



Organisation: Stop Climate Chaos Cymru
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1. Background

1.1 Stop Climate Chaos Cymru is a coalition of 15 influential organisations based in Wales¹, who work together to mobilise our supporters and others across Wales, to bring about changes to help tackle climate change. Our 'Climate Cymru' campaign² (hosted by the Wales Centre for International Affairs) launched in March 2021 to gather 10,000 diverse voices from Wales and ensure these are heard by world leaders at COP26 in Glasgow.

1.2 The world is hitting record-breaking temperatures, and the poorest communities are being affected the most. The devastating decline in biodiversity is set to wipe out a million species. Our oceans are choking in plastic and our children are breathing toxic air. The science is clear, and Wales is feeling the impacts. The political response needs to be stronger and faster. This is not a future problem: the time is now.

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 partner organisations are actively engaged with the campaign. 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.

¹ Stop Climate Chaos Cymru members: CAFOD, Centre for Alternative Technology, Christian Aid, Friends of the Earth, Oxfam Cymru, NUS Cymru, RSPB, Size of Wales, Sustrans, Tearfund, Wildlife Trusts Wales, Welsh Centre for International Affairs, Woodland Trust, Women's Institute, WWF.

² [Home - Climate Cymru - For the Wales you love](#)

2.2 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 In a domestic context, SCCC members would like to see Welsh Government acting to do its fair share in the global picture to achieve equitable and rapid emissions reductions, both domestic and consumption. In its international policy, SCCC members would like Welsh Government to ensure that wellbeing, sustainability and principles of global equity are the forefront.

3.3 SCCC members are concerned that our legislative climate targets only take account of the emissions we produce in Wales, and not those of the goods and services that we use and consume here but that are produced elsewhere. 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%.³ 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. In order to be a globally responsible nation, in line with the goals of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, we must take responsibility for our footprint and impact on the world.

3.4 We will not know until the Low Carbon Plan is published whether it outlines how Wales will spend or plan to spend on specific policy areas and initiatives to achieve the plan. It is clear however, that Welsh Government must significantly increase investment in our zero-carbon future to meet its carbon budgets. Welsh Government should move at pace to report on the impact of all spending on climate change by embedding Carbon Impact Assessments across the public sector. This should be done at each annual budget.

3.5 Climate change mitigation and adaptation require a systemic shift in our economic approach. This is not just about additional funding or addressing carbon impacts. We need to shift our entire economic approach away from GDP 'growth at any cost' to a wellbeing economy that delivers for people and the planet. Such an approach needs to ensure social justice and environmental justice are delivered together so that there is a just transition for impacted communities.

3.6 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.

³ Oxfam Cymru (2020) 'The Welsh Doughnut: A framework for environmental sustainability and social justice'

3.7 We would like the Committee to scrutinise Welsh Government's annual spend on climate change mitigation and adaption and their approach to carbon impact assessment.

3.8 We would like the Committee to scrutinise how Welsh Government climate change mitigation and adaptation is driving the shift to a wellbeing economy.