

**One Wales: One Planet**

**The Sustainable Development  
Annual Report 2009-2010**

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## Ministerial Foreword



When we published *One Wales: One Planet* last year, we knew we were publishing a hugely ambitious Sustainable Development Scheme for the Welsh Assembly Government. This is the first time we have reported on that scheme.

If I were to sum up in one sentence this Annual Report, it would be: I am enormously proud of how much has been achieved so far, but so much more needs to be done.

In *One Wales: One Planet*, we set out a clear vision of what a sustainable Wales would look like and how we intended to get there. The one planet Wales that we want, can only be delivered by putting the long term wellbeing of people, communities and place at the heart of every decision we make at the Welsh Assembly Government. That is what we mean by making sustainable development our central organising principle.

What we have learnt in 2009-10 is that starting to use sustainable development as the central organising principle is not easy; it is a challenging process to integrate this new way of 'doing business'. But as this report demonstrates, during 2009-10, significant progress has been made.

This new impetus towards a more sustainable Wales demonstrates our thinking and leadership, our desire to learn from the past has shaped our work with others, and sets a new pace towards making Wales more sustainable.

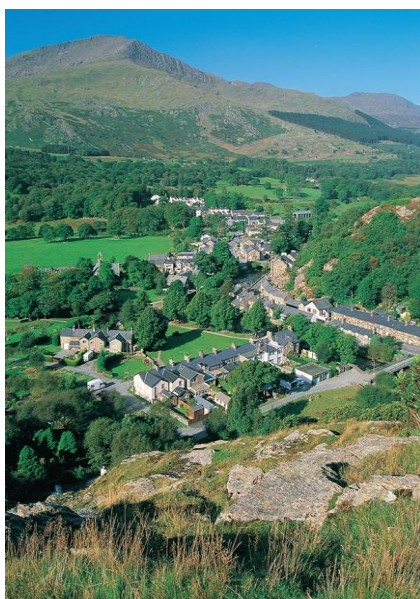
This report shows how we have been working towards embedding the principles of well-being, social justice and resource efficiency into all our policies and across our different Departments.

I hope this report inspires and encourages you to play your part as we strive to become a truly sustainable nation.

**Jane Davidson AM**  
**Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing**

# Chapter One

## Introduction



### Key Aims for the Annual Report 2009-10

Our aim is to report on the progress in 2009 -10 towards:

- embedding sustainable development as the central organising principle of Welsh government; and
- delivering key policy and programme changes towards becoming a fairer and more just society and a one planet Wales within the lifetime of a generation.

### Background

This Annual Report fulfils the statutory commitment, contained in Section 79 of the Government of Wales Act 2006, to report on how the commitments in the Welsh Assembly Government's Sustainable Development Scheme have been implemented during each financial year.

### Structure of the Report

The chapters of this report reflect the structure of the current Sustainable Development Scheme for Wales, *One Wales: One Planet*.

1. Introduction;
2. Our Vision of a Sustainable Wales;
3. Sustainable Development - the Central Organising Principle;
4. Sustainable Resource Use;
5. Sustaining the Environment;
6. A Sustainable Economy;
7. A Sustainable Society; and
8. The Wellbeing of Wales.

Each chapter sets out the progress made towards each theme's:

- vision;
- key outcomes;
- headline indicator of sustainable development; and
- specific strategic actions.

### **Our Vision of a Sustainable Wales**

Chapter 2, *Our Vision of a Sustainable Wales*, in addition to reporting directly on the commitment we made in the chapter of the same name in *One Wales: One Planet*, also provides an Executive Summary of the 2009 -10 Annual Report. Chapter 2 is also where we have invited key stakeholders to provide commentary on the Welsh Assembly Government's sustainable development performance in 2009-10.

### **Stakeholder Commentaries**

The key stakeholders that have provided independent commentary for this report are:

- The Sustainable Development Commission (Wales) (SDC Wales); and
- Cynnal Cymru.

The SDC in Wales is the Welsh Assembly Government's advisors on sustainable development; Cynnal Cymru has summarised the views of independent organisations and civil society in Wales.

### **More Information**

More information can be found on our website: [www.wales.gov.uk](http://www.wales.gov.uk).

# Chapter Two

## Our Vision of a Sustainable Wales - Executive Summary



### Vision

Our vision for the future is one where Wales:

- lives within its environmental limits;
- has healthy, biologically diverse and productive ecosystems;
- has a resilient and sustainable economy;
- has communities which are safe, sustainable and attractive; and
- is a fair, just and bilingual nation.

### Summary

Some significant progress has been made in many of the themes of *One Wales: One Planet* over 2009 -10; there also remains much to do. The Welsh Assembly Government agrees with the commentaries we have published from our stakeholders in this report, from the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) and Cynnal Cymru, that we can and must do more, both in our direct actions as a Government and in our leading role with our partners, to embed sustainable development as a central organising principle and maximise the wellbeing of people in Wales.

### Key Outcomes in *One Wales: One Planet*

- Within the lifetime of a generation, Wales will use only its fair share of the earth's resources, reducing its ecological footprint to 1.88 global hectares per person.
- Radically reduce by 80-90% Wales' use of carbon-based energy, make all new buildings zero carbon buildings and by 2025 produce as much electricity from renewable sources as is consumed.
- Move towards becoming a zero waste nation, with a focus on eliminating waste. Where waste cannot be eliminated, it must be recycled in "closed loop" systems to achieve 70% recycling across all sectors, and diverting waste from landfill by 2025.
- People can travel less by car and are able to live and work in ways that allow a stronger connection with local economies and communities.
- A resilient and sustainable economy is developed, that is able to develop whilst stabilising, then reducing its use of natural resources.

- People source more food locally and in season, within a natural environment where ecosystems are managed sustainably.
- Do all of the above in ways which make Wales a fairer society, reducing the gap between rich and poor, building on the Assembly Government's commitments to tackling child and fuel poverty.

### **One Wales: One Planet Action**

**ACTION 1:** *We will develop a measure of wellbeing in Wales, and report it as a 5<sup>th</sup> headline indicator of sustainable development*

At its meeting in January 2010, Cabinet agreed to report on the wellbeing of Wales as a 5<sup>th</sup> headline indicator of sustainable development, using the following:

- Overall life satisfaction; and
- Mental and physical wellbeing.

Cabinet also agreed that we would signpost to two existing Assembly Government reports:

- The Children and Young Person's Wellbeing Monitor;
- The Older Person's Wellbeing Monitor.

Both report in more detail on wellbeing at different stages in people's lives. These will be reported in the Sustainable Development Indicators Bulletin 2010.

# Commentary - The Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) Wales

## About the Sustainable Development Commission

The Sustainable Development Commission is the Welsh Assembly Government's independent advisory body on sustainable development. One of the Commission's key roles is to assess the performance of the Welsh Assembly Government in its delivery of sustainable development policies and the fulfilment of its statutory duty to promote sustainable development.

## About this Independent Commentary

This commentary provides an independent review of the Welsh Assembly Government's 2009/10 Sustainable Development Annual Report.

Reporting on performance is central to any organisation seeking to be an exemplar on sustainability. Transparent reporting of performance not only strengthens accountability and informs scrutiny, but is also informs and inspires continuous improvements both within the organisation, and without.

This is the first statutory annual report on progress made against the *One Wales: One Planet* scheme and last report published in this Assembly-term. As indicated in the Commission's 2008/09 Independent Commentary, this year our focus in this report is progress made on embedding sustainable development as the central organising principle within the Welsh Assembly Government; with particular reference.

The Commission has included recommendations for this Welsh Assembly Government, and any government formed after the May 2011 election.

## Central Organising Principle within the Welsh Assembly Government

Given the increasing long-term economic, social and environmental risks facing Wales' and the decreasing availability of public finance to address them, government at all levels must ensure the widespread adoption of a policy and delivery framework that:

- thinks in the long-term, beyond existing electoral cycles;
- solves problems in an integrated way; and
- engages stakeholders and communities in both a diagnosis of the problem and in a formation of a response.

This framework, the sustainable development approach, has been applied within the Welsh Assembly Government, but more must be done to sufficiently address future challenges.



This Annual Report highlights examples such as the Economic Renewal Programme, arbed and the Public Services & Local Government Efficiency & Innovation Board as examples of best practice. The Sustainable Development Commission recognises and welcomes these developments but remains concerned that each activity highlighted remains an example of best practice, rather an example of standard practice.

The Sustainable Development Commission welcomes progress made by the Welsh Assembly Government with its internal financial change programme *IDEAS* and the outcome-based monitoring framework *Managing for Delivering*; however we echo the concerns raised by the Wales Audit Office's findings that perception internally is that strategic financial objective of spending is to 'deliver on One Wales policy commitments' and that 'sustainable development is not a driver of resource allocation'.

The Commission therefore recommends that in revising the Programme for Government after May 2011, action is taken to ensure sustainable development is and is seen to be, the means of delivery for the new Programme for Government, and that there is better integration between government's political programme, its strategic objectives, financial planning and budget process, and operational business planning.

### Evidence-based Policy Making and Reporting

'Ensuring policy is developed and implemented on the basis of strong scientific evidence, whilst taking into account scientific uncertainty (through the precautionary principle) as well as public attitudes and values' is one of five principles of sustainable development.

While there are clear examples of the wider use of independent evidence in the policy-making process, more details are needed on how the Welsh Assembly Government is improving its evidence-base, and what changes (both in terms of policy and delivery) have been achieved as a result.

In the 2008/9 Independent Commentary, the Sustainable Development Commission recommended that the Welsh Assembly Government moves away from a narrative-based reporting method, and uses this reporting mechanism to not only fulfil its mechanistic statutory duty (progress made implementing the scheme), but also to detail actual changes in outcomes on the ground.

While recognising the greater prominence given to the SD Indicators in this Annual Report, the Sustainable Development Commission recommends that future Annual Reports:

- not only report on progress made on the headline Sustainable Development Indicators, but include also a suite of measurements on the effectiveness of Welsh Assembly Government against its own performance objectives (across government);

- compare performance in the current reporting year against previous reporting years; and
- measures of effectiveness of objectives: whether Welsh Assembly Government policies and programmes are contributing to changes in outcomes needed.

Such a development would ensure even greater transparency and address concerns raised by the Wales Audit Office that traditionally the compilation of the Annual report has enabled the *'cherry picking of topics and uneven treatment to mask gaps in coverage. Inconsistencies in reporting have obscured priorities and prevented the identification of trends'*.

Internal mechanisms, such as the Policy Integration Toolkit and the Sustainable Procurement Action Framework, both cited in this year's Annual Report are important steps in the right direction however, the Annual Report does not outline how successful such mechanisms have been, what change has occurred as a result, what challenges were faced and lessons learnt.

The Sustainable Development Commission therefore recommends a formal review of the wider Annual Reporting process, so that the process not only fulfils the Welsh Assembly Government's basic legal obligations, but provides a more suitable mechanism for transparency and accountability.

### **Delivering Change in the Way Government Works: People**

Responding to the Wales Audit Office report on sustainable development and business-making in the Assembly Government in February 2010, the Sustainable Development Commission concurred with two key findings on the capability of the organisation to deliver:

1. that internally, sustainable development was still seen by many as environmental stewardship; and
2. that sustainable development was viewed as one of a number of competing demands, as opposed to the means of managing competing demands.

As well as having the internal practices, processes and systems in place across government, to embed sustainable development as the central organising principle; a shift is needed in the capability of the public service to deliver sustainable outcomes. Put another way, any machine is only as effective as the people operating it. Any organisation seeking to instil a change in culture and collective capability needs to ensure that a range of essential ingredients, including leadership, understanding, skills and confidence to deliver, are all present.

The Sustainable Development Commission welcomes the progress made in this area so far, in particular initiatives like Strategic Narratives for each department that giving a meaningful interpretation of what the sustainability means in practice. Similarly, at a political level and an official level, clarity on the vision and mission for the entire public service is rapidly being developed and communicated. Given the fundamental importance of this area of work in delivering a more sustainable Wales, the Sustainable Development Commission recommends that senior leaders within the Welsh Assembly Government keep under review progress in this field, sharing findings with partners and working with innovators across business, the wider public and the third sectors to pool knowledge and experience. The Commission reiterates its view that consideration should be given to how sustainable development is measured in the performance management of staff; and a review is conducted into how to deliver better capability building measures to staff beyond those working in the traditionally 'innovative silos' within the Welsh Assembly Government.

### **Delivering Change in the Way Government Works: Places**

In *One Wales: One Planet*, the Welsh Assembly Government provides a commitment to benchmark its progress on sustainable development in its operations against other UK government departments, using the Commission's environmentally-focused assessment framework SDiG (Sustainable Development in Government).

In December 2009, the Sustainable Development Commission released the first Welsh SDiG. Highlights included:

- meeting in 2008/9 the 2010 target on reducing waste arising; and
- the likelihood that the Welsh Assembly Government will out-perform the pan-UK Government's performance on recycling;

Of concern was:

- emissions from road vehicles used for Welsh Assembly Government business increased;
- the scale of the decrease in carbon dioxide emissions represented insufficient progress against Welsh Assembly Government internal targets; and
- water consumption was increasing overall despite a reduction in the consumption of water in the largest building on the estate (Cathays Park).

The Sustainable Development Commission will shortly begin work on the 2010 SDiG Assessment. A comparison between Welsh Assembly Government environmental performances in 2009/10 against 2008/9 will be made.

The Commission welcomes the commitment in this Annual Report that the Welsh Assembly Government will incorporate the points raised in its annual review of its Environmental Management System. The Sustainable Development Commission would recommend that a broader, single 'good corporate citizen' model is developed, whereby environmental management sits alongside social and economic considerations such as local employment and economic benefits; global social responsibility, and equalities and diversity in the work place. Such an approach would better inform the operational decisions taken by the Welsh Assembly Government. The outcomes and impact of a single, integrated sustainability approach should be reported on in future years through this Annual Reporting process.

### **Performance Against the Sustainable Development Indicators**

The Sustainable Development Commission welcomes the alignment of the publication of this Annual Report with the SD Indicators. While many of the levers that can affect change on areas measured within the Indicators fall beyond the remit of the Welsh Assembly Government, a system of Wales-based indicators does provide a descriptive base that should inform public policy .

The Sustainable Development Commission recommends a review should be conducted to re-assess the effectiveness of the current sets of Indicators, in light of this new scheme, (and any revisions any new government might make to it), the Economic Renewal Programme, and the next Programme of Government. Such a review should:

- assess and revise the headline SD Indicators for a more appropriate set of descriptive indicators of 'what's happening to Wales'. An actual report of indicators, rather than narrative, should be included so that future trends, risks and comparisons with previous years can be more easily made;
- establish, within the revised indicators, the levers over which the Welsh Assembly Government has influence should be expressed more clearly for better accountability and scrutiny;
- better indicators of Welsh Assembly Government performance against objectives within the Programme of Government and included such data within the Annual Reporting process; and
- in particular, investigate the creation of an indicator to assess performance on embedding sustainable development as the central organising principle.

## A New Direction for a Sustainable Economy

While the publication of the 'final' Economic Renewal paper by the Welsh Assembly Government falls outside this reporting period, the Sustainable Development Commission welcomes and commends the longer-term approach deployed by the Welsh Assembly Government throughout the lead-up process, and its strong assertion that it wants a: "*strong economy, not as an end in itself, but for the integral contribution it can make to the quality of life and the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of people and communities in Wales, placing sustainable development as our central organising principle*".

The Sustainable Development Commission further welcomes efforts to date to integrate environmental measures with economic development and social justice. In particular, efforts around the National Energy Efficiency & Saving Plan and arbed. Indeed, the Sustainable Development Commission highlighted in its report *The Future is Local* the integrated work in the Heads of the Valleys which tackles fuel poverty, reduces emissions and create jobs in deprived areas.

There are, however, crucial steps that must be undertaken by the Welsh Assembly Government. As an example of the need to review the indicators, and indeed an illustration of the challenges still facing Wales, the indicator for electricity from renewables is categorised as 'green' despite only a small increase, when we know a rapid scale-up is required.

The Economic Renewal Programme represents a strong statement of intent but it will take a transformation of approach based on Wales' track record of practice and performance. The Commission is concerned that as a vision for a sustainable Welsh economy, there is only cursory mention of the food and tourism industries, when both will play a key role in the future sustainability of the Welsh economy.

The Commission welcomes the creation of division focused on the key sector of energy and environment; such a move is long overdue, however consideration of future resilience (particularly clean energy security) should be at the core of all divisions focused on individual key sectors.

Lastly, the Sustainable Development Commission warmly welcomes the emphasis on infrastructure in the Economic Renewal Programme, but urges that mechanisms be incorporated so that when infrastructure projects are undertaken in a locality, the wider economic, social and environmental benefits of that investment are fully delivered to those communities.

## In Conclusion

The Sustainable Development Commission re-iterates its warm welcome of the scheme *One Wales: One Planet*, providing a stronger, better articulated framework for action. There have been tangible improvements in policy, as evidenced in the Economic Renewal Programme; and within the machinery of government important steps forward have been taken to address the conclusions of the Wales Audit Office report and translate rhetoric and policy into reality and practice.

More and more public, private and third sector organisations are reporting on their sustainability performance and outcomes, indeed best practice in business incorporates independent verification into such processes. While the future arrangements for external advice, support and scrutiny on sustainable development for the Welsh Assembly Government are to be decided, I would recommend that government ensure continued transparency of reporting.

A handwritten signature in grey ink, reading "Peter Davies". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

**Peter Davies OBE**  
**Commissioner for Wales, and UK Vice Chair,**  
**Sustainable Development Commission**  
[www.sd-commission.org.uk/wales](http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/wales)

## Commentary - Cynnal Cymru

### Sustainable Development: The Views of Civil Society in Wales

Cynnal Cymru-Sustain Wales is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that seeks to catalyse change towards sustainable development (SD) in all sectors of Welsh society. To do this, we engage with civil society to increase understanding of sustainable development, and assist in creating the behaviour change which moving to a 'One Planet Wales' entails.

To provide a commentary on how the proposals set out in the new Sustainable Development Scheme '*One Wales: One Planet*' have been implemented, and how partners across Wales are contributing, we have gathered (via a survey in June 2010) the views of our Members and Network Partners. The following commentary is based on the findings of that survey.

When *One Wales: One Planet*, was published in May 2009, Cynnal Cymru welcomed what, we believe, is a strong document with the necessary and radical ambition to make sustainable development the 'central organising principle' of all Welsh Assembly Government policies and programmes.

Overall, the feedback is positive about the impact of the Scheme to date. For many people working in voluntary groups, public sector agencies, businesses and academia, the Scheme has already proved to be a helpful document - the definition, principles, vision and targets have provided a positive framework and focus for their work. Stakeholders have praised the Scheme for being underpinned by a clear evidence-base, which has enabled priority areas for action to be identified, and has provided an accessible narrative around a 'One Planet Wales'.

Previous SD Schemes have been internal documents for the Assembly Government but, for the first time, there is evidence of how external stakeholders are using the current Scheme in their own work. For example in reviewing their own internal policies and strategies to increase resource efficiency; underpinning their consultation responses to other WAG policy documents; and as a guide to help them make more sustainable transport and sustainable consumer choices. They have also made efforts to increase their personal knowledge on SD issues, and are joining forces with others and becoming involved in community groups. Organisations are using the Scheme as a communication tool to generate interest in sustainability to others, such as encouraging work colleagues or members to measure their carbon footprints. The potential for green businesses and enterprises is also being seized.

In addition to action already taking place, there is a considerable desire to do more. Respondents reported that they are keen to become more self-sufficient, with particular interest in growing their own food and generating their own electricity, whilst organisations are keen to take further action to improve their resource efficiency and undertake carbon foot-printing. Some organisations are intending to move to more sustainable premises or set-up community energy enterprises. They also hope to influence policy and political decisions, and engage the public through events and educational projects. The key factors that have helped our Members and Partners to take action are as follows:

- the knowledge, enthusiasm and commitment of individuals is critical in making initiatives a success. Cynnal Cymru's 'Wales Green List' acknowledges and celebrates the time and effort these leaders contribute;
- funding (which is regarded as fundamental in helping organisations to take action), advice and other services provided by support agencies is highly valued by practitioners although it needs to be better co-ordinated; and
- existing policy and legislation such as the Carbon Reduction Commitment, procurement policies, the future charge on single-use carrier bags, feed-in tariffs, the Energy Policy Statement: A Low Carbon Revolution, and Towards Zero Waste.

There are signs that more people are beginning to engage with sustainable development, shown by the increasing interest from new audiences in taking action and requesting advice, and there remains a significant challenge to expand action beyond this. It's essential that we continue to use opportunities to disseminate the core messages of the Scheme and demonstrate its value to new audiences via targeted engagement campaigns, and to understand the barriers people are encountering that are preventing them from doing more.

Lack of access to finance is the most frequently quoted barrier. Fears have been expressed about the knock-on effects of the public sector funding cuts. People's perception of sustainable goods as luxuries that can no longer be afforded, along with a lack of suitable services and infrastructure in their local area, are key barriers to taking action.

There are concerns about implementation where sustainable development does not always appear to have been embraced throughout the Assembly Government and its agencies, or be converted into action. Instead, some stakeholders feel that the approach is to focus on specific topics of interest rather than take a holistic sustainable development approach. There are also concerns that there is still some progress to be made to embed sustainable development as the central organising principle of government, instead of it being one of a number of competing priorities. As the Scheme is intended to be a strategic, over-arching document, more needs to be done to ensure that lower level strategies and plans reflect SD principles. This is crucially important in driving change at a practical level. A quoted example was that many social enterprises are keen to do more on sustainable development, but there were few local regeneration strategies or frameworks that support this move.



Finally, communication and coordination: Despite the higher public profile of sustainability and climate change, more needs to be done to communicate reliable and trustworthy advice to communities, business and the public. People are confused by the number of organisations that provide advice. Greater collaboration between organisations is needed, particularly with those who are able to communicate with many people. This year has seen the term 'behaviour change' become a common feature of all discussions regarding sustainable development and climate change. 'Cultural change' is necessary to achieve the ambitions of the Scheme, involving a process of exemplifying, engaging, enabling and encouraging the Welsh public to adopt more sustainable behaviours. Efforts have been made within the Welsh Assembly Government and civil society to understand better how this can be achieved, with learning being drawn from psychology and social marketing. In particular, the value of peer-to-peer communication; appealing to people's interests and beliefs; positive, solution-focused messages; and accessible and affordable services and infrastructure; have all been recognised.

The SD Scheme provides a strong framework within which to move forward. In 2010-11, there are opportunities to continue to embed sustainable development principles across the Assembly Government and its sponsored bodies, to enable external organisations and the public to take more action, and to engage new audiences. The reduction in public sector finances presents a challenging time ahead, but through better co-ordination, mainstreaming SD principles across the Assembly Government, and being through being smart with new financial opportunities (such as feed-in-tariffs), Wales can continue to take the necessary leadership and action to realise *One Wales: One Planet*. Cynnal Cymru is committed to supporting this.

**Helen Nelson**  
**Executive Director**

## Chapter Three

### Sustainable Development - the Central Organising Principle



#### Vision

The Welsh Assembly Government is an exemplar organisation in the way that it mainstreams sustainable development as its central organising principle.

#### Summary

In *One Wales: One Planet*, the Welsh Assembly Government made a commitment to demonstrate leadership in terms of sustainable development and to enable and encourage others to follow suit. There has been real progress on making sustainable development the central organising principle of the Welsh Assembly Government in 2009-10. This is demonstrated in the way the *arbed* programme was developed and implemented and the development of *Economic Renewal: a new direction*.

We have also moved forward in terms of sustainable working within the Welsh Assembly Government, with progress in the key areas of environmental management systems (EMS) and sustainable procurement, retaining Green Dragon Level 5 in 2009-10 and moving towards our goal of achieving the Sustainable Procurement Assessment Framework (SPAF) level 5 by next year.

Our work with other organisations and individuals is key to how the Welsh Assembly Government hopes to deliver a one planet Wales. In 2009-10, we developed a sustainable development Charter and Guidance and held Wales Sustainability Week, to encourage and enable others to join us as we move towards making Wales a truly sustainable nation.

## Key Outcomes in *One Wales: One Planet*

- The Welsh Assembly Government, as an exemplar organisation, demonstrates leadership on sustainable development, and encourages and enables others to embrace sustainable development as the central organising principle.
- Sustainable development considerations are at the core of the evaluation and development of our policies and our new and existing investment proposals.
- There are effective and participative systems of governance in all levels of society.

## Training and Capacity Building

A series of awareness raising courses for staff were held across Wales during 2009-10. This course has been re-designed for 2010-11, building on the content of the first course, to deliver the skills and competences necessary for staff to make sustainable development the central organising principle of their work. This course will be delivered from October 2010.

In 2009-10, the staff network of Sustainable Development Advocates has been extended within the Welsh Assembly Government. This is a group of officials from across the Welsh Assembly Government who meet every two months to share ideas, promote best practice and support colleagues to embed sustainable development in the work of their Department.

Ecological footprinting training, with the Stockholm Environment Institute, was undertaken in the Department Economy and Transport in January 2010

## Decision-making

Business planning in the Welsh Assembly Government is focused on the delivery of nineteen high level strategic outcomes. Collectively, delivery against these nineteen outcomes will improve the wellbeing of the people of Wales, as the overarching objective of all our policies and programmes.

Work to integrate sustainable development as the central organising principle within business decision making has been ongoing across Ministerial portfolios and Directorates during 2009-2010. Key ongoing examples, where significant work was undertaken in 2009-10 include the Economic Renewal and *arbed*.

### Case Study – Central Organising Principle - *arbed*

*Arbed* is Wales' Strategic Energy Performance Investment Programme.

*Arbed* is cross-departmental and involved a number of external partners including the Welsh Local Government Association, local authorities and housing associations, Community Housing Cymru, the Energy Saving Trust and the Building Research Establishment.

In Phase 1, over £30m Strategic Capital Investment Funds (SCIF) are being invested in major domestic energy performance projects across Wales' Regeneration Areas. The deployment of these funds is expected to leverage further investment by energy companies through the Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP).

The programme is designed to maximise the environmental, social and economic benefits of this investment:

- **environmental benefits** reduce greenhouse gas emissions by increasing the energy performance of existing homes in Wales
- **social benefits** help tackle fuel poverty by improving the energy performance of homes in Wales' Regeneration Areas
- **economic benefits** create and retain jobs and provide economic opportunities for Welsh businesses in the design, manufacture, distribution, installation and maintenance of domestic energy efficiency measures and renewable energy technologies

Within Directorates, internal decision making mechanisms are being designed so that sustainable development becomes the central organising principle as a matter of course. For example, the Public Service and Local Government Directorate General (PS&LGDG) has established the Efficiency and Innovation Board (EIB) for public services in Wales. Amongst other things this will help make better use of the public estate by, for example, sustainable collaborative procurement. Many of the EIB work streams contribute to reducing Wales' ecological footprint through:

- better asset management;
- better use of the public estate;
- sustainable collaborative procurement;
- leadership; and
- greater use of public service ICT.

During 2009-10, the Welsh Assembly Government continued to develop its Policy Gateway process (the name now used for the Policy Integration Toolkit). [More information on the development of the Policy Gateway has been reported under Action 3 – see page 24 of this report].

## A Sustainable Way of Working

Significant progress has been made in improving the Welsh Assembly Government's management of environmental performance this year in achieving Level 5 of the Green Dragon Standard for the entire administrative estate. The Environmental Management System now covers all administrative estate offices and in-house business processes and includes trained Green Dragon teams in 20 offices with responsibility for local environmental management.

Investment has included:

- £700k carbon management capital programme;
- voltage stabilisation, automatic metering, LED lighting, Building Management System control and energy efficient desktop computing equipment;
- Introduction of composting of food waste in Cathays Park;
- Basic Environmental Awareness Training for 2,000 staff and specialised Environmental Management Training for key staff across the Estate;
- Procurement of a web-based ICT system to collate, analyse and report environmental performance data; and
- Introduction of a Cycle Purchase Scheme for staff to encourage cycling to work.

A project team has been set up to drive improvements in the Welsh Assembly Government's sustainable procurement performance using the Sustainable Procurement Action Framework (SPAF). As a result, all key suppliers have been assessed in terms of their contribution to the Assembly Government's sustainable development goals and all competitively tendered contracts have been assessed. Some examples of good practice include:

- Car Hire contract: which strongly focuses on use of low emissions vehicle;
- Furniture contract: which has majored on recycling of old furniture, thus reducing waste to landfill;
- Signage contract with Supported Businesses: which has provided cost effective signage for new buildings and at the same time protected the jobs of disabled workers in Wales;
- IT recycling with a Supported Business: which has provided cost effective and secure recycling, avoided waste to landfill, produced income for the Welsh Assembly Government and, at the same time, protected the jobs of disabled workers in Wales; and
- Catering contract for Welsh Assembly Government sites: which has resulted in an increase in the use of local produce.

In line with the Welsh Assembly Government's commitment to be a sustainable development exemplar organisation, Value Wales' work has led to the SPAF being used by 66 other public sector organisations in Wales.

A *Sustainable Risk Assessment* (SRA) is used on all contracts over £25,000 in the Assembly Government, as well as by the NHS in Wales on all contracts over £25,000 (as part of the Standing Financial Instructions) and is a funding condition for all Higher Education (HE) and Further Education (FE) Institutions who are also now using it routinely. Many Local Authorities also use the tool for contracts.

### **Case Study – Procurement - All Wales Printing Services Framework**

In August 2009, the All-Wales Printing Services Framework was awarded by Value Wales (part of the Welsh Assembly Government), covering all aspects of conventional and digital printing and finishing. Bids were positively encouraged from Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) from across North and South Wales.

The Framework has been highlighted as an example of best practice by the British Standards Institute (BSI), with benefits including:

- estimated cost savings of up to 22%;
- increased volume of print produced on recycled or Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) / Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)
- all suppliers are required to demonstrate environmental credentials such as use of vegetable based inks; and
- time and resource savings to both buyers and suppliers of combining requirements and avoiding separate tender exercises.

14 Welsh SME's were appointed [50% of the chosen supply base]; 11 public sector organisations are utilising the All-Wales Printing Services Framework.

### **Working With Others**

Work to develop a Sustainable Development Charter and guidance began in 2009. This is a major initiative intended to encourage organisations from all sectors of society to commit to:

- making sustainable development their central organising principle;
- continuous improvement within their organisation; and
- striving to become an exemplar of a sustainable organisation.

The Charter was launched by at Hay on Earth, in May 2010 and 22 organisations signed up at the launch event. Since then, more organisations have signed up and we are working with our sustainable development forum, Cynnal Cymru, to promote the active management of this network.

We have worked with Cynnal Cymru, our sustainable development forum, to share knowledge and disseminate best practice. During this period, plans to develop the first Wales Sustainability Week began. The aim of this special week of activity, held in May 2010, was to encourage individuals, organisations from every sector, community groups and local authorities throughout Wales to take part in a calendar of sustainable activities.

The SD Challenge Fund was developed in 2009-10 to enable organisations and communities to develop new and original approaches to sustainable development based on project plans focusing on one of four themes:

- transport and accessibility;
- agriculture, land use and food;
- business; and
- community and housing / lifestyles.

Any organisation based in Wales from the public, private and third sector was encouraged to apply. Workshops based on these themes were held as part of the Hay Festival in June 2010.

During 2009-10, the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) Wales have played an important role in supporting the work of the Welsh Assembly Government. The SDC's work programme for this period included:

- Low Carbon Regions – produced report and supported engagement on implementation;
- Public Services and Local Government – examining performance management and delivery frameworks; and
- Single Use Carrier Bags Levy - engaging retailers on Welsh Assembly Government proposals.

Following the decision of the UK Government to withdraw its funding from the SDC, we are now working to put in place arrangements for advice and support on sustainable development in Wales.

## Reporting

The Sustainable Development Indicators (SD Indicators) continue to be published annually. The 2009-10 indicators were published in August 2010 and the publication of this annual report is timed so that it is informed by the indicators.

## Indicators of Sustainable Development

There are a number of supporting indicators set out in *One Wales: One Planet* for the central organising principle against which there has been progress in 2009-10.

- Sustainable development will be fully mainstreamed as our central organising principle within the lifetime of this Scheme.

This report highlights examples of initiatives that reflect sustainable development as our central organising principle.

- We will be a leader within the Sustainable Development Commission's Sustainable Development in Government assessment by 2010/11.

The Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) reported in December 2009. They reported that the Welsh Assembly Government's overall greenhouse gas emissions in 2008-9 were 4% lower than 2007-8, with emissions from business travel increased by 2% in this reporting period

- Stabilise the public sector's ecological footprint by 2020.

We are encouraging others to embrace sustainable development as their central organising principle, supported by the Sustainable Development Charter and the associated guidance highlights the importance of reducing resource use. There is already significant work underway to reduce resource use the public sector. For example, as we report under Chapter 7, A Healthy Society, the NHS is taking action to become more energy efficient and reduce waste.

## One Wales: One Planet Actions

**ACTION 2:** *We will benchmark our progress on sustainable development in our operations against other Government departments, using the Sustainable Development Commission's Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) reporting process, from spring 2009.*

The Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) reported in December 2009. They reported that the Welsh Assembly Government's overall CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2008-9 were 4% lower than 2007-8, with emissions from business travel increased by 2% in this reporting period. The SDC reported "very good" or "good" progress on the follow areas:

- waste arisings;
- recycling;
- electricity from renewables;
- use of BREEAM; and
- use of sustainability appraisals.

There was "no progress" reported on emissions from road vehicles and water consumption.



The points raised by the SDC are being incorporated into the Welsh Assembly Government's annual review of its Environmental Management System (EMS). In particular, the Welsh Assembly Government extended its EMS across its entire administrative estate.

**ACTION 3:** *Through our Policy Integration Toolkit, we will identify how each new initiative can best contribute to sustainable development, and we will use the Resources and Energy Analysis Programme (REAP) to identify the contribution of these to reducing Wales' Ecological Footprint.*

During 2009-10, the Welsh Assembly Government continued to develop its Policy Gateway process (the name now used for the Policy Integration Toolkit). To complement our well-established Gateway Tool, a Policy Threshold tool used at an early stage of policy development prompts the developers of new policies to assess:

- the impact of the policy on long term wellbeing;
- scope for integration of social, economic, cultural and environmental objectives;
- possible conflicts with other policies;
- the likely effect of the policy on the Welsh Assembly Government's sustainable development indicators; and
- sustainability aspects of any procurement activity.

# Chapter Four

## Sustainable Resource Use



### Vision

Within the lifetime of a generation we want to see Wales using only its fair share of the earth's resources.

### Summary

Reducing Wales' ecological footprint to our fair share of 1.8 global hectares can only be achieved by matching ambition with action, which is why so much of this annual report focuses on the activity we have undertaken in this area in 2009-10.

This year has seen a clear focus on tackling climate change. This has ranged from campaigns aimed at encouraging people to make small changes to reduce their carbon footprint, to the publication of *A Low Carbon Revolution* in March this year, to representing Wales on the global stage at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009.

We aspire to be a zero waste nation by 2050. In 2009-10 we consulted on our new Waste Strategy *Towards Zero Waste* which was published in June 2010. We have also provided £59 million to local authorities in Sustainable Waste Management Grants, to support their recycling infrastructure.

Housing accounts for approximately 20% of Wales' ecological footprint. Working to reduce this, while also progressing social and economic priorities to eradicate fuel poverty and create jobs and business opportunities, has been a clear focus of Assembly Government work.

Transport is also a significant contributor to Wales' ecological footprint at approximately 18%. The *National Transport Plan* (NTP) was published in early 2010 and it sets out plans to integrate road, rail and public transport systems; the next stages of the Sustainable Travel Centres Initiative were announced in March 2009.

Individuals, communities and organisations across Wales have a crucial role to play in helping to reduce Wales' ecological footprint and gaining a better understanding of what stimulates behaviour change and designing programmes to support it has been a key focus in 2009-10.

### Key Outcomes in *One Wales: One Planet*

- We use less energy and are more energy efficient. More of our energy is produced at a community level, close to where it is used, and we are self-sustaining in renewable energy.
- Every community enjoys better local environments which contribute to health and wellbeing, and local people are involved to promote low carbon, low waste living as part of a One Planet Nation.
- We have a low carbon transport network which promotes access rather than mobility so that we can enjoy facilities with much less need for single occupancy car travel.
- An NHS that leads on low carbon and sustainable development best practice and health services that focus on successful outcomes.

### Climate Change

This reporting period saw intensive work on the development of the Climate Change Strategy with a consultation on the policy approach and then the specific actions to deliver emission reduction and effective adaptation to the impacts of climate change that we cannot avoid.

Specific actions included a major Wales-wide media campaign was run to encourage people to make small changes to reduce their carbon footprint. In its first year, the campaign reached more than half the people of Wales and more people are now taking action on climate change as a result.

Following testing and further research, a different approach for the next phase of the campaign is now being taken. As part of a wider behaviour change framework, programmes and campaigns are being designed that can be tailored to specific communities and delivered locally. The programme will then be taken forward following the completion of a major procurement exercise to secure relevant expertise and resources to support our behaviour change work.

### Energy Efficiency and Low Carbon Energy

In July 2009, a *Strategic Policy Statement on Marine Energy* in Wales was published setting out proposals to maximise Wales' marine energy resource, with the minimum of local environmental impact. Work has also continued on the *Marine Renewable Energy Strategic Framework* which was launched in 2007. The Framework is due to be completed in the autumn of 2010.

On 15 March 2010, the Welsh Assembly Government published *A Low Carbon Revolution*. This statement set out the actions that will be taken to accelerate the transition to an efficient low carbon, energy based economy in Wales, within the context of *One Wales: One Planet*.

On the practical level, the *arbed* programme has delivered area-based, whole house energy performance solutions to homes in Wales' regeneration areas. The Home Energy Efficiency Scheme has assisted over 15,900 homes helping to tackle fuel poverty, improve the quality of the housing stock and help reduce emissions. In addition to the support already offered to businesses and the public sector through the Carbon Trust and the Energy Saving Trust, we also invested over £4m in invest-to-save loans for energy performance improvements.

We have also secured the devolution of the Building Regulations and the opportunity to put our ambitions for zero carbon buildings into action.

## Waste

A consultation was launched in April 2009 on plans to deliver the Welsh Assembly Government's *One Wales* commitment to become a zero waste nation by 2050. *Towards Zero Waste* was completed for consultation in 2009. The final strategy document, which outlines plans to tackle waste in priority sectors, was published in June 2010.

The Welsh Assembly Government provided £59 million in Sustainable Waste Management Grants in 2009-10 to support local authorities' collection recycling infrastructure.

Municipal waste decreased again in 2009-10, continuing a trend started in 2005-06. Provisional results indicate that in 2009-10 39.2% of municipal waste was recycled and composted, against a 40% target.

### Case Study – Waste – Cwm Harry Land Trust

The community of Presteigne and Norton has been selected as the “Zero Waste Town” for Wales. The scheme in Presteigne is managed by Cwm Harry Land Trust and has been made possible by a partnership between Cwm Harry Trust, Presteigne and Norton Town Council and Powys County Council.

Residents pre-sort their waste which is then further sorted at the kerbside. One of the scheme's defining features is the level of community involvement: there is an element of democratic decision making in deciding how the community should benefit from the revenue generated from realising the value of recyclable waste - which has proved popular with local residents.

Data sets are being collated on the effectiveness of the Zero Waste project. It is anticipated this will prove the value of this approach so that it can be shared and then improved upon across the UK.

As well as the Zero Waste project, the work of Cwm Harry encompasses production, supply and support for food grown locally, the production of compost and generation of electricity from anaerobic digestion.

## Planning

In 2009-10 we have published or developed new planning policy, technical guidance, research and funded training to ensure that the planning system embeds action on climate change.

For example, *Improving Your Home: A Climate Change Guide* was published in 2008 and has now been disseminated to all local planning authorities and to DIY stores across Wales.

In September 2009, changes were made to permitted development rights to remove the requirement for some domestic micro-generation schemes to obtain planning permission. .

Work towards the revision of renewable energy planning policy has been ongoing and will be published for consultation during 2010 together with the following supporting publications:

- planning for renewable and low carbon energy: A toolkit for planners;
- practice guidance on the planning implications of renewable and low carbon energy development; and
- a set of planning information leaflets for those considering installing small and community scale renewable and low carbon energy technologies in order to benefit from the feed-in tariff and to help tackle climate change.

## Wales Spatial Plan

The report *Low Carbon Wales – Regional Priorities for Action* was launched in November 2009 and set out key priorities relevant to each region. We are now in the process of identifying key priorities for emission reduction and developing low carbon action plans for each spatial plan area.

Work towards the transition to Low Carbon Regions in Wales is being led by the Wales Spatial Plan with technical advice from the SDC. Across Wales, workshops have been held that have brought together policymakers and practitioners involved with low carbon / sustainable development projects and initiatives. 'Communities of interest' are being formed in each region of Wales to deliver regional programmes of action in target sectors such as the built environment, waste, transport, energy, food and land use.

## Housing

Work to develop a sustainable housing policy has been ongoing during 2009-10 and was set out in the new Housing Strategy, *Improving Lives and Communities: Homes in Wales*, published in April 2010.

### Case Study – Housing – Mariners' Quay

Mariners Quay development will provide 101 homes along Newport's riverfront and will be one of the largest schemes in the UK designed to achieve Level 5 of the Code for Sustainable Homes. Anticipated energy costs for heating, lighting and hot water to residents will be less than £5.00 per week.

The Scheme has been designed to provide highly insulated homes incorporating heat recovery systems, a gas fired central heating plant, a biomass boiler, a rainwater harvesting system and photo voltaic cells.

Mariners Quay features in the Welsh Assembly Government's pilot project to examine the implications of achieving higher levels of the code (Levels 4 and 5) and will help inform future policy on developing housing to higher sustainability standards. Lessons learned will be used in the consultation on new energy standards and be considered with the devolvement of the Building Regulations to Wales in 2012.

Following a consultation on the new *Fuel Poverty Strategy* in early 2010, the final Strategy was launched later in July. The Strategy sets out the key principles that will inform the actions the Assembly Government takes in seeking to reduce the number of households in Wales who are living in fuel poverty, or are at risk of becoming fuel poor. It sets out actions to:

- put in place a new all-Wales Fuel Poverty Scheme for 2011-12 to replace the home Energy Efficiency Scheme;
- build on *arbed* in driving area based approaches to energy efficiency;
- improve levels of advice and support;
- encourage more joined up provision of services and working together;
- develop an area based energy efficiency programme;
- support community level action;
- help householders to pay for energy improvements;
- maximise income;
- help householders get the best deal on energy;
- encourage landlords to improve the efficiency of their properties; and
- encourage local authorities, Local Health Boards and their partners to help tackle fuel poverty.

Later in 2010, a final *National Energy Efficiency and Savings Plan* will be published. It will focus on the actions which communities, businesses, the third sector, and the public sector can undertake to improve the energy performance of homes and businesses. The final Plan will also progress the development of the energy sector as set out in *Economic Renewal: a new direction*.

Guidance to improve environmental standards has been developed as part of the investment to meet the *Welsh Housing Quality Standard* (WHQS) and an energy efficiency target. All Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) in Wales are now required to bring their housing stock in line with the WHQS by 2012 and a wide programme of refurbishment is underway.

A pilot project has been developed with RSLs to examine the implications of achieving higher levels of the Code for Sustainable Homes (Levels 4 and 5). Schemes for the pilot were selected from the Social Housing Grant Programme. Approximately 15% of the Social Housing Grant Programme (SHG) has been allocated to build homes to Code level 4 and 5. This represents about 400 homes in 22 schemes from all across Wales.

The pilot will inform future policy on developing housing to higher sustainability standards and help inform the development of new energy standards to be incorporated into Welsh Building Regulations.

## Food

Work during 2009-2010 has been undertaken with the Food and Drink Advisory Partnership and BRASS (Cardiff University) to develop a new Food Strategy for Wales. The Strategy will direct the industry towards sustainably sourced high quality local food for consumption within Wales and internationally. A consultation period with stakeholders was undertaken during 2010.

## Transport

The National Transport Plan (NTP), published in early 2010, details plans to integrate road, rail and public transport systems, as well as encouraging walking and cycling, over the next five years. The NTP aims to deliver an integrated transport network that will support economic renewal, help develop a more inclusive society and tackle climate change. Some of the main transport measures set out in the NTP include:

- Sustainable Travel Centres – with features such as Park and Ride, free bike hire schemes, free city centre circular buses and enhanced walking and cycling facilities;
- walking and cycling - to develop walking and cycling opportunities in our towns and cities;
- public transport – to enhance and make rail and bus services more accessible, including continued support for the concessionary travel scheme for elderly and disabled people. We are also developing the TrawsCambria long-distance bus and coach network to fill the gaps in the rail network; and
- tackling carbon emissions from the freight sector - we are developing innovative pilot work and best practice advice, so that we work with the freight sector to reduce carbon emissions.

Plans for taking forward the Sustainable Travel Centres Initiative were announced in March 2009. Cardiff was selected as the location for the first initiative and is progressing well with a number of projects already delivered.

### **Case Study – Transport – Park and Ride Scheme in Pentwyn, Cardiff**

The first phase of a park and ride scheme at Pentwyn has been developed on the A48 strategic link into Cardiff on the eastern side of the city. Bus priority measures have been introduced on the route into the city to reduce journey times for the shuttle bus service.

The park and ride facility provides an opportunity for journeys into the city to be completed by public transport, reducing congestion. There is a modest charge for parking but use of the shuttle bus is free for all passengers.

Cardiff Council is currently working with its neighbouring Authorities to identify other potential strategic Park and Ride sites, particularly on the main arterial highways and also the Valley Line rail network.

As part of our ongoing future policy development, we will continue to work with the UK Government and others to take forward sustainable measures within the transport sector. This will include looking at new technology development such as the use of biofuels and the development of electric vehicles in Wales. [See also the case study in Chapter 6, A Sustainable Economy].

### **Consumer Items**

Individuals, communities and organisations across Wales have a crucial role to play in ensuring that Wales can reduce resource use. For example, behavioural changes in the home should directly contribute 0.12% of the “One Wales” 3% greenhouse gas emissions reduction target (from actions such as turning heating down, switching off lighting and appliances, using more efficient appliances).

More importantly, behaviour change initiatives have a crucial role to play in ensuring that we achieve the expected level outcomes from other policies and programmes. For example, domestic energy efficiency programmes need an advice and support component to ensure that people participate and make the right choices.

We are supporting communities to be safe, sustainable, and attractive places for people to work and live, and to be part of a fair and just nation in which all citizens feel empowered to achieve their full potential.

To enable us to support and harness that community effort to tackle climate change and contribute to wider sustainability objectives, we carried out a focused research project to identify what communities in Wales were doing and what support they felt they needed to stimulate action. We have supported practitioner networks, training events and support for organisations to take action based on the recommendations.



As we set out in *One Wales: One Planet*, we want to see children and young people from all backgrounds and abilities actively involved in the work of the Assembly Government and other organisations in Wales. Our approach to children and young people's participation is based on the principles enshrined in the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*. Article 12 sets out the right of all children and young people to express an opinion and to have that opinion taken into account in any matter or procedure which affects them. We have seen good progress in 2009-10 with a significant amount of work to promote young people's participation, examples of work include:

- our Reach the Heights project, which has created the foundations at a national and local level to streamline participation into all services that affect the lives of young people;
- Participation Guidance has been developed by the Welsh Assembly Government working collaboratively with a range of national and local partner organisations and with children and young people;
- the National Participation Standards, which are being promoted and their use extended within the Welsh Assembly Government; and
- the development of a national Kite-mark has taken place during a two year project. A model has been created which involves training young people so that they can assess or inspect organisations wishing to obtain a Kite-mark.

### **Case Study – Young People's Participation – “Your Voice, Your Choice”, Liberty Stadium, Swansea**

Working together with other Welsh Assembly Government policy areas, the Participation Team arranged an European funded event in Swansea on 11 February 2010, to bring together children and young people from across Wales, in order to take part in a variety of consultations.

The aim of the day was to provide an opportunity for young people to have a say, be listened to and make a difference to Welsh Assembly Government policies, plans and information that affect them. It also provided the opportunity for officials to consult directly with some of their key stakeholders.

Over 300 young people took part in the consultation day. The workshops running on the day were:

- Words Talk, Numbers Count
- Getting Your Voice Heard in School
- Learning for Young People in Youth Detention in Wales
- Preventing Homelessness and Supporting Tenancies
- Youth Service Methodology
- School Uniform
- Skill Build after Leaving School/College
- Apprenticeships

- How can I help make Wales a One Planet Nation
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- New Child Poverty Strategy for Wales

Our 2009 Climate Change Champions attended a range of events to spread the word about the simple steps everyone can take to reduce their carbon footprint. One of the Champions also attended the international climate change summit in Copenhagen with the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing. A new group of Champions were appointed for 2010 and have also attended a range of events as well as developing personal projects.

### **Case Study – Young People’s Participation – Countdown to Copenhagen Swansea**

The Countdown to Copenhagen conference for young people across Wales was held on 1 July 2009, at the Liberty Stadium, Swansea. The conference aimed to enable young people to learn more about climate change, to engage with politicians on the activity in Wales and internationally in the run up to Copenhagen, and to provide messages from the young people of Wales for the climate change champion attending the conference as part of the Assembly Government delegation.

The polar explorer Ben Saunders acted as compère throughout the day, and closed the conference drawing on his experiences of the Arctic on two expeditions, bringing together the threads of the day and prompting delegates to take action as a result of their attendance.

The ‘Age of Stupid’ film team led a plenary session using the film and video booths and a ‘graffiti wall’ were used to enable delegates to record message for Copenhagen, they were also offered a range of workshops including:

- Winning the climate change argument - Climate Outreach Information Network
- It’s all about you: get inspired, start doing! - Wales Youth Forum and Champions
- Are you an Energy Vampire? - Keep Wales Tidy
- Food miles: how far has your ketchup travelled - Keep Wales Tidy
- Water for Today and Tomorrow - Dwr Cymru Welsh Water
- Why I should get involved in politics, and how - Funky Dragon
- Film skills for getting the climate change message across – Undercurrents
- Running an environmental campaign - NUS Wales
- Introduction to climate change - People and Planet

## Headline Indicator of Sustainable Development

### Wales' Ecological Footprint

The most recent figure available for Wales' ecological footprint is 4.4 global hectares per person (2006), still more than double the average earthshare. This figure predates the publication of the *One Wales: One Planet* Scheme; as we continue to implement the Scheme, we will update on progress towards our aspiration that we reduce Wales' ecological footprint to the global average availability within the lifetime of a generation.

- Greenhouse gas emissions

The overall trend has been an estimated decrease of 15 per cent in emissions of the basket of greenhouse gases from Wales in 2007 compared to base year (1990 / 1995) emissions. (Since the publication of the SD Indicators, figures for 2008 have been published and show that greenhouse gas emissions had decreased by 9.9 per cent in 2008 compared to the base year).

- Waste arisings

Between 1998-99 and 2004-05, the total amount of municipal waste produced in Wales per year increased by almost 400 thousand tonnes. Since 2004-05, the total amount of municipal waste produced in Wales annually has been decreasing year on year.

- Household waste recycled or composted

The proportion of household waste recycled or composted has continually increased since 1996-97. In 2008-09, more than a third of household waste was recycled or composted.

- Mobility

The number of trips made per person per year by walking and cycling decreased from 1995/97 to 2002/03, and has since remained relatively unchanged. In terms of travelling to work, in 2009, 81 per cent of people travelled to work by car, van, minibus or works van, 12 per cent travelled to work by walking or cycling and 7 per cent travelled to work using other modes of transport.

### *One Wales: One Planet* Actions

**ACTION 4:** *To promote a low footprint Wales, we will further extend the use of ecological footprinting by introducing a grant scheme from 2009/10.*

We launched our Ecological Footprint grant in May 2009. In the reporting period covered by the report, we funded two ecological footprint projects:

- Ecodyfi who undertook an ecological footprint survey of the Dyfi Valley, working with children at Machynlleth Primary School; and
- Carmarthenshire County Council who undertook an ecological footprint analysis of the village of Ferryside, using household-level surveys.

**ACTION 5:** *We will initiate, in consultation with local government, a strategic monitoring framework to measure key sustainable development outcomes delivered by the planning system.*

Preliminary work has been undertaken to scope a research project to identify potential indicators. The project will include considering the role of ecological footprinting as a composite indicator to measure total sustainable development outcomes delivered by the planning system. We will report on this in the next reporting period.

**ACTION 6:** *We will develop a strategy to reduce each Wales Spatial Area's ecological footprint across the range of its activities, and set this out in the Area's delivery framework. As part of this, we will define the concept of low-carbon regions and how this can be achieved in each Spatial Plan Area.*

The Spatial Plan team has worked closely with the Sustainable Development Commission to progress this action and the report "Low Carbon Wales – Regional Priorities for Action" was launched in November 09. It sets out the key priorities where the regional level is the most appropriate level for action. On the basis of the report, and informed by the emerging Climate Change Strategy for Wales, each spatial plan area is now in the process of identifying the key priorities for emission reduction and developing a delivery plan.

Each spatial plan area aims to have an initial low carbon action plan in place in autumn 2010.

**ACTION 7:** *We will have a National Energy Efficiency and Savings Plan that will better target our energy efficiency investments at the fuel poor, whilst promoting improvements for all households.*

In March 2009, the Welsh Assembly Government consulted on a National Energy Efficiency and Savings Plan (NEESP), which included initial proposals for better targeting of our energy efficiency investments.

Following this consultation, a separate consultation was held on the Fuel Poverty Strategy in early 2010, which provided more detail on proposed targeting of our energy efficiency investment. The final Fuel Poverty Strategy was launched in July 2010 and confirmed that the new all-Wales Fuel Poverty Scheme would be available to those likely to be vulnerable to fuel poverty and targeted on those homes with the worst energy performance.

**ACTION 8:** *We will work to develop a series of Sustainable Travel Towns in each region. To take this forward we will initially develop a pathfinder scheme in a large urban area. We will subsequently identify and develop a series of towns linked to other key settlement identified in the Wales Spatial Plan.*

Plans for taking forward the Sustainable Travel Centres Initiative were announced in March 2009. Cardiff was selected as the location for the first initiative and is progressing well with a number of projects already delivered. Further Sustainable Travel Centres have been announced since then.

# Chapter Five

## Sustaining the Environment



### Vision

Wales has healthy, functioning ecosystems that are biologically diverse and productive and managed sustainably.

### Summary

A sustainably managed natural environment remains critical to the long term development of our economy whilst contributing to the physical and mental wellbeing of the citizens of Wales. This chapter reports on the increased work of the Welsh Assembly Government in partnership with all sectors to achieve a better environment.

There has been good progress on water, with the agreement of the River Basin Management Plans under the Water Framework Directive that bring together the action needed to improve water quality in Wales and the outcome of the price review process confirming future investment, and the level of bills for water customers.

We have also seen a significant update of legislation government water and flood and coastal erosion risk management.

Following extensive consultation, we announced details of Glastir, our new agri-environment scheme.

Recognising that the 2010 targets for biodiversity will not be met, we started developing a new framework to integrate our action towards ensuring healthy ecosystems and *A Living Wales* was published for consultation in September 2010.

### Key Outcome in *One Wales: One Planet*

- Our land, freshwater marine environment is best managed to provide the services of food, wood, water, soil, habitats and recreation.

## Environment Strategy

Progress against the actions of the Environment Strategy Action Plan is set out in its Annual Report, which was published in November 2009. Examples of action by partners include:

- funding for the Wales Environment Link to collate information on the contribution that partner environmental organisations make towards the delivery of the Environment Strategy; and
- the Health Challenge Wales Voluntary Sector Grant Scheme has provided practical support with active travel to 60 employers. In addition it has delivered 4 'Grounds to health' projects in hospitals and workplaces and 136 'Growing greener' projects and 8 'Green gym' projects in local communities across Wales.

The Environment Strategy's suite of indicators underpin its actions and outcomes, not only measuring progress, but providing focus on areas of need. We have now defined 69 (out of the 103) indicators, with almost 40 per cent of the 69 showing an improvement and only two in decline.

## Land Management

A progress report on the strategy *Farming, Food and Countryside – Building a Secure Future* is expected to be published in 2010 with the strategy being refreshed in 2011. Activity supported through the *Rural Development Plan* continues until December 2013. Discussions on developments related to the Common Agriculture Policy Report and the EU Budget Review also begin later in 2010 and will feed through into activity during 2012-14.

Following extensive consultation, details of our new sustainable land management scheme were announced in May 2009: the five existing agri-environment schemes will be replaced by one scheme, Glastir, from 2012. Glastir will increase the overall resilience of the Welsh countryside by enhancing the environmental condition of farmland in Wales. The targeted priority element of the Scheme will focus expenditure on environmental priorities that need significant capital support. This new scheme aims to support a sustainable agricultural industry, with the family farm at its centre [more information on Glastir is reported under Action 9, on page 41 of this report].

As identified within the Welsh Soils Action Plan, work to develop the Welsh Soils Evidence Base has been ongoing. Partnership working has been developed by means of a shared soils research and development budget between the Welsh Assembly Government and Defra. A Welsh Soils Statement: *Sustainable Management of the Soil Resource* will be finalised in the autumn 2010 and will include:

- a full update on the success to date of the Welsh Soils Action Plan;
- identification of the primary challenges associated with the soil resource; and
- a series of principles by which soils will be managed in the future.

Both the Woodlands for Wales' Action plan and Woodlands for Wales Indicators were published in March 2010 by the Forestry Commission Wales. *Woodlands for Wales* is a long term, 50 year strategy with outcomes including:

- increasing woodland cover in Wales;
- Welsh woodlands contributing to reducing the carbon footprint of Wales; more communities benefiting from woodlands and trees; and
- increased use of timber as a key renewable resource.

The Land Use and Climate Change Group produced an independent report on possible scenarios for significant emission reduction in the land use sector.

In 2010 Wales, like other countries around the world, has found itself unable to deliver its target to halt biodiversity loss. In response to this the Assembly Government started work on developing a 'natural environment framework to get to the heart of why we have failed and set out a new approach to ensure that we do better in the future. This framework, *A Living Wales*, was published for consultation in September 2010.

During 2009-10 we have taken a positive stance to promoting action on biodiversity, working with all partners who have a role to play. Examples of real progress include:

- the Biodiversity Action Planning Process;
- implementing our legislative powers through the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006;
- important habitats and species such as Arable Field Margins, Aquifer-fed Fluctuating Water Bodies, Deptford Pink, Sand Lizard, and Lesser Horseshoe Bat;
- Wales, alone in the UK, has a Cabinet level Biodiversity Champion in place in every local authority and National Park;
- workshops for local authorities to raise the profile of biodiversity and its integration into policy and decision making; and
- important support for honeybee populations such as measures to encourage bee friendly planting and landscaping as well as exploration of whether farmers could be rewarded for siting registered apiaries on their land.

## Water Management

There has been good progress on water. In March 2009, we published a Strategy Policy Position Statement on water setting out our priorities for water in Wales. Our core principles for water are:

- ensuring access to safe drinking water;
- maintaining water and sewerage services at an affordable price; and
- compliance with statutory obligations that drive water quality.

The River Basin Management Plans required under the Water Framework Directive, which bring together the action needed to improve water quality in Wales, were published in December 2009. In November 2009, we had the outcome of the price review process which confirmed future investment plans for the water companies and the level of bills for water customers for the next five years.

The Flood and Water Management Act was consulted on during 2009-10 and the final Act received Royal Assent in April 2010. The Act updates a number of areas of water legislation and work on commencement and implementation is now underway. Key new developments include introducing arrangements to enable the deployment of sustainable drainage systems and more comprehensive powers to introduce drought measures.

### **Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management**

There has been significant progress on building in sustainability into flood and coastal erosion risk management in 2009-10. The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 has substantially updated the framework for flood and coastal erosion risk management so that encompasses all sources of flood risk and the full range of flood risk management responses. We issued a consultation on the National Strategy on Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management, which is a requirement of the Act, in July 2010.

In 2009/10, our capital investment programme of nearly £26 million, including European Structural funds and Strategic Capital Investment funding was used to progress both our National and our EU-funded programme. Under the European Programme, we completed schemes in Conwy, Tregaron and Valley. We also began construction on major schemes in Tywyn and Denbigh.

### **Marine and Coastal Management**

The Marine and Coastal Bill was enacted in December 2009. We have formally consulted on the key principles which should underpin the new marine licensing system and on our approach to designating Marine Conservation Zones (a new type of marine protected area) under the Act.

We have pre-consulted jointly with the other UK administrations on a UK Marine Policy Statement (the first stage in the new planning system introduced by the Act which will provide a UK wide policy context for more localised planning) and started to engage with stakeholders on our approach to planning for the Welsh marine area, including integration between marine and land. We intend going out to formal consultation on our planning approach later this year.



## Headline Indicator of Sustainable Development

### Percentage of Biodiversity Action Plan Habitats and Species Recorded as Stable or Increasing.

Of the priority species for which sufficient information was available, 52 per cent were classed as stable or increasing in 2008, compared with 40 per cent in 2002. Of the priority habitats with sufficient information available, the percentage of habitats classed as stable or increasing has increased slightly to 39 per cent in 2008.

- Trends in bird populations

The index of widespread breeding birds began in 1994 and peaked at 112(r) for all species in 2000. The index fell to its lowest point of 103 in 2006 and was at 104 in 2008. Values less than 100 indicate a decline in abundance since 1994. These data are not representative of all birds in Wales

- Ecological impacts of air pollution

There was little change in the percentage of sensitive habitats in Wales exceeding critical loads for acid deposition from 1998-2000 to 2004-06. However, in 2006-08 there has been a decrease of 2 percentage points.

- Air quality

At each rural and urban site, the number of days when pollution was moderate or higher has fluctuated from year to year. The main causes of moderate or higher pollution at urban sites are fine particles (PM10) and ozone. In rural areas, differences are a reflection of the variation in ozone levels, which is the main cause of pollution in rural areas and which is affected by the weather.

- River quality

The percentage of river lengths in Wales of good chemical quality has been consistently above 90 per cent since 1994, and has remained at around 95 per cent over the last 3 years. The percentage of river lengths in Wales of good biological quality has steadily increased since 2000, peaking at 88 per cent in 2008.

- Soil quality

It is estimated that Welsh soils contain 409 million tonnes of carbon.

- Sustainable water resource management

The percentage of resource zones in Wales with target headroom deficits has varied since 2001-02, but improved to its lowest level of 12 per cent in 2008-09.

## **One Wales: One Planet Actions**

**ACTION 9:** *Following a review of Axis II of the Rural Development Plan for Wales, we will set in place a structure of support for environmentally sustainable land management, including support for land-based carbon management through best practice management of soils, and management for water quantity and quality, biodiversity, woodland, landscape, heritage and access.*

The Welsh Assembly Government announced a shift in approach to sustainable land management schemes in May 2009. The five existing agri-environment schemes will be replaced by one scheme, Glastir, from 2012. This scheme will be better positioned to meet current and future environmental challenges and the all-Wales element of Glastir has been designed to increase the overall environmental resilience of the Welsh countryside by enhancing the condition of 80% of the farmland in Wales.

The targeted priority element will focus expenditure on environmental priorities that need significant capital support and, where appropriate, a landscape or catchment scale response. Glastir will pay farmers to manage the land in a way that will meet the European Commission's CAP Health Check agenda in relation to climate change, improved water quality and water management as well as biodiversity decline.

# Chapter Six

## A Sustainable Economy



### Vision

A resilient and sustainable economy for Wales that is able to develop whilst stabilising, then reducing, its use of natural resources and reducing its contribution to climate change.

### Summary

We believe that in 2009-10 the Welsh Assembly Government has demonstrated vision, leadership and innovation in its economic policy, with clear examples of using sustainable development as the central organising principle. This has been the case in both immediate responses to the economic downturn such as ProAct and in building our longer term approach to building a sustainable Welsh economy through *Economic Renewal: a new direction*.

We have provided support to businesses in Wales towards becoming more future proof, both to the economic and environmental challenges they face. Key to this future proofing, is the work we have done in 2009-10 in taking forward the *Green Jobs Strategy*, which we launched in July 2009.

We are also supporting the development of new technology through support for research and development, such as the development of potential new biofuels at the Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture Research, as we believe investing in our future in this way will not only help in exploring new markets for Wales, but will also provide solutions to environmental challenges.

Wales has a strong cultural heritage from its industrial past; sadly part of this legacy includes social, economic and environmental scarring, which is why the holistic regeneration projects we have pursued in 2009-10, such as the Valleys Regional Park in the Heads of the Valleys region, are so important.

During 2009-10, we have worked with the network of Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) to identify and respond to the skills and training opportunities associated with the types of jobs we believe will be needed in the future. This will support the long term transition to a sustainable economy for Wales by preparing the groundwork of skills associated with new markets and technologies.

## Key Outcomes in *One Wales: One Planet*

- A sustainable economy for Wales that is resilient to changes in the global economy.
- Our long term economic future secured by achieving the transition to a low carbon, low waste economy.
- Wales is the best place for business to locate, start up, grow and prosper.
- Regeneration involves and engages with local communities and is firmly based on sustainability principles, creating an infrastructure for the future that favours sustainable ways of living and working.

## Develop the Approach to a More Sustainable Economy

The long term approach to economic policy was announced in October 2009 by the Deputy First Minister: the Economic Renewal Programme process and the subsequent launch of *Economic Renewal: a new direction* in July 2010.

In the autumn of 2008, the Welsh Assembly Government held a series of Economic Summits involving businesses and Trade Unions. From these Summits, came the basis of the idea for ProAct – a pre-redundancy support scheme. ProAct, an all-Wales European funded project, was the first initiative of its kind in the UK and has in 2009-10 supported over 9000 individuals to remain in work and retrain. This support is received by 203 companies and over £23 million has been committed in the period.

### Case Study – Central Organising Principle – the Economic Renewal Programme (ERP)

In October 2009, the Deputy First Minister announced that he would lead an Economic Renewal Programme to establish a renewed approach to economic development better able to meet the needs of new and existing businesses and encourage a stronger and more sustainable economy.

*Economic Renewal: a new direction* sets out the role devolved government can play in providing the best conditions and framework to enable the private sector to grow.

*Economic Renewal: a new direction* makes clear at the outset that we want a strong economy, not as an end in itself, but for the contribution it can make to the quality of life and the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of people and communities in Wales, placing sustainable development as the central organising principle.

This approach will create the right environment to encourage entrepreneurship allowing the private sector to flourish rather than directly deliver support to individual businesses.

Our fresh approach is organised by five priorities:

- Investing in high-quality and sustainable infrastructure
- Making Wales a more attractive place to do business

- Broadening and deepening the skills base
- Encouraging innovation
- Targeting the business support we offer

### **Support for Sustainable Business Growth**

The *Green Jobs Strategy* was launched in July 2009 by the Deputy First Minister and the Minister for the Environment, Sustainability and Housing. It is an important component in stimulating the recovery from the current economic downturn while strengthening our commitment to combat the causes and impacts of climate change. The strategy is organised into three priorities:

- Supporting Business;
- Fostering Innovation and Technology; and
- Investing in a more sustainable economy.

*Economic Renewal: a new direction* will drive the implementation of our green jobs ambitions.

In *One Wales: One Planet* we committed to mainstreaming sustainability in the *Visit Wales Grading Scheme*. In 2009 Visit Wales carried out a visitor survey that incorporated key sustainable tourism questions in order to establish benchmarks. This will be used to map future consumer trends / perceptions to Wales as a sustainable tourism destination in the future.

## Support for Research and Development and the Commercialisation of new Sustainable Technologies, Products and Processes

To guide our infrastructure and property development activity, we have developed the *Creating Sustainable Places* approach, which is currently being revised and updated. The purpose is to ensure that all our property and infrastructure fully meets sustainable development objectives.

### Case Study – Research and Development – Microalgae: tomorrow's biofuel?

Scientists and engineers at Swansea University are using innovations in biotechnology to develop sustainable products from microalgae, including biofuel. Microalgae are a highly diverse group of microscopic single celled organisms that occur naturally in most aquatic environments on Earth.

Today the exploitation of microalgae offers the potential as the basis of an integrated biorefinery, in which waste nutrients and combustion gases from agriculture and industrial processes combine with light to produce valuable biomass. The feasibility of this approach has already been demonstrated for wastes from anaerobic digestion, thanks to a Welsh Assembly Government small business development grant.

Potential benefits of microalgae over conventional non-food crops include that microalgae can be grown in non-arable areas and can contain a much higher percentage of extractable oil than other crops – up to double that of rapeseed which is the current primary source of biodiesel in the UK.

Swansea University is working collaboratively with UK and European industry and research partners to sustainably exploit these organisms, including via the UK Carbon Trust and the EC Framework 7 programme.

Specialised assistance is also now available for Welsh enterprises thanks to Welsh Assembly Government funding for two new Knowledge Transfer Centres in Algal Biotechnology (Director, Dr Robin Shields) and Advanced Membrane Separation and Surface Technologies (Director, Professor Rhodri Williams), through the European funded Academic Expertise for Business (A4B) programme.

Thanks to such support, Wales is emerging as a UK hub for applied R&D in this advanced technology area.

## Infrastructure, Regeneration and Masterplanning

Regeneration Areas have been identified for the Heads of the Valleys Area, Mon a Menai, North Wales Coast, Swansea, the Western Valleys, Aberystwyth and Barry.

The work on local regeneration sites such as 'The Works' Ebbw Vale and the Mill at Ely Bridge, Cardiff, is creating demand for new sustainable construction skills, renewable energy provision and associated green supply chain opportunities.

### Case Study – Regeneration – Ebbw Vale Steel Works

The former Ebbw Vale Steel Works, known as 'The Works', is a regeneration project based on a 75 hectare site.

This includes a new urban quarter, based on a reclamation design, which is a zero waste project. A new wetland park has also been created through the centre of the site, which receives water from the development areas.

Community benefits of 'The Works' include the use of local labour, training opportunities and sub contractors promoted by the use of sustainable clauses in construction contracts.

Good progress has been made in developing the Heads of the Valleys and Western Valleys Regeneration Areas as a low carbon zone. As well as having a significant impact on tackling greenhouse gas emissions and tackling fuel poverty, this programme aims to extract the maximum regeneration benefits in terms of new 'green' jobs, training and supply chain development. Investment in domestic energy efficiency is supported by supply-side measures to ensure that local employment and business benefits are secured.

### Structural Funds

The Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) manages structural fund programmes that have social, economic and environmental outcomes at their heart. A number of projects were approved in 2009 and examples include:

- 'Deltastream Prototype' ventures the renewable energy sector on developing full scale tidal generation device;
- 'Community Scale Renewable Energy' project which will develop 20 enterprises through the installation of renewable energy;
- 'Wood Energy Business Scheme 2' project which will assist 100 organisations to develop renewable wood heat market across Wales.
- 'Family Employment Initiative' that will assist individuals and families via social inclusion interventions, such as volunteering, community / group activities and environmental activity, to increase engagement and economic activity; and

- ‘Agile Nations’, which works with employed women and employers to promote gender equality, career advancement and contribute to the reduction of the pay gap in the labour market.

## Skills and Training

Future economic security and sustainability will depend on having the skills to take advantage of new opportunities, such as ‘green collar’ jobs created as we move towards a low-carbon economy. In 2009-10, £2 billion was spent on education and skills. Most of the funding to support local authority provision to schools and other educational services is provided through the revenue support grant.

New Work-Based Learning Pathways are being piloted in schools which give young people experience and qualifications to enable them to progress to apprenticeship training. The Welsh Assembly Government is also aiming to achieve close alignment between apprenticeships and the Welsh Baccalaureate.

Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) ensure relevant National Occupational Standards (NOS) and qualification frameworks exist to support future skills needs of employers and they have been reviewing structures to ensure these are aligned to emerging skills needs linked to the Green Jobs agenda. Additional project-based support is being given under the Low Carbon Skills Project (LSCP). This is funded under the DCELLS Sector Priorities Fund Pilot Programme (SPFP Programme) and part financed through European structural funds.

Work is continuing towards the delivery of specific investment programmes targeting energy efficiency and renewable energy. Investment made under the *arbed* Programme to support home energy efficiency as a starting point and will link directly with the *Low Carbon Skills Project*. High-level analysis is being undertaken to provide a starting point to ensure a step change in the way learning providers offer training support to employers. Supplementary skills analysis will also be conducted as part of the LCSP.

Skills Growth Wales is offering a financial support package, part financed through European Structural Funds, to help Welsh companies grow by funding high level or new technology skills training. Funding is available to private or third sector businesses that are growing or have identified a clear growth opportunity and have the ability to take advantage of it. This level of business support is particularly relevant to the Green Jobs market given the likely growth opportunities and complexities associated with emerging skills needs. The potential activity to be associated with Skills Growth Wales will be complemented by training supply reform activity as part of the LCSP.



EU Structural Funding enables investment in high quality, high impact Research and Development. The Low Carbon Economy (including climate change mitigation and adaptation issues) is a major area for funding. The Low Carbon Research Institute (LCRI) has secured funding until 2013 to develop new research to cut carbon emissions with 4 main streams of activity:

- low carbon energy generation, storage and distribution;
- energy demand reduction including zero-carbon built environment, work on large scale power generation;
- an energy Graduate School; and
- partnerships with industry, research organisations and government.

Research and development funding has been given to the Climate Change Consortium Wales (CCCW) to undertake a strategic reconfiguration of climate change research in Wales and increase international competitiveness, with a view to achieving sustainability. Investment is being made in high-level research in the impact of climate change and bio-energy on sustainable agriculture and bio-fuels.

### **Headline Indicator of Sustainable Development**

#### **Economic Progress: Gross Value Added (GVA) and GVA per head**

Both GVA and GVA per head in Wales have increased continually between 1995 and 2008. Wales' GVA per head as a proportion of the UK's GVA per head has fallen from 84 per cent in 1995 to 74 per cent in 2008.

- Employment

The percentage of all people of working age in work in Wales has increased overall since 1985. However, there has been a decrease of 2 percentage points since 2008.

- Resource efficiency

The ratio of carbon dioxide emissions to GVA in Wales has decreased by 12 per cent between 2005 and 2007.

- Electricity from renewable resources

The percentage of electricity generated in Wales from renewable sources has nearly doubled since 2002, reaching 4.3 per cent in 2008.

## **One Wales: One Planet Actions**

**ACTION 10:** *In our economic development and regeneration work we will encourage our partners to adopt similar principles to ours, integrating social, economic and environmental considerations, and seeking to maximise the benefits to the local community and economy from the way regeneration takes place.*

In Regeneration Areas, a shared action plan for economic, social and environmental improvement has been developed with partners. This has been based on an agreed set of priority actions informed by a detailed baseline assessment of key issues.

In the larger areas this shared action planning has been concentrated at a sub area level on population sizes of 15-20,000.

**ACTION 11:** *By our Green Jobs Strategy, we will set out the path to a sustainable (Low Carbon, Low Waste) economy for Wales, and will identify the roles that the Assembly Government needs to fulfil. We will put in place an embedded delivery plan that will refine and redirect our activities that will be needed to make this happen, together with a monitoring and reporting framework for the plan, integrated with the wider Welsh Assembly Government performance framework.*

This has been taken forward through *Economic Renewal: a new direction*, which recognises the challenges of the post-recession economy and that as well as the immediate priority of recovery from recession, there are wider challenges that bear on the approach to economic renewal which include the need to respond to climate change by improving resource productivity and decarbonising energy supply and the pressure on land for multiple purposes – food production, housing and economic development, landscape, nature conservation and biodiversity, water management and energy.

Economic Renewal outlines a sectoral approach where we will focus its work upon six sectors including Energy and Environment. The new policy direction also emphasises the need to encourage business behaviours that support our wider policy objectives including resource efficiency and sustainable development.

# Chapter Seven

## A Sustainable Society



### Vision

Safe, sustainable, attractive communities in which people live and work, have access to services, and enjoy good health and can play their full roles as citizens.

### Summary

Enabling some of most deprived communities to enhance their economic, social and environmental wellbeing through the Communities First Programme, remains a key priority of the Welsh Assembly Government; in 2009-10 the Outcomes Fund has been introduced to fund new projects.

Work to develop a sustainable housing policy has been ongoing during 2009-10 and was set out in the new housing strategy *Improving Lives and Communities: Homes in Wales* published in April 2010.

A key part of our vision of a sustainable Wales, is a nation that values and promotes healthy living and improves the quality of life for all. In 2009 – 10, we published *Our Healthy Future* which moves forward the public health agenda significantly. We have also integrated sustainable development principles into the planning and governance processes of the reconfigured NHS to further ensure activities will protect and improve, as much as possible, people's long term wellbeing, during the different stages of life.

The enactment of the Local Government (Wales) Measure has put duties for sustainable development on Local Authorities and also reformed the law relating to Community Planning. This will place sustainable development more closely at the heart of local governance and decision making in local communities.

We cannot forget our responsibilities on a global stage and we have continued our support for the Wales for Africa Programme, funding the Wales Africa Community Links project and the UN Gold Star Award scheme.

### Key Outcomes in *One Wales: One Planet*

- A nation that values and promotes healthy living and improves the quality of life for all.
- All have access to better homes so that we reduce carbon emissions and tackle fuel poverty, and new homes and community facilities are sited in sustainable locations, free from the risk of flooding.
- Improved global impact by ensuring that Wales is an international exemplar of sustainable development leading the world in promoting Fair Trade, and delivering strong community partnerships with sub-Saharan Africa.

### Tackling Disadvantage

The Communities First programme is aimed at enhancing the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of our most deprived communities to promote social justice and equality of opportunity. During 2009-10, work has been ongoing at implementing the findings of the 2008 consultation on Communities First. This has led to the award of core funding for each of the 157 Communities First partnerships for 3 years (2009-12).

The Outcomes Fund has been introduced to fund new projects in Communities First areas over these 3 years in partnership with key service providers. The Fund enables Partnerships to apply to the Welsh Assembly Government for projects supporting the key themes of the Vision Framework - Environment is one key theme.

#### **Case Study – Communities First – The Anglesey Environmental Demonstration Project**

The Anglesey Environmental Demonstration Project builds on the work undertaken by 'environmental workers' in the previous phase of the Communities First Programme. The project seeks to:

- safeguard and support vulnerable people;
- improve the landscape of Communities First area;
- contribute to the wider regeneration of Anglesey;
- have a consistent approach to environmental regeneration across Anglesey;
- develop the project as a social enterprise and develop the environmental skills of people living in Anglesey;
- have a consistent approach to environmental regeneration across Anglesey; and
- develop the project as a social enterprise and develop the environmental skills of people living in Anglesey.

The project brings together community working and social enterprise within the context of an environmental project.

Guidance for Youth Support Services is being prepared for formal consultation with revisions taking into account developments and lessons learned. It will ensure that it assists local authorities and their partners to coordinate and secure delivery of Youth Support Services in the context of Children and Young People's Plans.

Following public consultation between October 2009 and January 2010, the financial support offered to 16-18 year-olds was reviewed to achieve a consistent and cohesive package of support to non-employed learners, irrespective of where the learning takes place in the publicly funded sector.

### Quality Housing

Work to develop a sustainable housing policy has been ongoing during 2009-10 and was set out in the new housing strategy *Improving Lives and Communities: Homes in Wales* published in April 2010.

[More detailed reporting on the actions we have taken to improve the quality of people's homes is reported in Chapter 4, Sustainable Resource Use – see pages 28 - 30 of this report.]

### Healthy Living

2009-10 has seen progress in terms of public health and the management of the health service, to deliver the strategic actions in *One Wales: One Planet*. Health officials have translated the central organising principle into the health context to guide their future development of policies and programmes with the aim to:

- Set out clearly how activities will protect and improve, as much as possible, people's long term wellbeing, during the different stages of life;
- Take every step needed to make sure services are as safe, appropriate and effective as possible and sustainable over the longer term; and
- Minimise any environmental damage from the activities undertaken.

One example of where this approach has been taken is the work that has been ongoing in 2009-10 to develop Wales's first strategic framework for public health *Our Healthy Future*, which is Action 13 of the current Scheme. *Our Healthy Future*, published in November 2009, provides a platform for public health activity, including priority outcomes to improve health, across the Welsh Assembly Government and partner organisations to 2020.

One of the priority outcomes is to further reduce smoking and the exposure to second-hand smoke by building on the success of current initiatives. A *Tobacco Control Action Plan* will be developed by autumn 2010.

Increasing physical activity is another *Our Healthy Future* priority outcome. Work is ongoing to develop guidance for local areas to create physical activity action plans. These will encourage the development of local plans to increase physical activity including walking and cycling. *Our Healthy Future* has been integrated into Local Government outcome agreements, putting prevention and health improvement at centre stage.

To emphasise the importance of sustainable development in the restructured NHS Wales, duties have been put on the new bodies by virtue of the Standing Orders and Standing Financial Instructions. The new Local Health Boards (LHBs) and NHS Trusts both have governance structures that place sustainable development within the remit of the duties of their Boards and Chief Executives.

*Our Healthy Future* has been integrated in the requirements of the NHS planning system, and the NHS bodies are building on earlier work in developing their transport arrangements and are looking to include sustainable development ideas within the national programmes set up to support planning in the new LHBs.

Significant work continues in partnership between the Welsh Assembly Government, LHBs, NHS Trusts, Welsh Health Estates and Welsh Health Supplies, to address environmental improvements. The data for 2009-10 shows:

- energy efficiency performance indicates an improvement of 20.4% on the base year (1999-2000);
- weather corrected net energy consumption is now 17% below base year;
- electricity generated by combined heat and power systems rose from 8.86% in 2008-09 to 15% in 2009-10;
- volume of waste sent to landfill fell by 4% compared with 2008-09;
- there has been a corresponding improvement in recycling performance with an estimated all-Wales average of 12.5%; and
- 2009-10 returns show that all LHBs except for one have LHB Board approved Sustainable Transport Plans.

Additional environmental improvements in chain include:

- All Health Boards and the other NHS property holding bodies should achieve certification at the main hospital sites to ISO 14001 by the end of 2012, and throughout the whole organisation by 2014;
- A carbon footprinting exercise for NHS Wales will be undertaken to establish the baseline and identify the main contributors to carbon within the health service; and
- From 1 January 2010, all new primary care buildings are expected to achieve a higher BREEAM standard.

### Local Quality of Life

The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 reforms local authorities, national park authorities and fire and rescue authorities' duties to secure improvement in their services and functions. This includes placing a statutory duty on these authorities in relation to improving local wellbeing, sustainability and fairness.

The Welsh Assembly Government has issued statutory guidance to help authorities discharge their duties under this measure. This includes developing the general duty to improve in terms of assessing the opportunities for, and threats to, the sustainability of services that are provided but also, and more importantly, the longer-term sustainability of the communities within that local authority's area. This involves mainstreaming sustainability into the authority's community leadership, decision-making and scrutiny roles. Authorities and their representative bodies have strongly welcomed this approach and they are now implementing it.

The Measure also reforms the law relating to community planning and formally defines community planning as a process by which a Welsh local authority and its community planning partners identify:

- long-term objectives for improving the social, economic and environmental well-being of an area;
- long-term objectives in relation to the area for contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom; and
- actions to be performed and functions to be exercised by the local authority and its community planning partners for the purpose of meeting those identified objectives in the community strategy.

Our *Community Planning Guidance* has been consulted on and issued in draft. Local authorities should be using the document to prepare their current plans, working with a wide range of partners.

We are developing Outcome Agreements with local authorities to provide a focused approach to local and national performance management and set a more effective accountability framework by incentivising improvement and the delivery of quality local outcomes. Outcome agreements will reflect a longer-term set of priorities for the sustainable improvement of local wellbeing. For example all local authorities will have to develop detailed outcomes, actions and evidence under the themes:

- "Wales is an energy-efficient, low carbon and low waste society"; and
- "The environment is protected and sustainable".

Arson continues to be a problem in Wales particularly in the most disadvantaged communities. The Welsh Assembly Government's *Wales Arson Reduction Strategy* provides a template for targeting activity and resources among organisations involved in tackling arson. Work is ongoing with the Fire and Rescue Services and Local Education Authorities to "target harden" schools - secure fencing, bin storage etc - and contributing to the sustainability of school estates.

We are working to develop and implement a *Local Environment Strategy* to improve local environment quality by March 2011. The work incorporates a wide range of issues that are important in local communities including litter, graffiti, fly-posting, fly-tipping, dog fouling as well as statutory nuisances such as noise.

*Tidy Towns* (launched in April 2008) aims to empower people to take responsibility for the quality of their own local environment. Keep Wales Tidy have dedicated Tidy Towns Officers in each local authority area to support the community engagement element of this work. Since 2008, Keep Wales Tidy has assisted 96,997 volunteers across Wales to undertake various environmental improvement projects and 8,615 clean-ups have taken place, with an annual budget of £4 million.

### **Case Study – Tidy Towns – Swinchiard Brook and Pandy Pool Project (Flintshire)**

Swinchiard Brook and Pandy Pool are located in the Flint area and were subject to littering and fly-tipping with poor access. The Flint Town Partnership were keen to improve the local environment with Tidy Towns funding and, together with a variety of partners, they have worked to transform these areas by:

- litter picking and clearance of fly-tipping;
- the creation of footpaths and other access improvements;
- habitat creation and the installation of bird boxes; and
- tackling invasive plants.

### **Global Citizenship and International engagement**

The Welsh Assembly Government's Wales for Africa Programme is funding the Wales Africa Community Links project and the UN Gold Star Award scheme. The Wales Africa Community Links project is providing small-scale funding, advice, development support and training to 126 individual community projects between Wales and Africa up from 10 in 2007. Whilst several of these links are long standing and multi faceted, most are new and are at an early stage of development.

Eight links have so far been awarded the challenging *UN Gold Star*, by an independent adjudication panel which recognises the contribution to the delivery of the UN Millennium Development Goals to halve global poverty by 2015, education for sustainable development and community cohesion in Wales. The Awards were presented by the First Minister and a senior UN Representative at the Senedd on St. David's Day.

Four community links have so far shared 7 awards, they are:

- Llanfyllin and Kamuli, (Uganda);
- Hay-on-Wye and Timbuktu, (Mali);
- Pontypridd and Mbale (Uganda); and
- Amlwch and Sankwia (Gambia).



## Headline Indicator of Sustainable Development

### Percentage of the Population in Low-Income Households

There has been little change in the percentage of the population in relative low-income households before housing costs. The percentage of the population in relative low-income households after housing costs has decreased since 1994/97. However, in recent years the percentage has been higher than the level seen in 2003/06.

- Health inequality:

The infant mortality rate per 1,000 has decreased from 5.3 in 2007 to 4.1 in 2008. There has been a sustained increase in life expectancy for both males and females since 1993-95.

- Benefit dependency

The percentage of working age people on key benefits decreased each year from 1995 to 2008. However, there has been an increase of 2 percentage points in 2009 to 17 per cent.

- Housing

The average SAP rating for dwellings in Wales was 50 in 2004. This was slightly below the average for England in 2003 (51.4). In 2004, only 16 per cent of dwellings in Wales were deemed to have good energy efficiency, with a SAP rating of 65 or higher. The Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) for energy rating of dwellings is a calculation of a building's energy efficiency. SAP ratings are scored on a scale from 1 to 100 where 1 is the worst and 100 will indicate no heating/hot water cost.

- Accessibility

The percentage of households where the time taken to reach a GP surgery or grocer by foot or by public transport in 15 minutes or less has increased since 2005/06.

- Crime

The total number of police recorded serious acquisitive crimes in Wales has fallen by over a third to 41,000 in 2008-09. The number of all household crimes in Wales per 10,000 households increased between 2004-05 and 2006-07, before falling to its lowest level in 2008-09.

## **One Wales: One Planet Actions**

**ACTION 12:** *Our flagship programme, Communities First, will be reconfigured to ensure it will be more focussed on sustainable outcomes for local people and communities whilst tackling economic inactivity, child poverty and promoting income maximisation.*

Following consultation in 2008, the Communities First Programme was reconfigured with a greater focus on sustainable outcome for communities. Child Poverty became a specific theme under the Communities First Vision Framework highlighting the fact that Communities First partnerships have a key role to play in this agenda.

A key part of the reconfigured programme since April 2009 has been the establishment of the Communities First Outcomes Fund. This Fund is designed to promote closer working between service providers and Communities First Partnerships in order to obtain sustainable outcomes on a range of projects across all themes of the Communities First Vision Framework. A number of projects are now up and running.

**ACTION 13:** *We will invest £190 million in public health and health improvement through the Public Health Strategic Framework for Wales, 'Our Healthy Future' which will improve the quality and length of life and improve equity in health.*

The Minister for Health and Social Services approved the publication of Wales's first strategic framework for public health in November 2009. *Our Healthy Future* provides a platform for public health activity across the Welsh Assembly Government and partner organisations to 2020. It stipulates 10 priority outcomes which represent the key challenges and outcomes for public health to 2020, and a selection of actions to be taken forward over the next 3-5 years.

**ACTION 14:** *We will ensure that sustainable development will be made a core objective for the restructured NHS in all it does, by giving clear duties to the new bodies to demonstrate best practice in planning and design, building, transport, waste management, and in use of energy and water.*

We have built sustainable development commitments into the governance requirements of the new NHS bodies created as a result of the NHS reform that came into effect in 2009-10. Design of these new requirements was a joint exercise involving government officials, the Wales Audit Office and the Sustainable Development Commission.

**ACTION 15:** *We will ensure that every community in Wales is encouraged to join the Gold Star Community scheme to link with a community in sub-Saharan Africa, and will support them in helping to develop whilst building community cohesion at home.*

The Wales Africa Community Links programme and UN Gold Star Award scheme are now supporting – through small scale funding, advice, development support and training - 126 individual community projects between Wales and Africa.

# Chapter Eight

## The Wellbeing of Wales



### Vision

A fair, just and bilingual Wales, in which citizens of all ages and backgrounds are empowered to determine their own lives, shape their communities and achieve their full potential.

### Summary

The Welsh Assembly Government's approach to sustainable development is based on the contribution of the people of Wales and their diverse culture. This chapter reports the work being done throughout Wales and across sectors to educate and develop knowledge, values and skills to enable decisions that will affect a more sustainable lifestyle and achieve equal rights where each citizen can fulfil their potential within an inclusive society.

Education and learning are fundamental to our vision for a sustainable Wales, equipping citizens with the skills and knowledge they need for life and work.

Following the successful introduction of the revolutionary Foundation Phase to children aged three to five, the play-based curriculum is being rolled out to all five and six-year-olds in Wales from the start of the new school year in September 2010.

We have also continued to ensure that learning is sustained as children move from a play-based curriculum to a classroom-based curriculum, through our School Effectiveness Framework which underpins our work through tri-level partnerships i.e. government, local authorities and schools.

We are proud to celebrate the progress that has been made celebrating Wales' rich and diverse culture.

## Key Outcomes in *One Wales: One Planet*

- Equality for all is a core value to all our work, and the six equality themes of age, gender, race, disability, sexual orientation and religion are actively promoted.
- Child poverty is eradicated and, more broadly, a real translation of wealth and power in our poorest communities has been achieved.
- Every educational institution is embedding sustainable development and global citizenship within its education programmes and way of working.
- Wales' rich culture, values and traditions are celebrated, particularly through encouraging diversity, distinctiveness and promoting the Welsh language, regeneration informed by heritage, fostering local

## A Fair Society

The Single Equality Scheme was launched on 31 March 2009. The Scheme will run for 3 years and we will monitor and report on progress on a six monthly basis. The progress reports are published on the Welsh Assembly Government website. A Delivery Group has been established from external and internal representatives and their first meeting took place at the beginning of November 2009.

'Getting on Together - a Community Cohesion Strategy for Wales' was launched in December 2009 alongside an accompanying action plan. This is to support the *One Wales* commitment to achieve a fair and just society, a place where all citizens are empowered to determine their own lives and shape the communities in which they live.

The implementation of the of the Strategy has been supported by the development of a Community Cohesion Fund of £3.5 million for 2009/11, which has been apportioned to local authority areas through a formula based approach. Proposals for the use of the Community Cohesion Fund have been developed locally within Community Safety Partnerships with representation from local communities and Communities First Partnerships.

Tackling child poverty remains a key priority of the Welsh Assembly Government and on 10 February 2010 the Children and Families (Wales) Measure received Privy Council approval. This new Welsh law makes statutory provision to take forward our commitment in terms of child poverty and our strategy for vulnerable children.

The Measure requires named public agencies in Wales, including Welsh Ministers and local authorities, to prepare and publish a strategy for contributing to the eradication of child poverty in Wales. Work is currently underway to develop the necessary regulations and guidance to support the implementation of the Measure.

In May 2010 we issued a new Child Poverty Strategy and Delivery Plan for a three month public consultation. This Strategy will include three new strategic objectives for Welsh Ministers which are aimed at tackling both out of work and in work poverty, as well as improving the outcomes of low income families. The three strategic objectives are:

- 1) to reduce the number of families living in workless households;
- 2) to improve the skill level of parents and young people in low income families so that they can secure well paid employment; and
- 3) to reduce the inequalities that exist in the health, educational and economic outcomes for children living in poverty, by improving the outcomes of the poorest.

By having these objectives, we intend to address the needs of low income families with children in all parts of Wales, and ensure that policies, resources and services from across Welsh Assembly Government Departments are aimed at improving their outcomes and reducing the inequalities that currently exist.

The Welsh Assembly Government's approach to young offenders set out in the *All Wales Youth Offending Strategy* and associated evidence suggests education is the single most important factor in preventing reoffending. Programmes are being piloted to support young offenders' learning by targeting the use of European funding.

### Lifelong Learning

In 2009-10, the Welsh Assembly Government spent some £2 billion on education and skills. In addition, the majority of funding to support local authority provision to schools and other educational services is provided through the revenue support grant. Without preparing children and learners with the right skills and knowledge, we will never achieve a sustainable Wales. We have made strong progress in improving skills and helping people into jobs over recent years, and both our education outcomes and the skills of the workforce have improved.

Following the successful introduction of the revolutionary Foundation Phase to children aged three to five, the play-based curriculum is being rolled out to all five and six-year-olds in Wales from the start of the new school year in September 2010.

We have also continued to ensure that learning is sustained as children move from a play-based curriculum to a classroom-based curriculum, through our School Effectiveness Framework which underpins our work through tri-level partnerships i.e. government, local authorities and schools.

The revised school curriculum, implemented from September 2008, supports the principles of sustainable development and global citizenship throughout. For example, in the science curriculum, part of the range to be included at all key stages is "The Sustainable Earth". In addition, we continue our support for our successful Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship programme (ESDGC) [see Action 16].

Following the publication of the school-based counselling strategy in 2008, all Local Authorities have now established counselling services in secondary schools. Over three terms in 2009-10, 4,165 young people received and completed counselling. There is strong evidence of improved mental health and well-being for those young people. The Department for Children Education and Lifelong Learning and Skills (DCELLS) is working with the Department for Health and Social Services (DHSS) to make links to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services to provide additional support for those who need it.

Following public consultation between October 2009 and January 2010, DCELLS is reviewing the forms of financial support offered to 16-18 year-olds with a view to achieving a consistent and cohesive package of support to non-employed learners aged 16 – 18 years old irrespective of where the learning takes place in the publicly funded sector. The underlying principle is one of alignment between learner support provision through eligibility criteria; and means testing for the products available to non-employed learners.

### **A Rich and Diverse Culture**

Work is underway to produce a *Welsh Medium Education Strategy* to be launched by April 2010. The Strategy is designed to have a major long-term impact on:

- sustaining and increasing the use of the Welsh language in education provision and services; and
- to establish a holistic and sustainable infrastructure to support and develop Welsh-medium education and training.

It strategically plans for the long-term future of Welsh medium education to avoid needing to react to the need for places in Welsh medium schools as-and-when the children are already of school age. Applying a whole-systems approach recognises that an important aspect of the Widening Access agenda is the availability and use of the Welsh language in further and higher education.

We have worked to market Wales as a tourism destination and progress has been made against the Sustainable Tourism Framework and Action Plan. Progress includes:

- the Sustainable Tourism Forum has been working to develop a set of draft Sustainable Tourism indicators for Wales to measure progress against these set indicators for future years;
- industry engagement via a suite of support tools such as a Sustainable Tourism toolkit, fact sheets, awards, road shows and other awareness raising initiatives / programmes (Croeso);
- work to support sustainable transport, including initiatives outlined in the *Sustainable Tourism and Transport report* launched in November 2009. Work is underway to take forward the recommendations from the report;
- Environment for Growth (E4G) projects (£35m) - Coastal Tourism and Sustainable Tourism projects aim at developing 7 key Centres of Excellence (CoEs) in Wales for sustainable activity tourism products to encourage sustainable recreation, transport and environmental management;
- Environmental Management Pilots: 3 pilot projects are being implemented in the 3 National Parks and include projects to address energy efficiency, waste management, recycling and participation in green accreditation schemes;
- *Climate Change Impact on Tourism Study* looking at the measures required by the tourism industry to adapt to climate change. This includes an examination of the implications of UKCIP 2009; and
- monitoring the impact of tourism. *The 2010 Tourism Satellite Account Report* will be launched in July 2010. It is anticipated this report will highlight that tourism GVA as a percentage of total GVA increased from 3.7% to 4.3% and percentage of regional employment in tourism has grown from 5.5% to 7.1%.

The Welsh Assembly Government's historic environment service Cadw has undertaken a programme of urban characterisation studies to identify the historic development and distinctiveness of particular areas as a foundation for sustainable regeneration schemes. Studies have been completed and reports produced for Aberdare, Dolgellau, Flint, Caernarfon Waterfront, Denbigh and Blaenau Ffestiniog. Work is in hand for a study of Pontypool and further studies are planned for Merthyr, Aberystwyth and Cefn Mawr, Wrexham.

In February 2010, guidance leaflets were published on sustainable maintenance of historic houses and places of worship, prior to the launch of a dedicated Maintenance Matters web site in 2010-11. Work continues on the preparation of a new Cadw guidance booklet on micro generation and historic buildings, which will be launched in 2010-11.



As part of the Welsh Assembly Government's Strategic Capital Investment Fund, Cadw secured almost £1m for a programme of works for "Eco-lighting":

- to replace flood lighting with LED lighting units at 17 monuments in state care;
- for illumination of historic town walls within 3 towns; and
- for installation of micro-hydro power generation at a further 3 monuments.

Energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions will be reduced by a minimum of 50% in respect of the services being replaced. The project started March 2010 and is due to continue in 2010-11.

Cadw is leading the Heritage Tourism Project with £8.5m from the EU Convergence Fund to promote sustainable tourism and maximise visitor potential. Progress has continued on the Defence of the Realm project focussing on Wales' military history, particularly around Milford Haven; as well as on projects linked to Castles and Princes of Medieval Wales, for which interpretation plans bringing to life the stories of the Princes have been completed. Major developments at several of Cadw's sites will provide a platform for local, regional and national heritage tourism promotion.

Projects under way in 2009-10 to promote conservation and access to sites of particular importance to Wales as part of the Welsh Cultural Heritage Initiative include:

- Nevern Castle - excavation, conservation and interpretation;
- Strata Florida Abbey - new interpretation including enhancements to visitor shop;
- Deganwy Castle - survey, conservation and interpretation;
- Sycharth - conservation, interpretation and provision of car parking;
- Glyndyfrdwy motte - conservation/stabilisation of motte, interpretation and provision of car parking;
- Abergwyngregyn - interpretation, small-scale excavation;
- Abaty Cwm Hir - interpretation and improved parking;
- Machynlleth Parliament - building conservation and interpretation;
- Llys Rhosyr - improved public access and interpretation;
- Dinas Emrys - preparation of a conservation management plan for the site; and
- Tomen y Mur - preparation of a conservation management plan for the motte.

## Headline Indicator of Sustainable Development

### Wellbeing in Wales:

There has been little change in the physical and mental wellbeing scores since 2003/04. The mean physical and mental component scores for women are lower than those for men, indicating poorer health and wellbeing for women.

- Education

The percentage of all pupils at Key Stage 2 achieving the core subject indicator has increased from 61 per cent in 1999 to 77 per cent in 2009. The percentage of young people in Wales aged 19-21 with at least a NQF level 2 qualification has been relatively stable since 2001. However, there has been an increase of 4 percentage points to nearly 78 per cent in 2008.

- Childhood poverty

The percentage of children in Wales in relative low-income households before housing costs has decreased since 1994/97, but has risen slightly in recent years.

- Pensioner poverty

There has been little change in the percentage of pensioners in relative low-income households before housing costs.

- Workless households

From 1992 to 2001, there was little change in the percentage of children and working age people living in workless households. However, there was a general decrease for both groups between 2001 and 2008, before both increased in 2009.

- Active community participation

The changes between 2003 and 2009-10 in the percentage of people volunteering on a formal or informal basis at least once a month in the 12 months prior to being surveyed are not statistically significant.

- Welsh language

The percentage of pupils assessed in Welsh at the end of Key Stages 1, 2 and 3 have all increased since 2000.

## **One Wales: One Planet Actions**

**ACTION 16:** *Working with our partners we will deliver against all priority actions in the Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship Action Plan by the end of 2009, and from this we will update and review the plan to provide a renewed focus from 2010 - 2014.*

The Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship Action Plan was completed in 2009 with nearly all actions being delivered. A new delivery plan is being developed which has four key priorities:

- mainstreaming;
- better integration with related programmes;
- greater accessibility to the breadth of ESDGC opportunities; and
- increased learner engagement.

**ACTION 17:** *We will implement a programme of action outlined in the Historic Environment Strategic Statement including the conservation of a range of iconic Welsh cultural heritage sites, promoting sustainable techniques and traditional skills, as well as achieving improved physical and intellectual access for the public.*

The Welsh Assembly Government's Historic Environment Strategic Statement was published in September 2009. It contained a number of actions directed towards sustainable conservation and access, as well as promoting and capturing local distinctiveness.

**ACTION 18:** *We will ensure that Wales is recognised internationally as a leading sustainable tourism destination as set out in the Sustainable Tourism Framework by incorporating sustainability aims into all our tourism promotion and development by 2011, followed by a review in 2014 to refresh the programme of commitments.*

Visit Wales carried out a visitor survey in 2009 and incorporated key sustainable tourism questions in order to establish benchmarks and be able to map future consumer trends/ perceptions to Wales as a Sustainable Tourism Destination in the future.

## List of Abbreviations

AHSC	Academic Health Science Centre
BMW	Biodegradable Municipal Waste
BRASS	centre for Business Relationships, Accountability, Sustainability and Society (Cardiff University)
BSI	British Standard Institute
CBI (Wales)	Confederation of British Industry (Wales)
CoEs	Centres of Excellence
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
EMS	Environmental Management System
FSB	Federation of Small Businesses
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
LED	Light-Emitting-Diode
LHBs	Local Health Boards
LSCP	Low Carbon Skills Project
NISCHR	National Institute for Social Care and Health Research
NOS	National Occupational Standards
NTP	National Transport Plan
NVZs	Nitrate Vulnerable Zones
PEFC	Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification
REAP	Resources and Energy Analysis Programme
SMAP	Strategic Marketing Action Plan
RSLs	Registered Social Landlords
SSCs	Sector Skills Councils
SDC (Wales)	Sustainable Development Commission (Wales)
SDiG	Sustainable Development in Government
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises

SPAF	Sustainable Procurement Action Framework
SRA	Sustainable Risk Assessment
TUC	Trade Union Congress
UKCIP	United Kingdom Climate Impacts Programme
UN	United Nations
WLGA	Welsh Local Government Association
WSP	Wales Spatial Plan