

Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith /
Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee
Cymru Sero Net / Net Zero Wales
NZ10
Ymateb gan Cymdeithas Tir a Busnesau Cefn Gwlad Cymru /
Evidence from Country Land and Business Association (CLA) Cymru



The Country Land and Business Association (CLA) is the membership organisation for owners and managers of land, property and business in rural England and Wales. Our 28,000 members manage around 10 million acres and operate over 250 different types of businesses.

CLA Cymru welcomes the opportunity to submit evidence to the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee on our views on the 'Net Zero Wales' plan.

Across our organisation, members are very aware of the changes needed to respond to the climate emergency. Firstly, there is concern for more focus and consideration towards the decarbonising of agriculture throughout the whole supply chain. The government needs to improve the labelling of food origin and sustainability status to ensure that it is a simpler task for consumers to choose a sustainable diet.

We as a membership organisation, with many of our members being food producers, encourage the message of supporting locally sourced sustainable food. It should be promoted that society eat a healthy, balanced AND sustainable diet. Through the pandemic, when many of the supermarket's supply of fresh produce ran low, it was the smaller, locally-owned businesses that provided what the consumers required. With less food miles, food being raised and produced under some of the best animal welfare laws globally and to have such a premium product right here at home, it's a known fact that red meat farmed in Wales is currently more sustainable than the global average. So, shouldn't farmers be central to the solution and not seen as the issue?

With very little mentioned on this subject we feel that the sustainability and responsible fashion subject needs highlighting. A natural resource and one of the only natural fibres that is renewable, is wool. Should there be more emphasis on sustainable changes to fashion and synthetic textiles, with obviously the added bonus of supporting our wool-producers?

A topic that has become very popular with our members is the little support or even availability of local or small-scale renewable projects. Finding that many of our members are in full support of establishing renewable ventures on their land however, they are being stifled by little assistance and the fact that renewable companies are typically only considering major ventures. Isn't the aim to reach net zero by 2050 to require individuals to make changes, be that big or small, for the overall outcome for our nation? We call for government to review the availability of willing suppliers for any project, big or small.

Many of our members have expressed support for more low carbon heating methods however, it is a major concern as to how many older, off grid, rural residential properties will

be able to meet the requirement. The fear is that many property owners will sell or even leave empty properties to deteriorate due to the extreme financial burden behind decarbonising their older homes. The fact is that many of these would be unsuitable due to their off grid status. This will then add to the already alarming insufficient amount of housing in these areas. A strategy and an adequate funding scheme is a necessity.

There is much talk on the build of 20,000 low carbon social homes within Wales, however the rural housing sector has a major concern with undersupply of suitable or affordable housing. With an aging population, due to local and younger generations being priced out of the area or not enough job availability, who is to be filling these job roles within sectors such as agriculture, tourism and forestry, which rural Wales rely so much upon?