

ROCP 26, Enfinium Ltd

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith | Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee

Adolygiad o flaenoriaethau'r Pwyllgor ar gyfer y Chweched Senedd | Review of the Committee's priorities for the Sixth Senedd

Ymateb gan Enfinium Ltd | Evidence from Enfinium Ltd

Your views

1. What are your views on the Committee's three strategic priorities: Climate Change; Sustainable Communities; and Protecting and enhancing the natural environment?

Enfinium is one of the largest energy from waste businesses in the UK and operates the Parc Adfer facility in Deeside on behalf of the North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Partnership and with support from the Welsh Government.

Therefore, Enfinium welcomes the committee's focus and prioritisation of Climate Change, Sustainable Communities, and Protecting and Enhancing the Natural Environment.

These three priorities are linked, with significant opportunities for action on climate change to also ensure communities and the natural environment are supported. This can be achieved, for example, by decarbonising the waste sector in Wales, which also creates a number of co-benefits such as reliable, homegrown electricity.

Enfinium therefore recommends that the committee consider, where appropriate, scrutinising how Welsh Government climate change objectives can also benefit the environment and support communities.

2. To what extent are the Committee's three strategic priorities still relevant, reflecting on social, economic and environmental developments since they were set at the start of the Sixth Senedd?

Climate Change has increased as a priority since the start of the Sixth Senedd. The Co-operation Agreement has set out further targets for Net Zero, while extreme weather and climate experiences are becoming increasingly prevalent as has

been seen throughout this year.

Therefore, the opportunities to take action on climate change that are being proposed and presented are of significant focus to the Committee over the remainder of the Sixth Senedd.

Considering the increased need for action since this committee's list of priorities was agreed in June 2021, Enfinium recommends that the committee consider and scrutinise:

- How Wales's waste strategy aligns with the new statutory target from DEFRA to reduce the UK's unrecyclable waste by 50% by 2042, and separately the latest advice from the UK Climate Change Committee on waste decarbonisation.
- How industrial communities in Wales could benefit from carbon capture and storage technology as a decarbonisation solution, noting the progress of the UK Government's Carbon Capture and Storage programme.
- How Wales could contribute to the development of Greenhouse Gas Removal (GGR) technologies that remove carbon dioxide from the air, noting the UK Climate Change Committee's advice that ~60 million tonnes of carbon dioxide will need to be removed from the atmosphere every year by 2050 to achieve Net Zero.

3. What are your view on the Committee's detailed priorities/outline programme of work for Years 3 to 5 of the Sixth Senedd (set out in its report, Priorities for the Sixth Senedd?)

The committee's priority area 1 sets out a plan to carry out annual scrutiny sessions with the Welsh Government to assess progress towards delivery of policies and development of proposals in Net Zero Wales, and the impact of these on carbon emissions across sectors.

enfinium welcomes this continued commitment to scrutinise Welsh Government policy progress towards a Net Zero Wales, and the impact of these on carbon emissions across sectors. These scrutiny sessions provide a significant opportunity for the committee to understand what actions Welsh Government are planning and considering, as well as providing an opportunity for the committee to propose additional matters for Welsh Government to consider.

With the committee acknowledging the climate and nature emergency in its recent work, enfinium would recommend that the committee scrutinises Welsh Government plans for Carbon Capture and Storage policies within Wales and the associated co-benefits of CCS deployment. For example, CCS applied to energy

from waste facilities can produce carbon negative electricity, which could support Wales's ambitions to deliver a zero-carbon power system. It could also help to decarbonise the waste sector itself, which is particularly important given the inclusion of the waste sector in the UK Emissions Trading Scheme from 2028.

Therefore, it is critical that the committee scrutinise Welsh Government's policy consideration of the multiple applications of CCS to ensure the most appropriate is supported and implemented.

4. To what extent are the Committee's detailed priorities/outline programme of work still relevant, reflecting on social, economic and environmental developments since they were set at the start of the Sixth Senedd?

The committee's priority area 2 sets out a plan to review Welsh Government's circular economy strategy, Beyond Recycling, a commitment to continue scrutiny of Renewable Energy.

With some facilities in Wales - such as enfinium's Parc Adfer Energy from Waste facility being jointly owned by five local authorities and transforming 200,000 tonnes of waste per year into homegrown energy to power more than 45,000 homes and businesses - there is an opportunity for the committee to consider and scrutinise how renewable energy and recycling facilities can play an active role in the circular economy and can support communities.

5. Are there any other matters related to the Committee's priorities/work programme/ways of working that you would like to comment on?

Considering the wider opportunities for how CCS technology can support actions on climate change and circular economy in Wales, the committee could also scrutinise the HyNet CCS cluster.

Working across North Wales and North West England, the scheme will enable the decarbonisation of sectors such as the heating of homes, fuelling on industry and flexible power generation.

enfinium recommends the committee scrutinise how Wales can support and benefit from HyNet and the actions required by Welsh Government and UK Government for this to be realised.

6. Other information

No response.
