

Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith /
Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee
Blaenoriaethau ar gyfer y Chweched Senedd / Priorities for the Sixth Senedd

PR46

Ymateb gan Canolfan Materion Rhyngwladol Cymru / Evidence from Wales Centre for International Affairs

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1. Background

WCIA works towards a vision of a Wales where everyone contributes to a fairer and more peaceful world. We inspire people to learn and act on global issues through promoting global learning to prepare Wales for our shared future, inspiring global action in communities and organisations and building global partnerships connecting Wales and the world. WCIA is the host of Stop Climate Chaos Cymru's 'Climate Cymru' campaign¹ launched in March 2021 to gather 10,000 diverse voices from Wales and ensure these are heard by world leaders at COP26 in Glasgow.

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

2. Collaboration and Engagement

2.1 We strongly agree that collaboration and engagement should be prioritised by Ministers. In the five months since the Climate Cymru campaign was launched, it has become clear that individuals, communities and organisations from across Wales want to engage in discussion, learning and action on climate change. The Climate Cymru campaign already represents over 5,000 diverse, Welsh voices each with a personal reason for wanting leaders to do more to tackle the issue. In addition, over 200 cross-sector partner organisations are actively engaged with the campaign.

2.2 Through WCIA's partnerships with other organisations, it is clear that Welsh Government needs to improve in the way it seeks to collaborate and engage others on climate change mitigation and adaptation. For example, there needs to be much deeper engagement with people, communities and organisations across Wales on the Low Carbon Plan. While we appreciate the decarbonisation team are open to dialogue with external stakeholders, in practice this puts the onus entirely on organisations that are already overstretched and have little capacity to proactively lobby Welsh Government on the breadth of this agenda. In addition, organisations are only gatekeepers for the wider community who would have little or no opportunity to engage with Welsh Government on climate change. This needs to be urgently addressed. Only by proactively reaching into communities across Wales will Welsh Government start to better understand how climate change is and will affect diverse groups and in turn, how best to shape solutions to mitigate and adapt. In addition, allowing proper citizen consultation and involvement in the development of a plan will increase a sense of citizen ownership and help contribute to broader public support.

¹ [Home - Climate Cymru - For the Wales you love](#)

2.3 We would like the Committee to scrutinise Welsh Government’s approach to delivering their commitment to ‘engage every person, community, business and civil servant’

3. Low Carbon Delivery Plan and Second Carbon Budget

3.1 We agree with the Minister that the coming decade is one for urgent action if we are to meet net zero by 2050. The Low Carbon Delivery Plan and carbon budget are key to delivering this objective. As mentioned above, there needs to be clear dialogue with all stakeholders on our low carbon pathways and what this will mean in practice. It is our understanding that the next Low Carbon Plan will be launched to coincide with COP26. Welsh Government has missed an opportunity to work proactively and collaboratively with others to produce this Plan which would have resulted in collective ownership of it.

3.2 We welcome the Minister recognising that climate action is one of the ways that we can deliver on our global responsibility obligations. The worst impacts of climate change globally are on those that contribute the least to causing it. As such it is essential that consumption emissions are accounted for in carbon budgets i.e. emissions across the ‘cradle to grave’ supply chain of a product or service, including shipping and aviation. Wales’ consumption of natural resources is far beyond what its population size can justify; Wales exceeds safe limits for the consumption of CO₂ by 455%.² Data on Wales’ consumption emissions is woefully out of date. Without a consistent mechanism for measuring consumption emissions we cannot track our global impact and without a plan to reduce them we risk offshoring our climate responsibilities to other nations. This is not what global responsibility looks like.

3.3 We would like the Committee to prioritise scrutiny of the Low Carbon Plan and carbon budget when it is published and to seek clarification on how Welsh Government intends to measure and reduce consumption emissions.

4. Climate and global citizenship education

4.1 We are disappointed that there is no mention of climate education (within the broader auspices of ESDGC) in the Ministers paper. WCIA’s global learning programmes support climate education through projects such as Mock COP, SDGs4U and Changemakers. There has been a significant increase in climate education through schools over recent years. In line with aspirations under the new curriculum for Wales to support ‘ethical and informed citizens of Wales and the world’, it is essential that climate education in schools includes a broader understanding of global citizenship so learners can understand the other factors that interlink with climate such as inequality, poverty and infrastructure. This is true for adult learning and professional development too. Climate and global citizenship education has a significant role to play in supporting people across Wales gain a better understanding of the implications of climate change both here in Wales and globally, empowering communities to develop solutions and supporting climate action.

4.2 We would like the Committee to investigate Welsh Government’s plans to support climate and global citizenship education across all settings and within communities.

² Oxfam Cymru (2020) ‘The Welsh Doughnut: A framework for environmental sustainability and social justice’