

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA/LG/0821/20

Mike Hedges AM
Chair
Climate Change, Environment, and Rural Affairs Committee
Senedd Cymru

24 June 2020

Dear Mike

In response to the Climate Change, Environment, and Rural Affairs Committee's report on the Climate Change (Wales) Regulations 2018, I committed to reconsider the existing 2050 target and report back to the Senedd before setting the third carbon budget. In May last year you will have seen the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) published its recommendation for Wales to increase its 2050 target to at least 95%. Soon afterwards I publicly accepted the recommendation and announced my intention to lay regulations in the Senedd to amend the existing target later this year.

In December 2019 I wrote to the CCC to request its advice on how changing the 2050 target affects the interim targets and second carbon budget set by the Senedd in 2018. I also asked for advice regarding the level of the third carbon budget and options for how Wales might go beyond 95% to reach net zero. With our support the CCC engaged with stakeholders at events in Llandudno and Cardiff in January, providing the opportunity to contribute to and influence the CCC's advice regarding the level at which the new targets and budgets should be set.

We intend to engage stakeholders further in the coming months to explore the impacts Wales might expect if global average temperature rise is limited to 1.5°C, compared to 2°C. In last year's advice the CCC reported achieving the UK's net zero target, and Wales's 95% recommendation, would deliver a greater than 50% chance of limiting global average temperature rise to 1.5 °C, if replicated across the world. Wales's current emissions reduction pathway is more aligned to a 2°C rise. Stakeholders are also engaged through the consultation process of the contributing policies, which we are developing to help meet our ambitious climate goals.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The CCC had committed to publishing its advice in September but has since announced changes to its 2020 work programme in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and has decided to delay publication of its advice until December. As a result, I consider it preferable to lay regulations setting the third carbon budget and amending the wider emissions reduction pathway early next year, rather than this year as I had intended.

Following Cabinet consideration of the CCC's advice and the results of our engagement activity I will lay draft regulations in February before a plenary slot in early March. I trust you and your Committee will understand the reasons for this revised timetable.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

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