



Cymru Can Newsletter - May 2024



Foreword

Is Wales prepared for an unstable global food system?

That's what I asked more than 100 people from across a range of sectors at our event in the Senedd around Wales' future food challenges.

We are heading towards an unstable global food system which means our current and future generations could be facing rising prices and empty shelves.

Our health and environment are also being harmed:

- Last year, one in five people in Wales experienced food insecurity (experiences included running out of food and not being able to afford more, eating less and/or reducing meal size, going hungry, losing weight due to lack of money).
- Almost a third of children in Wales are obese or overweight before they reach primary school.
- Agricultural sector is set to be one of Wales' major carbon emitters by the 2030s.

If we don't take the challenges surrounding food seriously, we won't be able to feed our families and communities.

In my new strategy, [Cymru Can](#), I've made [food an area of focus](#) as it is critical to achieving Wales' well-being goals for the health of our people and our planet.

We need a solution to our food challenges.

That's why, in partnership with Our Food 1200, I gathered stakeholders from the public, private and voluntary sectors alongside Senedd Members to discuss how a national, long-term strategy for food will help prepare people in Wales for future food shocks caused by climate change and global conflict, while supporting our agricultural sector.

Huw Irranca-Davies MS spoke for the first time in his new role as Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs, and Professor Tim Lang of City University urged the room to diversify the food we produce in Wales to increase access to healthy diets, support nature recovery and protect against dwindling global good supplies.

The Senedd members also shared useful insight around the vital role that community food production plays.

You reposted



Food Sense Wales / Synnwyr Bwyd Cymru

@foodsensewales



A full house for today's #FoodShocks event with @futuregencymru, examining how we can protect people in Wales from future food shortages & extreme price rises in an unstable global food system

Great to hear #foodpartnerships being discussed as well as our work with #PSBs



Katie Palmer and Pearl Costello



This is already happening in places across Wales including:

- Bannau Brycheiniog has placed local food networks at the heart of its vision for people's well-being and protecting nature

- Conwy and Denbighshire Public Services Board has committed to developing plans to safeguard food in the future
- Monmouthshire have integrated food policies – from farm to fork – into their well-being plans
- Cardiff Council has developed a local Good Food Strategy and is aiming to become a Gold-standard Sustainable Food City
- Swansea Bay University Health Board have leased a 7-acre field to Cae Felin Community Supported Agriculture to grow food and restore hedgerows, meadows and a new orchard (see full article on this below)

But we need to upscale across Cymru. That's why we've also been bringing public bodies together to ensure food is better integrated into local well-being plans.

My team and I will be continuing to work on this issue and will be developing advice around food for public bodies in our next Future Generations 2025 Report.

For more information on this work, please visit [our website](#).

Movement for Change – Cae Felin Community Supported Agriculture

Not-for-profit organisation [Cae Felin Community Supported Agriculture \(CSA\)](#) is growing crops on land owned by [Swansea Bay University Health Board](#) near Morriston Hospital and changing how local people grow, learn about and eat food.

Supported by Swansea Bay UHB as part of its commitment to a sustainable future, staff have been volunteering to help the CSA work towards its long-term goal of supporting preventative healthcare by growing fruit and vegetables for patient meals at the hospital and selling and providing food boxes to low-income areas, while promoting the benefits of improving access to nutritious, locally grown fresh food for all sections of the community.

Some of their initiatives to create a more equitable local food system include providing horticultural workshops, outdoor education sessions for local schools (growing, harvesting and cooking food), involving rehabilitation patients from the brain injury clinic, and holding monthly lunch clubs for hospital staff, via Direct Food Support funding.



1 - Simon Peacock, Cae Felin grower and project manager



2 - Will Beasley, consultant surgeon at Morriston Hospital and Cae Felin director





3 - CSA directors Simon Peacock and Will Beasley with Derek Walker, FG Commissioner and Helen Nelson, Director of Strategic Planning and Climate & Nature

“The project is all about reconnecting people with their local food and environment and creating resilience in the food system.

It’s engaging people, educating children and encouraging people to get their hands dirty and get growing and enabling people to take action on the climate and nature emergency.”

Simon Peacock, project manager and grower

On the seven-acre field leased from the health board, two acres are dedicated to habitat restoration, and members of the community get involved in monitoring species, such as bees, butterfly, building bird and bat boxes, and growing food in the 100-tree fruit orchard and vegetable garden that was converted from grazing land.

Last year was the project’s first year growing fruit and vegetables. They started with a small round of crops and have now expanded with an emphasis on diversity and are planting many different varieties of each crop – including 30 varieties of potatoes. They’ve also grown in agroforestry rows and perennial strips to create wildlife habitats and build in resilience.

The CSA holds open volunteer days every Saturday between 10am-2pm as well as most Fridays and Mondays. Email info@caefelincsa.co.uk or phone 07388 822273 for more information.

You can find more information on the project on the [Cae Felin CSA website](#) and the [Swansea Bay UHB’s website](#).

United Nations' Declaration for Future Generations

“Benthg dros amser byr yw popeth a geir yn y byd hwn” (Everything you have in this world is just borrowed for a short time).

This Welsh proverb is inscribed on the front page of the [Wales Protocol for Future Generations](#) – an implementation framework co-designed by delegates at the [Future Generations Forum](#), an event we hosted in April in partnership with Welsh Government.

It's nearly a decade since the Well-being of Future Generations Act was passed.

While others across the globe embed long-term governance (indigenous communities from North America to Oceania have placed their ancestors and future generations at the heart of their decision making for centuries), the fact we have legislation in Cymru which sets the Sustainable Development Goals into law and holds a vision produced by the people is of international significance.

The world is looking to Wales.





Future Generations Forum

Guests from over 40 countries came together at the Temple of Peace in Cardiff for the Future Generations Forum to reflect on Wales' leadership, swap insights and discuss how our learning will influence the United Nations' establishment of a UN Declaration for Future Generations and inform the creation of a UN Special Envoy for Future Generations.

Our thanks to all partners who shared their learning and their passion. In particular, we would like to thank the 40% of our delegates aged 18 – 30 who contributed, enabling meaningful youth engagement in the design, delivery and implementation of the Declaration for Future Generations.

Diolch to the School of International Futures for their support and facilitation and to the UN Member States who joined us virtually to learn and reflect on the comments made during the high-level roundtable.



Summit of the Future

In September 2024, the UN will hold a Summit of the Future where governments will have the opportunity to further the creation of the Declaration and endorse a Pact for the Future; a document that sets the direction for the World we want.

You can find more information on the [UN website](#).

But, these will just be documents unless we start putting the work into action, which is the focus of my seven-year strategy Cymru Can.

We must use this opportunity to ensure this vision for the future lifts us from our short-sighted politics and challenges and propels us into the long-term.

Join our next Academy

Our third group of young leaders recently graduated from our [Future Generations Leadership Academy](#) – read the full article on this in [our last issue](#) – and now, I am delighted to begin our open recruitment process for the next Academy.

If you are between 18-30 years old and interested in learning leadership skills alongside other young people, apply for our fourth Leadership Academy.

We welcome applications from people aged 18-30 years old, from all backgrounds and sectors and operate a guaranteed interview scheme for Black, Asian, Ethnic Minority applicants and disabled applicants.

The Academy is a bilingual and hybrid programme, with 70 hours of interactive learning, that will run from September 2024 till March 2025.

You could be part of a group of young leaders who are unlocking new skills, achieving goals, improving knowledge of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, a cornerstone of policy making in Wales, and making connections with people from across the country.



There are currently two ways of participating in the Academy: sponsorship and open recruitment.

Our open recruitment is a free route to apply and available for employed and unemployed people.

Find out more about the programme and [how to apply on our website](#) – the **deadline is 16th June 2024**.

"Open recruitment is a great way to be a part of a unique programme that encourages change now with future generations in mind, which is why I applied.

It's a fantastic programme and a great way to meet amazing organisations and changemakers all across Wales; It's been an amazing journey and something I'll never forget."

Yusra Farooq, Alumni of Academy 3.0, Senedd Cymru



4 - Academy Alumni

Free learning and development workshops

Understanding the Act

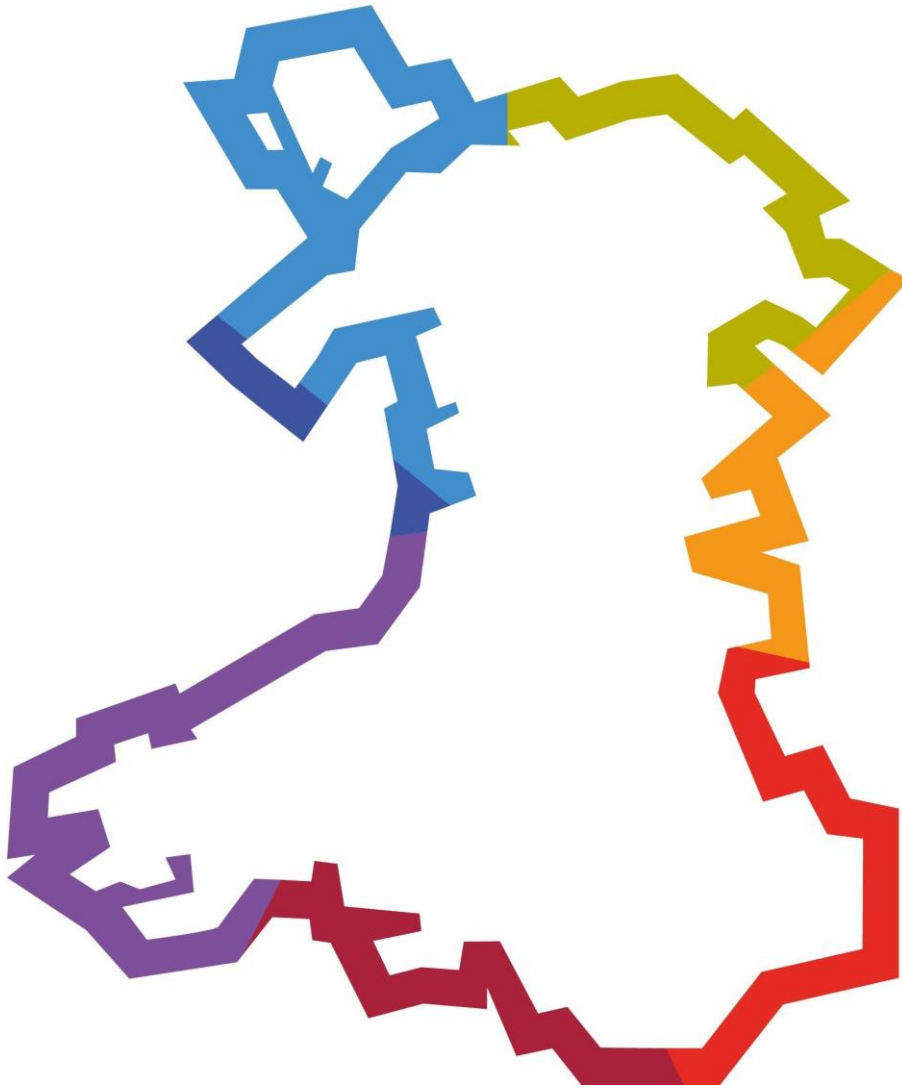
Are you trying to apply the Well-being of Future Generations Act and create practical change, but it feels harder than it should?

As part of our work to support public bodies in Wales to further understand and implement the Act, we're holding online learning and development sessions. These sessions are for those who would like an introduction or refresh to the Act.

- 10am – 12.30pm Wednesday, June 12 2024

- 12.30pm - 3pm Tuesday, September 24 2024

Please register your attendance via [our survey](#) and if you have any queries, please e-mail contactus@futuregenerations.wales, directing your e-mail to Heledd Morgan.



Putting the Act into practice

Welsh Government and Academi Wales are also jointly running hour-long sessions on the Act, with support from our team and Audit Wales Good Practice Exchange.

Suitable for beginners and experienced practitioners, the top-up course provides one hour of experiential learning and will bring you up to date with some of the latest behavioural science you can apply, in practical and effective ways, to deepen your understanding and application of the Act.

The next course dates are fully booked – but there is a waiting list in place for Autumn sessions. Please e-mail sustainable.futures@gov.wales to be added and informed of dates when available.



5 - [Find the resource on our website](#)

Closing the implementation gap - how to apply long-term thinking

We are facing challenging times in Wales, with our healthcare services, wider public sector, and third sector under unprecedented strain. This makes it more important than ever, but also harder than ever, to balance the needs of current and future generations.

In collaboration with Public Health Wales, we've published, [Beyond the Present: How to apply long-term thinking to reduce health inequalities](#), a resource with methods and case studies from across Wales on how to think long-term and act today for a better tomorrow.

If you're interested in learning more about a variety of futures techniques that can help you go beyond the present, join [Public Health Wales' webinar on June 13](#).

For more information on the webinar and to register your attendance, visit [the website](#).

Bringing business together for the Act

The Principality Building Society hosted an event exploring how the private sector can make a difference via the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

Organised by a member of our recently graduated Future Generations Leadership Academy Alumni, Caitlin Rodrigues, the session highlighted the importance of cross-sector collaboration in addressing community needs and developing solutions that truly benefit Wales.

People from the private sector, Leadership Academy Alumni and staff from The Principality Building Society, presented on a number of issues including the alignment of their strategy to the WFGA, with a key focus on social mobility; the role of colleague networks in fostering inclusivity; and how they are investing profits back into impactful activities including the Future Generations fund with Community Foundation Wales.



A panel discussion with Ed Morgan, CSR manager at Castell Howell and a [Future Generations Changemaker](#), and Emmeline Brooks, a city planner at Arup and Academy alumna, emphasized behavioural change for promoting healthy eating and the importance of valuing green spaces and collaborating across diverse sectors.

Attendees also explored problem-solving related to the Act's goals, engaged in discussions on digital inclusion, progress reporting, local community support and sustainability education.

"I strongly believe that collaboration between sectors can help us address gaps and impactful solutions that meet the needs of the people in Wales. This event is a step towards that."

Jainaba Conteh, EYST and Future Generations Alumni



A new qualification for Wales

In collaboration with WJEC, we've developed and launched the [Sustainability in Action](#) qualification.

This is a positive and exciting step forward for the new Curriculum for Wales, where everyone can learn about our unique and world-leading legislation, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

This new qualification will play a part in building a better future in five, 25, 100 years' time and will support our next generations to become changemakers.

Learners will be equipped with the skills, knowledge and understanding needed to work the net zero jobs of tomorrow, including leadership, change management and stakeholder engagement.

For more information on the qualification and how it will be supporting learners increase their knowledge and understanding in sustainability, visit the [WJEC website](#).

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1788509262290747456>



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:

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