I know of all her firsts.
First school, with the haunted bell tower
and the boys that cornered her in the playground.
First pet, a tan Labrador that uprooted
the floor tiles when left alone.
First fear, of being swallowed by the moon.
First home, council estate, a magnolia tree
that shed petals of pink snow in spring.
Her first kiss, between the rocks at the water's edge,
incoming tide snaking up her legs.
There are lessons here.
I dream of Cardiff, where I chase
my grandmother's outline through the back streets,
seek fingerprints on shop windows,
a flash of her on the top deck of a bus.
Sometimes, I find her on the green of Bute Park
picking wild garlic, sheltering
from a shower at Central Station,
or clasping a blue bag of fruit on City Road.
She tells me nothing was an accident.
The leaders, the people, they rolled
over like spent dogs, yawned above the warnings.
All my great-grandmother wanted was to die
an honest woman, on honest land.
I will never re-live her firsts,
never see the garden
where she planted magnolia
so that I too could hold pink petals of snow.
Her underwater city is a skeleton, a shipwreck;
but still, I ache for it.
I read her letters to the sky
while the storm rolls in, I line
the house with an army of sandbags.*



Mural by: Spike Clark

Want to get involved?

I'd love to hear from and work with groups and individuals who have insight, expertise, ideas, concerns or lived experience on any of the above issues.

Get in touch by email, [Twitter](#), letter, phone or via contactus@futuregenerations.wales.

If you want to find out more visit my [website](#) or sign-up for my regular newsletter.



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