

DECLARING A NATURE EMERGENCY

We are facing two inseparably linked crises, the climate and nature emergency. We cannot solve one crisis without tackling the other – nature’s recovery is vital for tackling climate change, while the climate crisis increasingly impacts wildlife locally and globally. Nature fundamentally underpins a thriving and sustainable economy and healthy society.

In April 2019 the Welsh Government declared a Climate Emergency (followed and supported by DWR cc later that year).

On the 30 June 2021 the Welsh parliament declared a nature emergency calling for statutory targets to be set to halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity followed in October by publishing 'Net Zero Wales' - setting the foundations to make Wales net zero by 2050.

We need to turn things around for nature and climate through strong and bold leadership. We need systemic action at every level of government, from international treaties to the local councils to influence directly.

Our Councils have an enormous impact in our local community and could act to put local nature in recovery. They influence and decide what will be built and where, how to improve access to green spaces and create more space for nature. We know the changes that are needed to restore wildlife – and where they’re in place, they are working. But more needs to be done, with particular attention paid to the threat to biodiversity. Protecting biodiversity is as important as tackling climate change. The impact of the latter can mean that species and the food they need are out of sync.

This is why we are calling on our Members and our residents to recognise the nature emergency, alongside the climate emergency, and to take immediate action to reverse the declines in wildlife.

With 17% of species in Wales at risk of extinction it’s a sorry state but we can change this. By putting nature into recovery, we can tackle climate change. Thriving habitats can safely lock up vast amounts of carbon, while providing other vital benefits that help us adapt, such as flood prevention, clean water and improved health and wellbeing.

We now have an obligation to reset biodiversity targets and to back those up with plans for nature-based solutions and projects to centre on species recovery and changes that will prioritise creating, protecting and enhancing healthy habitats for wildlife.

Members already work with local, regional and national partners to develop and implement best practice methods that can protect Wales’ biodiversity.

We will continue to engage with relevant parties to develop a strategy that can safeguard the natural environment around us while also benefiting areas such as employment, health, agriculture, transport and the local economy.

Proposal to declare a ‘Nature Emergency’ by Cllr Jayne Garland – Vice Chair - DWR CC



Partnerships

We cannot achieve this alone. Several supporting partners have been identified so far. These are:

- Caerphilly County Borough Council

CCBC Rural Development Team & the Caerphilly Landscape Partnership. Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR), multi-functional approach, as defined in The Environment (Wales) Act, 2016 and the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act, 2015 (WBFGA). It is about making the landscapes work harder, for multiple end-users, improving resilience to climate change, and is based on the resources available to manage the landscape in a sustainable way. It is made up from a wide variety of interested parties such as Community Champions, Rudry Commoners, Aneurin Bevan Health Board, Gwent police, SW Fire and Rescue, NRW, Keep Wales Tidy, Community Woodlands, local ramblers assoc, equestrian and mountain bike groups among others.

One of the key priorities is to improve the diversity, accessibility and extent of outdoor recreational facilities in a way that doesn't damage or compromise the habitats and species supported in the area.

- **Wales Biodiversity Partnership**

The Wales Biodiversity Partnership (WBP) brings together key players from the public, private and voluntary sectors to promote and monitor biodiversity and ecosystem action in Wales. WBP provides a leadership role and an expert steer on priorities for action on biodiversity and ecosystems in Wales.

More information can be found at: <https://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/>

- **Natural Resources Wales (NRW)**

Natural Resources Wales is the largest Welsh Government Sponsored Body - employing 1,900 staff across Wales with a budget of £180 million. It was formed largely taking over the functions of the Countryside Council for Wales, Forestry Commission Wales and the Environment Agency in Wales, as well as certain Welsh Government functions.

At the start of each financial year, NRW receives a [Remit Letter](#) setting out what the Welsh Government wants the organisation to achieve during that year. More information regarding NRW can be found here: <https://naturalresources.wales/?lang=en>

- **Southeast Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBReC)**

Southeast Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBReC) is the centre for the collation, management, and dissemination of biodiversity data for Southeast Wales. Its aim is to make appropriate local biodiversity information available to all those who need it, to help ensure that decisions which affect local biodiversity are made using best available data. More information regarding SEWBReC can be found at: <http://www.sewbrec.org.uk/>

- **One Voice Wales**

OVW has a full time Local places for Nature Coordinator who advise Councils on all aspects of the programme and can assist in the process when applying for funding or applying the resources available under the Keep Wales Tidy project.

- **Caerphilly County Borough Council Local Places for Nature.**

DWR CC Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report

[2019/20http://www.dwrcouncil.co.uk/_UserFiles/Files/Biodiversity%20%20Resilience%20of%20Ecosystems%20Report%202019-20%20-%20Approved%2012.08.2020.pdf](http://www.dwrcouncil.co.uk/_UserFiles/Files/Biodiversity%20%20Resilience%20of%20Ecosystems%20Report%202019-20%20-%20Approved%2012.08.2020.pdf)