

CIWM Cymru Wales recognises that the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee ("the Committee") will be setting its priorities for the Sixth Senedd (2021-2026) early in the autumn term. In order to help inform the Committee's decisions we understand that you are gathering views on what you think your main priorities should be.

In particular, CIWM Cymru Wales recognises that the Committee is interested in:

- What individuals and organisations think about the Minister and Deputy Minister's priorities for the next 12-18 months. In particular, which of these priorities the Committee should be focusing on over the next year or so; and
- Any other subject you think should be prioritised over the next 12-18 months.

The Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM) having consulted its members in Wales is pleased to set out our response to both of these questions below.

Introduction

1 Established in 1898, the CIWM is the leading professional body for the resource and waste management sector with a purpose to move the world beyond waste. Representing over 5,500 individuals in the UK, Ireland and overseas, CIWM has a mission to unite, equip and mobilise its professional community to lead, influence and deliver the science, strategies, businesses and policies for the sustainable management of resources and waste. CIWM has ten regional centres across the UK and Ireland, including CIWM Cymru Wales, that are ran by member volunteers.

2 CIWM Cymru Wales organise an extensive programme of technical meetings, site visits, symposia and social events. Representing over 350 waste professionals working in local and national governments, agencies, private waste companies, consultancies, social enterprises as well as education and research centres, CIWM

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Cymru Wales provides a forum for professional debate and the opportunity for members to meet and socialise through a strong network of professionals.

3 Consistent with the overall CIWM mission CIWM Cymru Wales believes that the resources and waste sector can play an important role in efforts to mitigate climate change. The Climate Change Committee (CCC) says that waste sector emissions in the UK can be reduced by 75% by 2050, according to its 'Balanced Net Zero Pathway' predictions for waste.

4 These emissions can be reduced by keeping resources in use for as long as possible resulting in less waste and therefore fewer emissions produced from landfills and incinerators where they mostly arise.

Minister and Deputy Minister's priorities for the next 12-18 months

5 In the letter to the chair of the committee, Llyr Gruffyd MS, the Julie James AS/MS Minister for Climate Change and Lee Waters AS/MS the deputy minister for Climate Change set out a series of the priority focus areas for the next 12 – 18 months.

6 CIWM Cymru Wales have identified three areas for priority:

- Circular economy
- Transport
- Digital data

Circular economy

7 CIWM Cymru Wales believes the transition to a circular economy in Wales from a linear economy, one which takes, makes and disposes of materials, requires a commitment to the sustainable management of waste and resources from all sectors of the community.

8 Less waste needs to be produced through purchasing decisions and the design and development of sustainable products. Therefore, a priority action for the Welsh Government is for all departments to adopt the [Sustainable Procurement Hierarchy](#) as well as encourage the public sector in particular to adopt the principles of circular procurement, based on the waste hierarchy – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle,



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and Recover to drive markets and support new business approaches for new products and services. Circular procurement sets out an approach to green public procurement which pays special attention to "...that seek to contribute to the closed energy and material loops within supply chains, whilst minimising, and in the best case avoiding, negative environmental impacts and waste creation across the whole life-cycle." (https://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/circular_procurement_en.htm)

9 Focus should be concentrated on a number of contracts that can deliver decarbonisation. The approach, contract documents and outcomes should be reviewed and the information gleaned should be widely disseminated to enhance understanding within the public sector.

10 Public sector bodies should work together on the development of contract specifications that can minimise the carbon impact of works, goods, and services procured. This should be based on enhanced understanding of their emissions profiles.

11 Clauses for specifications in contracts should be developed to reduce carbon impacts. The private sector through market engagement exercises should be involved as only together will the decarbonisation agenda be delivered. Potential requirements could include, for example, stipulating requirements for reusable packaging, delivery of goods by electric vehicles and stopping the use of single-use plastics, setting waste reduction, reuse, repair and recycling targets for businesses.

12 It is important that businesses are able to adapt and evolve to react to the requirements of government to deliver a circular economy. Continuing support should therefore be offered both by Government departments and agencies such as WRAP Cymru to advise business of the opportunities and benefits of circular business models. This will ensure that products' longevity and durability, through access-based models such as renting and leasing, as well as expanding opportunities for reuse and recycling materials can be realised.

13 The resources and waste sector also requires more **infrastructure** for reuse and repair to be expanded and greater investment in our capacity to recycle materials such as plastic and packaging waste.

14 Investing in new equipment and infrastructure to increase the use of recycled materials in Welsh manufacturing should be a priority. It has been recognised that



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the interdependency of infrastructure will create the greatest opportunities. The co-location of innovative technologies and reprocessing infrastructure, such as the development of Eco Parks, offer major opportunities that deliver resource efficiency and achieve operational, environmental and financial benefits. This will provide the framework to delivering the circular economy. Planning bodies should be encouraged to adopt this approach.

15 Finally, **incineration and landfilling** have to be reduced to a minimum as waste sector emissions mostly arise from the decomposition of organic matter in landfills, and reduced residual waste sent to energy from waste (EfW).

16 CIWM Cymru Wales believes that by applying circular economy principles to transform the way goods and materials are produced and used in the economy provides us with an opportunity to address climate change, create greater resilience and increase sustainability.

Transport

17 Decarbonisation of transport (in particular HGVs) is a priority issue as diesel use represents a significant source of carbon emissions for waste operators in both the public and private sector. Vehicle manufacturers are not moving at the pace the climate emergency warrants and in our view there is a role for government to support R&D in this area.

18 CIWM recently responded to the Department of Transport consultation on phasing out fossil fuel HGVs and although the transformation of councils' waste management fleet towards electric vehicles should be accelerated, there are issues in relation to chassis manufacturers delivering the fleet requirement for special body-build suppliers, to an earlier timetable.

19 CIWM Cymru Wales recognise that steps to transition to low/zero emission including amongst the grey fleet (staff travel), will require infrastructure in the form of low carbon power capacity whether that is national grid, hydrogen networks, battery development/manufacture or something else.

20 In addition, with the advent of increased remote working by administrative staff employed in the waste and resource sector Welsh Government where possible, should support them to continue to work either at home or in 'hubs' or if they have



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to travel to work this should be via active travel and/or public transport to reduce and encourage unnecessary car journeys.

Digital Data

21 Digital technologies which enable data and information to be created and processed will be required for circular business models and the complex demands of circular supply chains.

22 This is supported by the [European Policy Centre](#), who believe that data and digitally-enabled solutions can accelerate and boost the transition to a sustainable circular economy. They state that that it can improve connectivity and information sharing; make business models, products and processes more circular; and empower citizens and consumers to contribute to the transition. They go on to state that they can be used to improve different segments of the circular economy, including waste management and recycling.

23 CIWM Cymru Wales believes that tools such as artificial intelligence, the internet of things, and biomimicry could accelerate the transition towards a circular economy at scale. Welsh Government should therefore seek to investigate how these new technologies can reduce climate changes impacts.

24 CIWM Cymru Wales have set out some specific actions that should also be prioritised over the next 12-18 months:

Reuse & Repair

25 Promoting the collection of more goods for reuse or repair. This will reduce the amount of waste generated and therefore collected, reducing the costs of collecting and treating waste, allowing funds to be spent elsewhere. It could also help generate more jobs locally, business models based on reuse, leasing, repair and remanufacturing could create four times more jobs than waste treatment, disposal and recycling (https://green-alliance.org.uk/building_a_circular_economy.php).

26 Key to ensuring more items can be repaired or reused is to make re-use as the default route for furniture by developing a nationwide approach. This can be achieved by Welsh Government investigating what infrastructure and partnership



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arrangements (local authorities, third sector and private sector) could be developed to support this ambition. In addition, work with the UK government to take forward targeted landfill bans on selected materials including furniture, mattresses and textiles to develop producer contributions to stimulate industries and infrastructure necessary to reuse and recycle these materials.

Behaviour Change

27 CIWM Cymru Wales believes that a specific climate change behaviour campaign to encourage householders to look at what they purchase, buy less, or consider recyclable/ reusable items, should be developed and delivered.

