

Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith /
Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee
Cymru Sero Net / Net Zero Wales
NZ19
Ymateb gan Extinction Rebellion Cymru /
Evidence from Extinction Rebellion Wales

**Extinction Rebellion Cymru/Wales (XR)
Response to the Welsh Government (WG) Climate Change, Environment and
Infrastructure Committee (CCEIC) NOVEMBER 2021**

1. Llyr Gruffydd, Chair of the CCEIC, has asked for a response from Extinction Rebellion Cymru/Wales Political Engagement group (XR) on the Net Zero Wales Carbon Budget 2 2021-25 (The Plan.)
2. Extinction Rebellion **supports the Plan** on its sense of urgency, the need for behavioural change; a just transition to Zero Carbon; and the importance of involving the Welsh public.
3. Extinction Rebellion recommends **extensive scrutiny** of the Plan as follows:
 - A. **The targets in the Plan which are difficult to understand and are not sufficiently transparent.** An example of this is the figures for the overall reduction of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) in Wales given as an average percentage compared with 1990 levels of CO₂. In particular it is not clear how the figures represent the significant increase in ambition claimed by the Plan.
 - B. **The Plan does not go far enough.** Wales must reinforce that it is not prepared to give up on 1.5C and recognises the importance of the current decade! Globally, GHG emissions are still going up: they need to be coming down.
 - C. **The Plan's approach to "participatory mechanisms".** Given the lack of Carbon Literacy across Wales, and the need for rapid mobilisation of the population to take action, this element is crucial. Publication of the net zero Wales public engagement strategy for consultation in the Spring of 2022 as noted in the Plan lacks urgency. Given the amount of information available, why has work not been done sooner? **It should be a main focus of the Committee's research and reporting.**
 - D. **The Plan's lack of recognition of the importance of communication and messaging at national level or outline the means to address this.** WG and CCEIC should consider very carefully how it can re-frame many of the crucial aspects of emission reduction in such a way the Welsh people, businesses and communities support the measures.. Many of the co-benefits will be seen long before impacts on climate change emerge and so they have a vital role in motivation. There are some easy wins.
4. **XR also recommends that:**

A. The Committee considers as a priority and a minimum the reports by 1. CAST and 2. Imperial College as identified below and uses their alternate weeks, when the Committee is not meeting formally, to call experts on deliberative democracy, behaviour change and messaging. The Plan states that 60% of abatement to 2035 involves large numbers of people acting or choosing differently. It is clearly essential that these people are 'on board' with any proposals.

1. **CAST BRIEFING 10 Public perceptions of climate change and policy action in the UK, China, Sweden and Brazil. November 2021**

[Briefings - cast.ac.uk](https://www.cast.ac.uk)

2. **Behaviour change, public engagement and Net Zero- A report for the Committee on Climate Change. Imperial College London. October 2019.**

[Behaviour change, public engagement and Net Zero \(Imperial College London\) - Climate Change Committee \(theccc.org.uk\)](https://www.theccc.org.uk)

B. Additionally the Committee should explore removing fully Welsh/UK subsidies to fossil fuels involving both financial support and public/pension investment. Welsh Government and the public sector more generally “Walking the talk” is likely to be a key element of encouraging buy-in from Welsh citizens (see the Imperial College report). Attempts by at least some Welsh Local Authorities to divest their pension funds from fossil fuel investment have met with resistance, not least from the managers of Investment Funds. The Committee should outline for the WG how to eliminate any such support in Wales and put pressure on the UK to do likewise.