

environment

strategy annual report
2008/2009



Helpu Cymru i leihau
ei Hôl Troed Carbon
Help Wales reduce
its Carbon Footprint



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government



ISBN 978 0 7504 5380 6

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CMK-22-01-175

E4090910

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Ministerial Foreword



I am delighted to be able to present our report against the actions from the first and second environment strategy action plans. The report provides an update on those actions as well as a commentary on the indicators of environmental progress. We have also provided details of how Environment Strategy outcomes are being supported within other Assembly Government strategies, plans and programmes.

For the first time there is a statement on how the actions from the action plan have had regard to the conservation of biodiversity. This statement reflects the duty the Welsh Assembly Government and some of its partners have to biodiversity under Section 40(1) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

I see Wales' natural environment, on land at sea, as an asset that is key to the wellbeing of the people of Wales. The embedding of Environment Strategy outcomes within policies and programmes across the Assembly Government, and those of our partners, reflects this understanding and commitment. The report shows the progress we are making to fulfil our vision as set out in the Environment Strategy, for Wales' environment to be clean, healthy, biologically diverse and valued by the people of Wales. This is a core component of our approach to sustainable development, and to make Wales a truly sustainable nation.

The overall picture of the report is positive with the majority of the actions having been achieved or being on track. However, I am very aware that there will be increasing pressures upon the environment as a consequence of the seven key challenges highlighted in the Environment Strategy of climate change, unsustainable resource use, degraded ecosystems, loss of biodiversity, poor quality local environments, environmental hazards and loss of landscape and heritage quality and distinctiveness. We will remain watchful to these challenges and ensure that the actions we take build upon the progress made.

The report is the culmination of work from a wide range of groups including the Wales Environment Link, Wales Council for Voluntary Action, Wales Local Government Association, Countryside Council for Wales, Forestry Commission Wales and the Environment Agency. I am grateful to those organisations for their hard work and commitment to delivering our Environment Strategy Action Plan, and also to my Environment Strategy Reference Group for their advice and guidance.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Davidson".

Jane Davidson AM
Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing

Chapter 1

Introduction

This document provides the first update on progress against the actions from the first and second Environment Strategy Action Plans for Wales. The updates cover the period April 2008 to September 2009 for the first action plan and October 2008 until September 2009 for the second action plan. This reflects the period in which the second document has existed.

The majority of the actions from the first action plan have now been completed and consequently only a small number are reported against in this report.

The Annual Report is broken up into four key sections and two annexes.

1. The first section outlines the Welsh Assembly Government and other public authorities' duty to have regard to Section 40(1) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. This places a new duty on every public authority, in exercising its functions, to *"have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity"*.
2. The second section provides a summary of progress against the 103 Environment Strategy indicators which underpin the actions and outcomes from the Environment Strategy and the two action Plans. The statistical bulletin for July 2009 has been added as an annex to this section to provide further context.
3. The third section shows how the Environment Strategy is being taken forward in other key strategies, plans and programmes of the Welsh Assembly Government.
4. The final section provides a summary of progress against the current actions from the first and second action plans. This covers activity in a total of 43¹ actions along with their sub actions. A more detailed technical annex featuring updates on each of the actions is provided separately to this report. The updates for this section have been scored on a red, amber and green criteria. Red indicates that more work is needed to achieve the commitment; Amber/orange indicates that the commitment is on track or ongoing; and Green indicates that a commitment has been achieved.

¹ 2 ongoing actions from the 1st ESAP, and 41 from the 2nd ESAP

Chapter 2

Statement on how the Welsh Assembly Government and other public authorities have had regard to Section 40(1) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

Section 40(1) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (the NERC Act) states that:

Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

Greater detail of how biodiversity has been considered in the delivery of each action is included in a technical annex that is available on the Welsh Assembly Government's website. As would be expected, for some actions, the consideration of biodiversity issues is much greater than others. The first two themes of the action plan, focussing on Biodiversity and Marine issues, mean that the scope of the NERC duty is greater here than other sections of the action plan.

Assembly Government departments incorporate biodiversity in their decision making, and examples of the way in which the NERC duty has been taken forward are shown below.

- Welsh Assembly Government has incorporated reference to the NERC duty in its grant conditions for those partners to which the NERC duty applies.
- Welsh Assembly Government has worked closely with the WLGA and all local authorities in Wales have appointed a Biodiversity Champion at elected member level.
- Environmental impact assessments, including biodiversity elements, inform decisions for the Assembly Government's grant funding for flood risk management.
- Cadw have provided specific training to ensure that in its monitoring, inspection and carrying out of works, full consideration is made of biodiversity needs.
- The Eco schools programme has integrated biodiversity into a number of key topics, enabling pupils to learn more about the practicalities of providing for wildlife within their schools.

- In South East Wales, the work to take forward the Networked Environment Region as part of the Wales Spatial Plan has developed a range of priorities to encourage biodiversity and enable it to cope with pressures of climate change, leisure and tourism. This work is now being used to inform similar programmes in other spatial plan areas.
- The Department for Economy and Transport is closely involved in the Networked Environment Region work, and we are exploring how this can be delivered through our work. The Department has recently updated its Biodiversity Guidelines for Infrastructure and Regeneration activity, and has integrated biodiversity into its sustainable development guidance.
- Improving biodiversity is key to the Tidy Towns initiative's aims and objectives. Biodiversity forms part of the compulsory criteria for local authorities and Keep Wales Tidy's awareness raising activities includes specific reference to biodiversity.

Chapter 3

Summary of progress against the Environment Strategy indicators

Progress on the Environment Strategy is monitored through the delivery of 102 indicators². We report on progress against these in our State of the Environment Report. This provides a summary of the outcomes, indicators and progress, and is updated twice annually on the Stats Wales website.

This chapter summarises that progress. There have been two State of the Environment Report Statistical Bulletins since the launch of the Second Environment Strategy Action Plan, the most recent in July 2009.

51 of the 102 indicators have been updated either in December 2008 or the July 2009 reporting round.

The table below summarises the progress to date.

Condition	March 08	July 08	December 08	July 09
Improving	26	29	31	27
Stable/No clear trend**	8	21	22	26
Baseline	29	15	13	12
Under development	11	11	18	22
No current information	24	23	16	9
Declining	4	3	2	6
Total*	102	102	102	102

* See footnote 1

** These refer to data which fluctuate making it difficult to identify a clear trend

² The Environment Strategy for Wales identified 97 indicators but the reporting process separated Outcome 33 to individual pollutants thus increasing the overall number of indicators to 103. Stats Wales consider 1 indicator to be double counting but is summarised in the table. Two further indicators have been amalgamated to make reporting clearer.

Current situation

The third report, dated July 2009 report³ suggests that where information was available to update the original report, progress has been made and the general trend is towards a better quality Welsh environment.

Of the 27 improving indicators, there are several which will have a significant effect on the environment, including waste management, air and water pollution, and biodiversity. Other examples where indicators have improved are:

- The Living in Wales survey reflects that individuals are taking more environmental interest through taking various actions.
- Municipal Waste that is recycled and composted continues to rise whereas the amount of Municipal Waste per person per annum continues to fall as does the amount being sent to landfill.
- Bathing water quality is also improving as is the input of hazardous substances into the sea.
- The number of pupils walking to school continues to rise.
- Flood risk awareness by the population of Wales is also improving, reflecting positive actions within the Revised Action Plan.

Of the declining indicators, one relates to fly tipping; one to volunteering effort in the environment; one to a new data on tranquil areas; one to flooding and one relates to the mode of travel to work.⁴ Commentary on each is included below:

Waste management

- Indicator 10c and 10d - following a recommendation to the Environment Strategy Reference Group, it was agreed that these indicators should be amalgamated and redefined as "*Proportion of public sector waste that is recycled or reused*". The reason for this is that no data is collected to differentiate how much public sector waste is reused or recycled.
- Indicator 28b *Trends in levels of fly tipping*. Levels are increasing for the category of single bags and car boot loads. Action 40c requires the Assembly to *Promote effective action on fly-tipping* through continued support and fund the Pride in our Communities Programme (now known as Fly-tipping Actions Wales). Although piloted in South West Wales in 2003, it has been extended to all Unitary Authorities in Wales since 2006. This programme is an awareness-raising scheme for the public to report incidents of fly tipping. The resultant increase may be due to the success of the scheme, with greater awareness

³ published on the Stats Wales web site (<http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/tableviewer/document.aspx?FileId=1657>)

⁴ The 6th indicator recording a decline refers to the indicators themselves - an increase in the number of declining indicators from 2 to 6 (including this indicator) between the reporting periods.

in Cardiff, Newport and Swansea areas, with decreases in reported incidents over the rest of Wales. Measures are now being put in place to benchmark the actual number of incidents so that the extent of the problem can be assessed and monitored for future reporting.

Volunteering effort

- Indicator 24c reports on the *Percentage of people volunteering formally or informally over the last 3 years*. Data collected from the Living in Wales survey on all volunteering shows that this indicator continues to decline in Wales which is in contrast to the rest of the UK (Defra Biodiversity in your Pocket 2009). However, anecdotal information from the Wales Environment Link suggests that environmental volunteering in Wales has increased. Action 28 of the Strategy Action plan required *Welsh Council for Voluntary Action to undertake preliminary assessment of green volunteering, including opportunities, barriers and current sources of support by March 2009 and, with WAG, respond to the recommendations and aim to work with organisations to expand opportunities for, and engagement in, volunteering, from March 2009*. As a result of this, the Welsh Assembly Government launched "Volunteering Wales 2009" - a campaign to encourage more people in Wales to get involved in volunteering, and more organisations to provide quality volunteering experiences.

Tranquil areas

- Indicator 29c - This is based on new data looking at the *Change in number and extent of tranquil areas as defined in CCW mapping work*. According to a report published in March 2009 on behalf of CCW, tranquil areas in Wales decreased by 8% over a 12 year period. (1500km², which is equivalent to just over 6% of the total land area of Wales). This indicator is unusual, in reporting in that the status of the indicator has changed from "no information" to "declining". This was because the new report identified previously unpublished data from 1997.

Flooding

- Indicator 31a *Annual cost due to flooding*. This indicator is currently delivered through the "Numbers of residential and business properties which benefit from reduced flood risk from capital improvement and maintenance schemes completed in each financial year". It is not a measure of the annual cost due to flooding. The number of properties protected in 2009/10 is approximately twice that were protected in 2008/09, although less than in 2005-06 and 2006-07. The number of properties protected will vary from year to year due to scheme complexity, the ratio of schemes in development to schemes

completing, the programme budget and other factors relating to delivery of schemes. Action 15 of the revised Action Plan comprises a number of actions to address this issue including public awareness; flood and coastal erosion risk management activities; improve resilience to emergencies by increasing the understanding of potential risk. The cumulative investment to date and cumulative properties protected to date have increased although the rate of protection per annum has varied. This year's programme budget is one of the highest to date. The Indicator Group is seeking to clarify the definition of this indicator for the December 2009 reporting round.

- Indicator 32a - *Level of use of Floodline*. There was a large reduction in calls made since the previous year. Due to the way in which the calls are now recorded, only calls made in Welsh are recorded as Wales only calls. Calls to Floodline made from Wales in English, are not recorded as Wales only calls. This data cannot therefore be compared to previous years as it does not truly recognise the use of Floodline in Wales. Future reporting will need to take this into account and Action 15 (Continue work to develop and implement the new approaches programme to flood risk management in Wales, in particular in relation to the ongoing actions) is in place to target people at risk but should also take into account identification of call location.
- Indicator 35c - *Compliance with 'good status' under the Water Framework directive*. These are new datasets, reporting on ecological, chemical and groundwater status. The majority of water bodies were in moderate or good condition, although none were reported as 'high', The Chemical status of water bodies was good although transitional water bodies (estuaries) failed (57.3%) The quality of Ground water was overall in good condition (62.2%).

Mode of travel to work

- Indicator 30a - *Percentage of people whose main mode of travel to work is a) walking b) cycling*. There is a continuing decline in walking or cycling despite Actions 3.10, 3.13 The Walking and Cycling action plan 2009-2013 contains ambitious targets for increasing participation in walking and cycling and was launched in December 2008. This plan has 30 aims to deliver these targets to encourage people to use more sustainable forms of transport. Climbing Higher - creating an active Wales Strategy is currently out to public consultation. Neither strategy has been in place long enough to have any detectable effect at the time of reporting.

Development of indicators

The Welsh Assembly Government has prepared a revised Action Plan to develop indicators with no data. The Environment Strategy Indicator Subgroup has developed 3 indicators through R & D projects. These are indicators on biodiversity, habitat connectivity and genetic diversity. Through cooperation with partners, development of further indicators is in progress.

One of the issues Welsh Assembly Government is attempting to address through the work of the Indicators Sub-Group is the complexity of the interactions between many of the indicators. There are indicators which show positive trends, but this could reflect the influence of other indicators.

The last 2 reports combined the category of reporting - "No clear trend" and "Stable". While this is useful, an appreciation is required of the natural rate of change of indicators, and how quickly this can change in response to drivers such as climate change, land management and pollution levels. This type of information helps in understanding whether changes are significant or not. Short-term trends may not reflect the true picture compared to long term trends. For example, biodiversity trends can have short-term fluctuations which may contradict trends over the long term. The effectiveness of policies needs to be considered in the light of the longer-term trends. Steps need to be taken to analyse trends in data to draw clearer conclusions.

Chapter 4

Update on how the Environment Strategy is being taken forward in other strategies, plans and programmes of the Welsh Assembly Government

1. Waste Strategy (consultation 29 April to 22 July 2009)

The waste related aspiration and four outcomes stated in the Environment Strategy are referred to and encompassed throughout the draft Wales Waste Strategy, *Towards Zero Waste*, which we consulted on during the summer. The proposals in the strategy are intended to develop Wales as a zero waste nation by 2050 - reducing waste's contribution to Wales' ecological footprint, no waste production in the long term, design for waste prevention and sustainable production and consumption. The strategy also promotes a high recycling society by 2025 - at least 70% recycling across all sectors, source separation of recyclates, closed loop recycling and any residual waste phased out of landfill.

Proposed headline indicators for the draft Strategy are listed and those relating to the Environment Strategy are detailed.

Environment Strategy outcomes supported: 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 12.

2. Woodlands for Wales (published in March 2009)

The WAG's forestry strategy *Woodlands for Wales*, which was revised and relaunched in March 2009 contributes towards the delivery of the Environment Strategy. Woodlands and trees provide not only environmental benefits and renewable products such as timber as a substitute for carbon expensive materials and fossil fuels, but also wider ecosystem services. These include the protection of soils and water quality, protection of biodiversity, the provision of shade in urban areas and the locking up of carbon (via sequestration) in trees and other woodland vegetation and soils, as well as opportunities for access and recreation in the natural environment. Sustainability and sustainable forest management underpins the whole of *Woodlands for Wales*.

Environment Strategy outcomes supported: 7, 8, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 27, 29, 35 and 36.

3. Planning Policy Wales (published in March 2002)

Planning Policy Wales and the Technical Advice note series set out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Assembly Government. The primary role of the planning system is to balance and integrate the social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainable development. It ensures that new homes, infrastructure, investment and jobs are provided in a way which is consistent with sustainability principles. The principles and actions set out in the Environment Strategy and Action Plan are taken forward when national planning policy or guidance is reviewed. For example, since the 2nd Environment Strategy Action Plan was launched, new planning policy has been introduced to require most new buildings to meet environmental standards higher than those set out in the Building Regulations. Updated guidance has also been provided on how the planning system can help to protect and enhance nature conservation.

Environment Strategy outcomes supported: 4, 17, 24, 25, 26 and 27.

4. Unitary Development Plans and future Local Development Plans

Statutory development plans are required to have regard to national policy, amongst other things. Local Planning Authorities are required by statute to prepare Local Development Plans with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development, and to carry out Sustainability Appraisals and Strategic Environmental Assessments as an integral part of the process of plan preparation.

Environment Strategy outcomes supported: 4, 17, 24, 25, 26 and 27.

5. Rights of Way Improvement Plans (published in October 2008)

In October 2008 the last of the local authorities finalised and published their Rights of Way Improvement Plans. £1.7 million of Access Funding was provided in 2008/09 by the Welsh Assembly Government to ensure the implementation of these plans by local authorities. Across Wales some 5,000 kilometres of the path network were improved to Ease of Use standard representing approximately 15% of the total rights of way in Wales. At least one project was carried out in each local authority aimed at improving Access for All e.g. those from Community First areas and those with mobility issues.

Environment Strategy outcomes supported: 23, 27, 29 and 30.

6. Climate Change

The Climate Change Commission for Wales, whose membership reflects a wide cross-section of Welsh society, has played a key role in developing our Climate Change Strategy consultations. These consultations include proposals for policies to achieve the One Wales target of a 3% reduction in our greenhouse gas emissions in areas of devolved competence by 2011, and to adapt to the already inevitable impacts of climate change.

We are raising awareness of mitigation and adaptation across Wales with our national communications campaign, climate change champions and community workshop events. We are also working with departments across the Assembly Government with the aim of ensuring that consideration of climate change is embedded into all the decisions we make as a government.

The consultation on the National Energy Efficiency and Saving Plan (NEESP) was published in March 2009 and the consultation closed at the start of June 2009.

The responses will be analysed and a summary and response will be published shortly. The update to the *Warm homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000 - A Fuel Poverty Commitment for Wales* will be consulted on in September 2009.

We continue to offer grants and, subject to the results of the NEESP consultation, will consult on changes to the Regulations governing the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme later this year and will be piloting the 'whole-house approach' in the autumn.

Environment Strategy outcomes supported: 7, 8 and 25.

7. Farming, Food & Countryside - Building a Secure Future (published in May 2009)

Farming, Food & Countryside will be the over-arching strategy of the Rural Affairs Department and is clearly aligned with the Environment Strategy, although the outcomes will be delivered through its various sub-strategies. Through mainstreaming the high-level environmental priorities, e.g. level of GHG emissions, reduction of waste, the water framework directive, it will ensure that these are fully taken account of in current and future policy development. It also identifies organisations responsible for delivery of environmental outcomes and through its reporting structure, an annual statement to plenary and a public report, will make the progress of the strategy a transparent process.

Environment Strategy outcomes supported: 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 20, 23, 34, 35 and 36.

8. Wales Spatial Plan (updated in July 2008)

Spatial Plan Groups are at various stages of development with environment action. Low Carbon Workshops held in May prompted a reevaluation of priorities in some Areas. Findings from these workshops will be taken to the Spatial Plan Groups for analysis. The Low Carbon Regions report is due in summer and will inform future delivery plans.

The concept of a *Networked Environment Region* is being piloted in South East Wales with potential to roll out to other Spatial Plan Areas. Priorities have been identified and work is ongoing with partners to develop and test the thinking.

Environment Strategy outcomes supported: 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9 and 11.

9. Achieving Our Potential 2006 - 2013 (reviewed in 2006)

Achieving Our Potential, the national tourism strategy for Wales, was reviewed in 2006 as one of its four strategic aims 'Acknowledging the need to secure a sustainable, long-term future through responsible destination and business management'. As part of the action plan a Sustainable Tourism Framework was prepared in 2007 to guide an integrated approach to the delivery of sustainable growth and working practices. A Sustainable Tourism Forum was established in 2007 of key stakeholder interests to facilitate a coordinated approach to the development and implementation of initiatives designed to make Wales a more sustainable destination. The strategy contributes to aim 3 of the Environment Action Plan - Access and Recreation through its support for the development of activity tourism.

Environment Strategy outcomes supported: 23, 29 and 30.

10. Coastal Tourism Strategy (published in May 2008)

The Coastal Tourism Strategy published in 2008 was a national action from the initial Wales Spatial Plan. The purpose of the Coastal Tourism Strategy is to identify a clear way forward for the development of coastal tourism, which realises and builds on the economic potential of the coastline of Wales whilst respecting its environmental quality and recognising the importance of achieving community benefits. The strategy includes the following specific aims:

- Ensuring sustainable tourism is making an increasing contribution to economy of coastal communities.
- Achieving an integrated approach to development & management of tourism.
- Safeguard & protect the environment & cultural heritage as a key resource.

Environment Strategy outcomes supported: 13, 22, 23, 29 and 35.

11. Green Jobs Strategy (published in July 2009)

The Green Jobs Strategy 'Capturing the Potential' was launched in July 2009. It is the overarching strategy for WAG to achieve a sustainable economy for Wales, and will be a critical element in Wales' transition to a sustainable nation.

The strategy set outs actions under three key priorities:

- Supporting Business.
- Fostering Innovation and Technology.
- Investing in a more Sustainable Economy.

Delivery of the strategy will be embedded into business plans across the Assembly and wider partners.

Environment Strategy outcomes supported: 4, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 14.

12. Proposals to charge for single use carrier bags

WAG consulted on proposal to charge for the use of single use carrier bags during summer 2009. Through this proposal the Welsh Assembly is looking to:

- substantially reducing the amount of single use carrier bags;
- encourage a wider behavioural change where consumers re-use bags, which will help toward combating climate change by increasing environmental awareness; and
- improve local environment quality by reducing litter from single use carrier bags.

The proposals to charge for single use carrier bags support the ambitious goals of the Environment Strategy, Sustainable Development Scheme and our ambition to become a zero waste nation by tackling over consumption, encouraging re-use and increasing environmental awareness.

Environment Strategy outcomes supported: 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 28.

13. Communities First

Communities First is the Welsh Assembly Government's flagship programme to improve the living conditions and prospects of people in the most disadvantaged communities across Wales.

The key principle of the Communities First Programme is that every Communities First area should have a Partnership which will enable local people to contribute, with partners, to the regeneration of their area.

The work of each Communities First Partnership must be guided by the Communities First Vision Framework. The Framework set out the thematic priorities of the Assembly Government against which Communities First Partnerships can map their activities to identify where the priorities of the community match those of the Assembly Government. The Vision Framework includes six broad themes, one of which is Environment. Communities First Partnerships identify the priorities for action in their local area and many choose to focus on environment issues. The Welsh Assembly Government is working with the Environment Agency to produce localised toolkits to guide partnerships on delivering on desired outcomes.

Environment Strategy outcomes supported: 1, 3, 4, 6.

14. Marine Strategy

We want to deploy all of the new powers introduced by the Marine & Coastal Access Bill to help fulfil our aim. As a first step, we are consulting on a draft strategy for Marine Protected Areas in Wales - 'Protecting Welsh Seas'. The strategy sets out our proposed approach to using the new power under the Bill to designate Marine Conservation Zones in Welsh waters to help protect and improve ecosystems and fulfil international and legal obligations. We also plan to be the Competent Authority for Welsh waters for implementing the Marine Strategy Framework Directive in order to play a full part in contributing to the 'Good Environmental Status' (GES) required by the directive.

Environment Strategy outcomes supported: 1, 2, 4, 21, 22, 23.

5. Summary of progress against the actions from the first and second Environment Strategy Action Plans

The section provides a summary of progress against the current actions from the first and second action plans. A more detailed technical annex featuring updates on each of the actions is provided separately to this report, on the Welsh Assembly Government website. This summary also provides examples where specific organisations have undertaken activity which contributes to our Environment Strategy outcomes.

Theme 1 - Biodiversity

Environment Strategy outcomes supported this theme: 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 16, 19, 20, 21, 23

The Environment Strategy sets out how Wales will address its international obligations and the need to halt the loss of biodiversity and protect sites of international, Welsh and local importance in the wider environment.

Progress under this theme is summarised below:

- Efforts to bring designated sites into favourable condition have been strengthened through the entry of data onto CCW's Actions Database for International sites for 50% of the remaining Sites of Special Scientific Interest. All sites falling under the Natura 2000 designation have already been recorded on the database. Welsh Assembly Government partners will be able to review and act upon this data through an extranet infrastructure, due to be launched in the next reporting period. Those partners are currently using Countryside Council for Wales action lists to decide what steps need to be taken.
- The Welsh Assembly Government has issued improved guidance, reflecting the Wales Biodiversity Partnership checklist, to planning authorities, local authorities and police services. We have also had meetings to give a clearer role to the Crown Prosecution Services and Rural Inspectorate Wales when dealing with designated sites.
- The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) will be a key tool to protect biodiversity across Wales. The duties that fall to public authorities under the Act have been communicated across all Welsh Assembly Government departments and meetings have also been held with Biodiversity Champions from each of Wales' local authorities to ensure that they fulfil their obligations.
- Additional guidance has been given to local planning authorities as part of their duty under section 42 of the NERC Act to list living organisms and habitats of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity. It is anticipated that the Green Space Toolkit will be used to support this work.

- The Wales Biodiversity Partnership has supported the development of nine new ecosystem groups that will support targets under the new Biodiversity Action Plan for Wales. A number of organisations across Wales are improving their use of the Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS) and the Local Records centre services.
- Halting wildlife crime is a key priority under the Environment Strategy Action Plan. This has been strengthened during the reporting period through the continuation of police secondments focussing on tackling wildlife crime within CCW, as well as the establishment of a joint forum on Wildlife Crime between the police and the Crown Prosecution Service. A joint seminar was held with key partners.

Partner actions

Four WEL members own and maintain reserves and areas of land, many of which are SSSIs, SACs and SPAs: Butterfly Conservation, Coed Cadw/ The Woodland Trust, The National Trust and RSPB Cymru. All are managing these sites with the objectives of bringing them into favourable condition and conserving biodiversity.

The RSPB works with Local Authorities through planning casework issues where developments have a direct impact on priority biodiversity, to either object to developments or promote mitigation or compensation packages. The RSPB also undertakes advocacy work with WAG and NAW, providing advice on policy to ensure that biodiversity is adequately taken into account.

Three WEL members are involved in landscape-scale conservation projects, supporting bats, butterflies and moths, and woodland habitats. Conservation of biodiversity is the key objective of these projects and volunteer work is extremely valuable to their success.

Five WEL members have staff that work with the Wales Biodiversity Partnership by taking part in Biodiversity Action Plans, Species Groups and the WBP Steering Group. The members are the Bat Conservation Trust, Butterfly Conservation, Coed Cadw, National Trust and RSPB Cymru.

The Bat Conservation Trust and RSPB Cymru are specifically working with the police and WAG to combat wildlife crime, and have achieved several successful prosecutions. The Bat Conservation Trust has a specific Investigations Officer post to work on crime against bats, whilst the RSPB devote staff time to advocacy work and liaison with the police on bird crime.

The Environment Agency created over 110Ha of new habitat through in-house and partnership projects across Wales in 2008/09 alongside work on specific aquatic species (eg freshwater pearl mussel) and river corridor improvement activities. This on-the-ground delivery work is in addition to the advice provided and the beneficial outcomes sought for the Welsh Assembly Government's biodiversity priorities through the Environment Agency's planning application and consenting work.

The Environment Agency actively support the Wales Biodiversity Partnership's work by providing advice, guidance and staff time for the Steering Group and many of its sub-groups. They have also been working with CCW on the process to bring protected sites into favourable condition. The Environment Agency are helping to improve biodiversity information use and outcome reporting across Wales by establishing a data access agreement with all 4 Welsh LRCs and placing our biodiversity project details directly into BARS.

Theme 2 - Marine

Environment Strategy outcomes supported this theme: 1, 3, 4, 8, 20, 22, 23, 35

The Environment Strategy sets out the need to maintain and enhance the quality of Wales' marine environment, and work actively to manage it over the long term. During the reporting period the Welsh Assembly Government has developed a phased approach to the implementation of the Marine Bill, which is expected to receive Royal Assent in the next reporting period. A consultation on the framework for implementing the Bill is planned to take place in 2010.

Progress under this theme is summarised below:

- Marine Spatial Plans will be a key element in efforts to maintain the marine environment and work is well underway to introduce the plans by 2013/14.
- The Welsh Assembly Government and Countryside Council for Wales are currently working closely in efforts to deliver highly protected marine conservation zones by 2012. This is being supported by a Steering, Technical Advice and Stakeholder Group. The proposed areas of designation are expected to be ready for consultation in late 2011 or early 2012.
- Progress against the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy is now being reported against on an annual basis. The 2009 report will be available on the WAG website shortly. The ICZM strategy itself will be subject to a review by July 2010.

Partner actions

Three WEL members have provided advice to WAG and participated in the relevant fora for discussion of the development of the new Marine Bill. The Marine Conservation Society, WWF and the RSPB have devoted considerable staff time to work on the development of this Bill. Conservation of marine biodiversity and sustainable fishing practices have been the main objectives of this work.

Four WEL members have been working on marine spatial planning development, including the National Trust, which has been looking at issues that affect coastal areas, where land and marine management interact. WWF has commissioned a project on cross-border marine planning issues, called "Across the Water", and has been working with the WCMP's Marine Planning Task Group.

The above four WEL members have all been actively working with CCW and WCMP to develop ideas and advise on the process of designating Highly Protected Marine Reserves. The Marine Conservation Society is involved in engaging the public on this subject with their 'Your Seas Your Voice' project and all four members are fully engaged with this process.

Theme 3 - Access and recreation

Environment Strategy outcomes supported this theme: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 20, 23, 27, 29, 30

Providing access to the natural environment and giving the people the opportunity to enjoy their surroundings is a key element of the environment strategy.

Progress under this theme is summarised below:

- The Welsh Assembly Government's walking and cycling action plan has set targets for increasing the numbers of children walking and cycling to school, adults walking and cycling to work and people walking and cycling for pleasure. The Steering Group to oversee this has continued to meet.
- The first headline results from the Welsh Outdoor Recreation Survey 2008 are now available. The findings represent the responses of residents of Wales on their use of the outdoors, places visited, and other issues such as their motivations and barriers. The survey was commissioned jointly by the Countryside Council for Wales and Forestry Commission Wales.
- Wales' coastline is one of its key features and brings in large numbers of tourists each year. The Welsh Assembly Government places great emphasis on maintaining and enhancing opportunities for water based recreation. During the reporting period 38 beaches and five marinas were awarded the Blue Flag Award, 44 beaches were awarded the Green Coast Award and 104 resorts and rural beaches received the Seaside Award Flag.

- Specific funding of £400,000 each year for water based recreation projects is now available through the Water Recreation Challenge Fund (Splash). 20 projects have received support through this fund to date.
- Work on the Coastal Access Improvement Programme is continuing, with full spend of £2m in 2008/9, and £2m allocated for 2009/10. This WAG funding will be matched over the next five years by £3.9 million in convergence funding following a successful bid for funding under the Environment for Growth theme by CCW. Details on the lengths of route delivered (new routes, access for cyclists etc) will be confirmed at the mid term review of the CAIP, which began in Summer 2009.
- There are many benefits to well being from experiencing the natural world, including improvements to health from physical activity resulting from cycling or walking and improved diets as a result of local, sustainably produced food. Health Challenge Wales acts as a key delivery tool for these changes. The Health Challenge Wales Voluntary Sector Grant Scheme has provided practical support to 30 employers in the reporting period allowing them to develop 3 'Grounds for Health' projects, 30 'Growing greener' projects, 13 'Green gym' projects and 1 'Loops and links' pilot project.
- At local authority level use is being made of CCW's green space toolkit to assess the accessibility and naturalness of green spaces in and around urban or built-up areas. 15 local authorities have either completed or are in the process of completing the assessment.

Partner actions

Three WEL members are particularly involved in projects that are likely to increase the levels of cycling and walking in Wales. The National Trust and YHA provide access, accommodation and facilities for both walkers and cyclists to improve and encourage access to the countryside. Sustrans has several large projects in place to increase walking and cycling infrastructure in towns and cities, creating kilometres of new cycle and walking tracks, which will link up essential amenities and encourage walking and cycling as a viable alternative to journeys by motorised transport. The main Sustrans projects are Connect 2 and the Valleys Cycle Network. Alongside this, Sustrans works to change travel behaviour and has a range of projects designed to encourage people to walk and cycle more, including Bike It and Active Travel.

The National Trust, RSPB and YHA are closely involved in providing access, including the maintenance of existing pathways and provision of new access for walkers and cyclists. This includes the provision of routes that are accessible by disabled users, such as the new path which now links the Broadway Youth Hostel with the coastal path. The National Trust provides extensive access on its land and the RSPB have been working with Local Authorities and CCW to ensure that access does not impact negatively on important biodiversity.

BTCV's Green Gym programme provides opportunities for individuals to improve their health and ability to undertake physical activity through practical conservation as an alternative to standard exercise. The programme encourages a wider section of the community to become engaged in environmental activities, raising awareness of conservation and environmental issues. 694 volunteers have been engaged in Green Gym activities, undertaking 773 workdays since April 2008. In this time, BTCV Cymru have established/worked with 17 groups to promote physical activity through use of the environment.

An educational DVD has been produced giving guidance to gorge walkers on how to minimise the impact of their activity on the highly sensitive environment in which they operate. Produced by Snowdonia Active the 15 minute DVD is aimed at outdoor education leaders and was funded from the SPLASH grant programme administered by Environment Agency Wales.

Theme 4 - Flood and water management

Environment Strategy outcomes supported this theme: 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 13, 14, 15, 17, 31, 32, 35, 35

Progress under this theme is summarised below:

- Increased flooding is likely to be a more common occurrence as a consequence of climate change in years to come. The New Approaches Programme to flood risk management will seek to respond to these challenges, highlighting the risks for those most exposed and providing advice on how they can address this. The consultation on the Flood and Water Bill will identify the roles and responsibilities resulting from the legislation.
- Responding to these challenges the Welsh Assembly Government has developed a Strategic Programme of European funded risk management projects with £30m available from Convergence Programmes.
- Maintaining Wales' resilience to these dangers has resulted in a strong working relationship developing between the Environment Agency and local authorities to establish the risks that are likely to result as a consequence of increased flooding. This has been based upon the summer 2007 floods and action plan resulting from the interim Pitt recommendations. This has been enhanced further by the Wales Flood Group, who have overseen the necessary programme of work. This has included actions to improve the understanding of risk, and the development of a comprehensive awareness raising programme.

Partner actions

The National Trust has assessed coastal flood and erosion risk for all National Trust owned coast. The data has been shared with the Environment Agency, Countryside Council for Wales and relevant Shoreline Management Plan groups. A detailed risk assessment of National Trust coastal ownership has been completed to identify assets at risk (features of natural or historic significance, buildings, access routes, recreational facilities, homes and businesses). The findings are being incorporated into business planning and management.

The National Trust has been working to decrease its impact on water quality and improve water efficiency. An audit of the impact of all National Trust properties on water quality has been completed. The National Trust is working to address the problems that have been identified. Catchment improvements will benefit biodiversity.

Theme 5 - Ecosystems Services

Environment Strategy outcomes supported this theme: 1, 3, 4, 8, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 35, 36

Wales' economy benefits from a variety of resources and processes that are provided by its natural ecosystems. How we manage our land, particularly for biodiversity, water and soil carbon, are critical to ecosystem services.

Progress under this theme is summarised below:

- CCW, EAW, FCW and WAG worked on agreeing the principles of applying the ecosystems assessment framework, and mapping out ecosystems related projects in Wales.
- Across the Cambrian Mountains a project has been run to optimise ecosystem and services options. An economic analysis is being undertaken, and carbon footprint exercises are underway on a selection of farms.
- Phase II of the Common Agricultural Policy has commenced and will include monitoring and updating baseline data on livestock production and land usage. The Axis 2 review resulted in the development of the 'Glastir' scheme, implemented from 2010, that fully embraces the concept of ecosystem services delivery.
- The Wales Fisheries Strategy makes a firm commitment to an ecosystems approach, and implementation plans have been published and are available on the WAG website.

Partner actions

The National Trust has been working on a landscape scale project to enhance ecosystem services in the Upper Conwy. The Trust has worked with farm tenants to block drains on parts of the blanket bog to restore water levels. It also established monitoring systems for water and carbon. This project will improve the condition of biodiversity on the SAC.

RSPB staff participate in the Axis 2 review, providing expert and technical advice on how the agri-environment schemes can be reshaped to address declines in populations of key farmland birds and how this can be integrated with other ecosystem services.

Theme 6 - Research and evidence

Environment Strategy outcomes supported this theme: 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 10

Progress under this theme is summarised below:

- Wales' Environmental Research Hub has organised a workshop on environmental monitoring needs, and prepared its initial report on research needs, which was considered at a workshop in January 2009. The Welsh Assembly Government, working with its Environment Strategy Indicator Working Group, has prepared a revised Action Plan to develop indicators with no data.
- Research will be vital to enable Wales to move to a low carbon economy and society. Planning for Sustainable Buildings was published in May 2009. From September 2009, Permitted Development Rights are extended to allow a greater range of domestic microgeneration equipment to be installed without requiring planning permission, subject to specific criteria. Recommendations from the Planning for Climate Change consultation paper will be incorporated into a consolidated version of Planning Policy Wales.

Partner actions

RSPB Cymru undertakes the annual production of the State of Birds in Wales report, bringing together the latest developments in bird research, survey, monitoring and policy developments. This publication is produced in partnership with Countryside Council for Wales, BTO, the Welsh Ornithological Society and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust. RSPB produces an annual indicator of wild bird populations for WAG. It is also working on a UK wide research programme into bird declines, the causes and remedies, and will publish the results and implications of these studies. RSPB has undertaken a desk study review of the potential for Welsh agri-environment schemes to address declines in priority species. It also has the contract for WAG to assess the effectiveness of Tir Gofal and the Organic Farming Scheme in addressing declines in key species (new contract 2009).

Butterfly Conservation has developed a draft Wales Butterfly Indicator along with the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, which is now complete. This indicator should be adopted in Wales and mirrors those used at European and UK levels and at country level in England and Scotland.

WWF commissioned a short research project, completed by E3 consultants, into understanding how best the Welsh Assembly Government could meet its 3% per annum targets including a current state of play analysis. This piece of work proved useful to feed into the Climate Change Commission process in order to help influence the best path for emissions reductions in Wales. The work was fed in to the development of the climate change strategy for Wales at relevant opportunities.

Theme 7 - The historic environment

Environment Strategy outcomes supported this theme: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 23, 24, 26

Maintaining Wales' historic environment for the benefit of future generations is a key component within our approach to the environment. Understanding the nature of our historic landscape will be key for us to take the right steps to preserve it.

Progress under this theme is summarised below:

- Cadw have developed a list of all buildings at risk in Wales and working with the Built Heritage Forum are working to find ways of addressing the "at risk" issue.
- A programme of characterisation of all registered historic landscapes has been completed. Pilot urban characterisation studies of Aberdare, Dolgellau and Flint have been completed.
- Heritage Minister published his Strategic Direction Statement for the Historic Environment of Wales in September 2009.

Partner actions

The National Trust was a member of the HEG strategic statement drafting group which compiled the advisory document for the Minister. National Trust advice will be published with the launch of the Minister's final Strategic Statement for the Historic Environment shortly.

Theme 8 - People and the environment

Environment Strategy outcomes supported this theme: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30

Bringing people and their environment's more closely together is a key challenge for the Welsh Assembly Government. Positive changes are often more sustainable with the support of local communities and channelling the contributions they can make. There are large numbers of green volunteers across Wales that collectively are making significant contributions towards the wellbeing of our environment.

Progress under this theme is summarised below:

- A research exercise on green volunteering was completed by the WCVA in November 2008. The Welsh Assembly Government is working to respond to the recommendations provided by the WCVA.
- Education is a key element of efforts to maintain and improve the environment. A significant proportion of our schools (93%) are now registered with the Green Flag Award Scheme. By 2008-2009 a total of 615 Eco School Green Flags had been awarded.
- Outdoor Learning Experiences are increasingly common through the Foundation Phase of education. A series of 8 Outdoor Learning Experiences have been delivered to over 800 practitioners working within the Foundation Phase. CCW and WAG fund Learning through Landscapes to support schools to develop and sustain their outdoor spaces. An Outdoor Learning Training Module was provided to local authorities in March 2009. Forest School continues to provide a valuable approach to outdoor learning, with the numbers of Forest School programmes and qualified practitioners continuing to grow.
- Learning resources on climate change were developed and presented to the Climate Change Commission in December 2008.
- The three National Park Authorities initiated a number of projects assisting their social inclusion agendas, and reaching out to communities within and outside the national parks. The "Come outside!" project was tested and evaluated through 2 demonstration projects, and this will set the direction for the final year of the pilot.
- Community First Partnerships have undertaken many activities in relation to using the countryside and improving their local environments.
- The Wellbeing Wales Network completed three pilot projects of the "Exploring Sustainable Wellbeing Toolkit".

Partner actions

A large number of WEL members encourage and create opportunities for green volunteering, and the work of volunteers is invaluable for the delivery of many of our members' projects. Projects range from practical conservation work to the monitoring of declining species, such as butterflies and moths, to removing litter and other waste from the local environment. Collectively, WEL members work with thousands of volunteers each year.

The National Trust owns and operates Stackpole for Outdoor Learning, which is an Eco-centre accredited outdoor activity and education centre.

An electronic pack of teaching resources has been produced to tie in Climate Change issues with the eight Eco-Schools Wales topic areas. The pack has lesson plans across all Key Stages. It will be finalised and distributed by KWT to the 1600+ Welsh Eco-schools in Sept 09.

Keep Wales Tidy has produced Curriculum Maps to link the eight Eco-School programme themes and the ESDGC Common Understanding framework across all the Key Stages. The packs will be distributed to the 1600+ Welsh Eco-Schools in Sept 09.

The Keep Wales Tidy Eco-Schools team continues to support and encourage Welsh schools in achieving the International Green Flag Award. In 2007-2008 a total of 113 Eco-School Green Flags were awarded in Wales. In 2008-2009 a total of 206 Eco School Green Flags were awarded. The percentage of schools registered in Wales on the Eco-Schools programme has risen to more than 90%.

WEL members have made first-hand experience of the natural world and cultural heritage possible for members of the public and school children. Coed Cadw and The National Trust have both contributed to the Real World Learning Group and the RSPB invites hundreds of school children for educational events on their reserves each year. The RSPB has also had a member of staff seconded to WAG to work on the ESDGC programme. The YHA provides affordable accommodation for school children on educational trips, in addition to encouraging members of the public to enjoy Welsh cultural heritage and the natural world.

The Snowdonia Society is an active participant in the Snowdonia Disability Equality Forum set up by the National Park Authority and promotes the provision of all ability and wheelchair accessible paths. The YHA provides accommodation at many of its hostels for disabled users. Broadhaven Hostel, in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, was specially built and equipped for disabled users with support from the National Park Authority.

Several WEL members involve socially disadvantaged groups in practical environmental projects where they gain access to the countryside and wildlife, and are also able to help improve their local areas. BTCV Cymru and Keep Wales Tidy work with large numbers of socially disadvantaged individuals in various settings, and the Bat Conservation Trust's Count Bat project gives disadvantaged groups a chance to learn more about valuable wildlife. The YHA and Snowdonia Society are both involved in the Mosaic project, which aims to encourage and aid ethnic minority groups to access and enjoy the countryside.

A Rivers Trust Challenge fund was established enabling six Trusts, throughout Wales, to bid for money to deliver riparian habitat improvement projects. Pembrokeshire, Teifi, Carmarthenshire, Dee, Conwy and Clywd and the South Wales Valleys Trusts all delivered projects in partnership with local landowners the aim being to provide better riverine habitat for fish and other wildlife.

Forestry Commission Wales' Woodlands for Learning Team works with young people and teachers and other educational professionals to encourage the use of woodlands and trees as a learning resource. The team delivered 700 woodland educational visits involving over 20,000 children in 2008/09, as well as delivering 11 Forest School programmes, training approximately 25 Forest School leaders and providing teacher training opportunities for over 800 teachers through INSET and twilight sessions.

Theme 9 - Partnership

Environment Strategy outcomes supported this theme: All

Progress under this theme is summarised below:

- The Welsh Assembly Government is working actively with its partners to enhance and maintain Wales' environment. The Wales Spatial Plan is working with the Sustainable Development Commission on its report on Low Carbon Regions that will inform future delivery plans.
- The Networked Environment Regions approach, being piloted in South East Wales, is being developed and tested with partners.
- In 2008-9, 15 private sector employers engaged in working toward a Corporate Health Standard Award. In February 2009 Magnox North-Wylfa Power Station was successfully assessed to receive the first Platinum level CHS award.

Partner actions

WEL members have been involved in the various Spatial Plan Groups and have also worked on the Networked Environment Region project. Members who have contributed staff time to this work include Snowdonia Society, Keep Wales Tidy and RSPB Cymru.

WEL members input information on their own activities, which contribute to the delivery of the Environment Strategy.

Biannual networking meetings have been held in three regions, South East, South West and North Wales, as part of Keep Wales Tidy's Tidy Towns projects. These have included all 22 Local Authorities and other public, voluntary and private partners e.g. Environment Agency Wales, Forestry Commission Wales, Countryside Council for Wales and British Trust for Conservation Volunteers. Two meetings have been held in each region to date. Cross-border working between Local Authorities is currently being investigated.

The Snowdonia Society's Green Snowdonia project, its project officer and the linked Green Snowdonia awards, promote environmentally sustainable behaviour on the part of small businesses in the tourism sector in North West Wales. Keep Wales Tidy has enrolled in the Corporate Health Standard and has so far achieved Bronze Award. KWT is happy to consider sharing their experience with other organisations that would like to do the same.

Theme 10 - Environmental quality

Environment Strategy outcomes supported this theme: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 27, 28, 31, 33, 34, 36, 37

Progress under this theme is summarised below:

- The immediate environment of peoples' homes and communities provides the most obvious and tangible experience of the state of the environment in Wales. Improving the quality of this experience will be achieved through the Local Environmental Quality Forum Action Plan.
- Initiatives such as Pride in our Communities (now known as Fly-tipping Action Wales) and Tidy Towns have developed innovative approaches to improving the quality of our environments, harnessing the contribution of voluntary groups.
- Streetscene indicators are now more robust with the additions provided by the Local Environmental Audit and Management System (LEAMS) survey.

WAG has continued to support and fund the Pride in our Communities Programme, to tackle flytipping.

The Environment Legislative Competence Order will provide a crucial tool to provide Wales with the necessary powers to address these issues. The proposed LCO was published in Parliament for pre-legislative scrutiny in April 2009.

WAG is currently developing a monitoring plan to ensure that the Wales Transport Strategy can be monitored effectively. Contractors for Trunk Road Improvement are required to seek an Excellent standard in the Civil Engineering Environmental Quality Award scheme (CEEQUAL).

Partner actions

Fly-tipping Action Wales (formerly known as Pride in our Communities) is a Welsh Assembly Government sponsored partnership initiative that is led by Environment Agency Wales. The partnership includes a range of key organisations that are working together to catch fly-tippers and inform the public on their legal duty to get rid of their waste responsibly. The initiative has set up regular regional fly tipping fora to tackle problems and share best practice. Partners are sharing intelligence and using the latest techniques to track down offenders. The public are also being encouraged to ask where their waste is going and to use an Environment Agency registered waste carrier. The aim is to work better together to clean up our communities and help make Wales free from fly-tipping.

The Snowdonia Society organises work days for volunteers to clear up accumulations of litter, especially fly-tipped litter on private land, in the Snowdonia National Park. YHA also organises work days for volunteers to clear up accumulations of litter at beaches adjacent to Youth Hostels within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.

Keep Wales Tidy have contributed to the development of a draft LEQ Action Plan.

Local Environmental Audit and Management Scheme (LEAMS) surveys have been undertaken by Keep Wales Tidy in each of the 22 Local Authority Areas in 2007-2008 and 2008-2009. This information has been provided to the Local Government Data Unit to be used with Local Authority survey information for the Street Scene Performance Indicator-STS/0798/NEW1. Cleanliness Index score for Wales in 2007-2008 was 65, and for 2008-2009 it is 66.87.

Tidy Towns has installed preventative measures and run waste amnesties in deprived areas to prevent waste from being fly-tipped. Volunteers have been actively involved in running such events. 24 preventative measures were installed in 2008-09, along with 152 community skip/waste amnesty events. Also, a policy paper has been prepared on Fly-tipping on Private Land and agreed by the Keep Wales Tidy Board for consultation. Recommendations have been put forward regarding actions to reduce fly-tipping.

Keep Wales Tidy have successfully implemented year 1 of the Tidy Towns initiative. Officers are now employed in every county of Wales. Performance against Year 1 targets is available. Almost 20,000 volunteers were involved in practical environmental action in year 1.

Cylch has worked to reuse, recycle and compost waste from landfill sites. In 07-08 Cylch members reused 10,553 tonnes, recycled 17,810 tonnes and composted 10,318 tonnes of waste from landfill. Further detail on the materials in each of these categories is available on request, for example, reuse covers 8 broad categories of materials. Cylch members also supported 3,343 volunteers with their reuse, recycling and composting operations.

Fish passes and easements have been constructed by Environment Agency Wales, at 5 locations, in order to enable fish to migrate upstream to their historic spawning grounds. Old structures such as weirs have hindered or completely prevented upstream migration for decades thus having a detrimental impact on the riverine ecology. Recent work of this nature has resulted in over 1000km of improved rivers in Wales assisting species such as salmon, sea trout, eels, lamprey and shad.

List of abbreviations

BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BARS	Biodiversity Action Reporting System
BTCV	British Trust for Conservation Volunteers
CCW	Countryside Council for Wales
CHS	Corporate Health Standard
CS	Community Safety
CF	Communities First
Defra	Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs
EA	Environment Agency
EMS	Environmental Management System
ESDGC	Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship
ES	Environment Strategy
FE	Further Education
FCW	Forestry Commission Wales
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
KWT	Keep Wales Tidy
LA	Local authorities - includes the 22 unitary authorities, the three National Park Authorities and the WLGA
LCO	Legislative Competence Order
LEAMS	Local Environmental Audit and Management System
LEQ	Local Environment Quality
NERC	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act
NHS	National Health Service

NPA	National Park Authority
PAW	Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime
RCA	Rural Communities Association
RSPB	Royal Society for Protection of Birds
SCW	Sports Council for Wales
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
WAG	Welsh Assembly Government
	WAG (CCWD) - Climate Change and Water Division
	WAG (CSU) - Corporate Strategy Unit
	WAG (DPHHP-HID), - Department for Public Health and Health Professions - Health Improvement Division
	WAG (NAMU) - Nature & Maritime
	WAG (TSD) - Technical Services Division
	WAG (TW) - Transport Wales
WBP	Wales Biodiversity Partnership
WBWN	Wellbeing Wales Network
WEL	Wales Environment Link
WCVA	Wales Council for Voluntary Action
WCMP	Wales Coastal and Maritime Partnership
WLGA	Welsh Local Government Association
WSP	Wales Spatial Plan