

CYNGOR TREF TREFDRAETH  **NEWPORT TOWN COUNCIL**

Uned 3, Yr Hen Ysgol, Heol Isaf Sant Mair, Trefdraeth, Sir Benfro. SA42 0TS
Unit 3, The Old School, Lower St Mary St, Newport, Pembrokeshire SA42 0TS
Ffon/Tel: 01239 821127 Gwefan/Web: www.newport-pembs.co.uk E-bost/E-mail: npclerk@newport-pembs.co.uk

Newport Town Council's

Climate and Ecological Emergency Statement

Newport Town Council recognises that we are in a state of ecological and climate emergency and acknowledges that action is required by all of us to mitigate the impacts on our community, our country, and our planet.

One Voice Wales "Tackling Climate Chaos" guide.

Introduction

Climate change / climate chaos / global heating, call it what you will, the fact is that we are in serious trouble with greenhouse gas concentrations being at their highest level in 2 million years. Our planet is now 1.1 degrees Celsius warmer than it was in the late 1880s and the decade 2011-2020 was the warmest on record. Countries around the world are already experiencing the consequences of climate change from record temperatures, catastrophic forest fires, severe droughts and water scarcity, rapidly declining biodiversity, rising sea levels and melting ice caps and glaciers. Decades of inaction have left us in a situation where we all now must act quickly and decisively. Scientists tell us that we still have a very slim chance of keeping global temperature rise to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius which would help us avoid the very worst impacts of climate change but only if we all act now. Unfortunately, current national climate plans worldwide are inadequate, with global heating projected to reach 2.7°C by the end of this century.

The UK clearly has a crucial role to play in limiting the worst effects of climate change and despite our relatively small size, we currently sit at number 17 on a worldwide emissions list by country.

Here in Wales, the Welsh Government launched their Net Zero Wales plan in October 2021. Under the Environment Wales Act, Welsh Ministers must prepare and publish a report for each budgetary period setting out their policies and proposals for meeting the carbon budget for that period. The Net Zero Wales Plan sets out how Wales aims to meet the second carbon budget (2021-2025).

Welsh Government has also set out plans for the public sector in Wales to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 in their 'Net zero carbon status by 2030 - A route map for decarbonisation across the Welsh public sector'.

The nature and biodiversity crisis is just as important as the climate crisis but hasn't as yet attracted nearly so much attention. Estimates suggest around one million animal and plant species are at risk of extinction due to our activities. Global animal populations have already plunged by an average of 68% since 1970.

United Nations scientists are stressing the importance of tackling the climate and biodiversity crises together.

While there are a lot of positive nature-based initiatives in Wales, a report for Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has highlighted the fact that very few wildlife habitats in Wales are in a good condition.

Community and Town councils have a range of individual powers including the provision and maintenance of community transport schemes, traffic calming measures, local youth projects, tourism activities, leisure facilities, car parks, village greens, public conveniences, litter bins, street lighting, street cleaning, burial grounds, allotments, bus shelters, commons, open spaces, footpaths, bridleways, and crime reduction measures.

Furthermore, they can take action to improve the quality of life for local people and their local environment and, in some cases, they can deliver services to meet local needs. They can play a vital part in representing the interests of their communities and influencing other decision makers. The Welsh Government encourages Community and Town Councils to deliver more services and play a greater part in their communities.

With regards to climate change, there are of course limits as to how much Community and Town Councils can do but there are already many positive nature and climate projects and solutions going on in communities all around Wales.

By working together and encouraging good practice by residents within their local communities, Community and Town Councils can make a real difference. Public authorities in Wales which include Community and Town Councils are required to produce a report on what they have done to comply with the section 6 Biodiversity duty.

One Voice Wales and Friends of the Earth Cymru have compiled some ideas of what Community and Town Councils can do in the fight against climate chaos and nature destruction. What different Community and Town Councils can do will of course depend on a variety of factors, so we offer these as ideas. Some may be more relevant than others and some may or may not have been done already in your areas.

Some ideas are things you can do as Community and Town Councils, some may just involve helping and supporting these sorts of schemes in your local area and some may lend themselves more to an information sharing role with residents through local newsletters, information boards or events for example. If you would like more ideas and information on what individuals and communities can do,

<https://foe.cymru/tackling-climate-chaos-guide-town-and-community-councils>

Ideas for action to discuss

1. Review our section 6 biodiversity duty report. <https://newport-pembs.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Section-6-Dec-2022-FINAL.pdf>
2. Consider developing a paint donation scheme. (Page 5 of OVW report.)
3. Become a pesticide free town. (P6)
4. Community composting. (P6)
5. Update Bee Friendly Town. (P6)
6. Ensure use of environmentally cleaning products in our buildings. (P7)
7. Publicise the importance of returning unused medicines to the pharmacy. (P7)
8. Reduce energy use. (P8)
9. Check out Green Energy Tariff. (P8)
10. Smart Metres could they be installed? (P9)
11. Green open homes for energy saving ideas (P9)
12. Meet with Ysgol Bro Inqli re their energy saving ideas.
13. Meet with NAEG, - PCNPA and PCC Biodiversity officers. – Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership.
14. Food – buy local – Palm oil free -Fair trade -community orchards -community garden.

15. Conduct a green space audit.
16. Protect trees and green spaces.
17. Review mowing methods.

25/07/23