



Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ90235

Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Andrew RT Davies  
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26 June 2024

Dear Andrew,

I am writing in response to WQ90235 about how the Welsh Government is encouraging the development of a circular economy in the agricultural sector. We undertook to provide a substantive response and I am sorry for the delay in doing so.

How we manage our resources has never been more important. A circular economy where we value resources by keeping them in use is a critical element in tackling climate change and reversing the decline in biodiversity through reducing consumption and preventing waste.

Everyone in Wales has a part to play, and we can be proud of the progress we are making across Wales to reduce, reuse and recycle, putting Wales second in the world for recycling.

We recognise each sector of the economy will have different issues to tackle in achieving a circular economy. In the agriculture sector, we are helping farm businesses by embedding advice on circular economy activities that farm businesses can undertake on farm into our renowned Farming Connect programme of subsidised advice and support. With its emphasis on business and transformational change Farming Connect promotes circular economy solutions to farmers and other land managers, giving practical support to businesses to use fewer resources, repaired, repurposed, or remanufactured resources where possible, and generate less waste at end of life whilst also seizing on both the economic and biodiversity opportunities that can come from this. Examples of specific campaigns include the promotion of different options to reduce input and energy costs by becoming recourse (fuel, feed) efficient, adopting energy efficiency practices and producing renewable energy on-farm.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and responding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Business Wales is also available to help businesses, including those in the agricultural sector, to build more resilient businesses and develop their business practices. The service aims to improve productivity and stimulate business growth in an inclusive and sustainable way.

Business Wales can provide businesses in the agricultural sector with access to a wide range of impartial information, advice and guidance such as managing finance to green policies, practices and resource efficiency as well as workshops. Decarbonisation Advisers are available to support businesses to adopt or improve environmental strategies, and work with businesses towards creating a resource efficient and resilient business.

The Green Growth Pledge is part of the specialist sustainability support available through Business Wales and is open to all Welsh SMEs regardless of their industry sector. It provides a practical way for businesses to demonstrate their positive impact on the people and places around them and join a growing community of forward-thinking organisations.

A Cost of Doing Business zone on the Business Wales website brings together existing content and tools available to support businesses to reduce their use of resources and costs.

Across the agri-food sector more widely, we are taking action to reduce food waste. Whilst the main focus here is on post-farm gate surplus, our activities also extend to on farm surpluses. Our 'Surplus with Purpose' project, funded by Welsh Government and managed by FareShare Cymru, aims to tackle the problem of difficult to reach surplus food in Wales. The project has redistributed 170 tonnes of surplus food from farms and businesses across Wales since 2021-22, equivalent to CO<sub>2</sub> savings of 484.2 tonnes. This is redistributed in the first instance to Welsh beneficiaries; there is a reciprocal arrangement with the FareShare UK network to utilise any surplus which cannot be used in one of the countries by sharing across borders.

Some of the businesses in Wales who have made use of diverting food for redistribution are Puffin Foods, Caws Cenarth and Rhosilli – Paviland Farms.

This project is in addition to the 5,652 tonnes surplus edible food which FareShare Cymru have redistributed from the food supply chain in Wales since 2015.

We want to see a thriving and sustainable agriculture sector in Wales. A circular economy where we make the most of our resources is a vital part that sustainable future and I hope the information here on some of the specific ways in which we are working with our farm businesses to encourage that circularity is helpful.

Yours sincerely,



**Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig  
Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change & Rural Affairs