

Decarbonisation Programme Newsletter



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Introduction

Welcome to the Decarbonisation Programme Newsletter which brings together the latest news on the implementation of the climate change provisions within the Environment (Wales) Act and sets out the next steps for delivery.

Newsletters will be regularly published over the duration of the Programme 2016-2019 and will be available on our [internet](#) pages.

The Provisions of the Environment (Wales) Act

Through the United Nations Paris Agreement the global legal context for climate change action is now clear, with a roadmap in place for global decarbonisation and key legislative requirements at all levels.

Last year Ministers strengthened the legislative framework to reduce green house gas emissions through the Environment (Wales) Act by setting a legal target of reducing emissions by a minimum of 80% by 2050. The Act also requires a system of 5 yearly carbon budgets and interim targets; these serve as stepping stones and ensure regular progress is made towards this long term target.

Interim emission targets will be set for **2020, 2030 & 2040** and will be introduced by the end of 2018. The first carbon budget covers **2016-2020** and subsequent budgets will run until 2050.

The Act also sets out that Welsh Ministers must also publish a report, the Low Carbon Delivery Plan, setting out their proposals and policies covering areas of Ministerial responsibility for each carbon budget.

Click on the [infographic](#) and [fact sheet](#) links for further details on the climate change provisions of the Environment Act.

Programme Governance

The Environment Act will require action from all areas so a cross-Government governance structure has been established across Welsh Government Departments with a:

- Programme Board
- Policy Group
- Technical Group

Programme Workstreams

A Decarbonisation Programme has been established to implement the supporting regulations. The Programme is focussing on the delivery of the requirements under the Act which are:

- **Part 1** - defining what emissions are counted in our Welsh account and looking at mechanisms for delivery;
- **Part 2** - setting the decarbonisation pathway in Wales, the interim targets (for 2020, 2030 and 2040) and the first two carbon budgets (for 2016-2020 and 2021-25)
- **Part 3** - setting out how we will achieve our emission reduction targets, through our collective Low Carbon Delivery Plan

Welsh Net Emissions Account — Part 1

The **Net Welsh Emissions Account** will need to be defined in regulations as it will identify what we are reducing our emissions against. To inform their advice on how we account for our emissions in Wales, the UK Committee on Climate Change (UKCCC) who are our Advisory Body held a 6 Week Call for Evidence. Interested parties were able to feed in evidence to inform the UKCCC's advice to the Welsh Government.

The Welsh Government and UKCCC also held a stakeholder event at Jury's Hotel in Cardiff on 26 January. A further event is being planned for the summer on our pathways work.

Pathways — Part 2

To ensure we are robust in the setting of our regulations we will be drawing together a range of evidence in coming to a view on the level of interim targets and carbon budgets. This includes an assessment of technical potential, contribution to global commitments under the Paris Agreement, contribution to the well-being goals, and impact of international and UK Government action on emissions in Wales. We have also asked advice from the UKCCC on their assessment of appropriate levels of targets and budgets.

To ensure our targets and budgets are based on evidence we have also procured an analytical model to explore high-level energy and emission pathway options for Wales. The tool will be used to inform the setting of a decarbonisation pathway and the development of policies and proposals in our Low Carbon Delivery Plan to meet the budgets and targets.

Low Carbon Delivery Plan—Part 3

One of the key elements of the Act is for Welsh Minister's to publish a report for each carbon budget period setting out policies and proposals for meeting the budget covering areas of Ministerial responsibility.

To help facilitate this the decarbonisation team have held workshops bringing policy areas together to raising awareness of the Act and to start to identify how policies contribute to our decarbonisation commitments. The workshops also brought people together to discuss opportunities for Green Growth and for joint delivery.

We are looking to hold further stakeholder events throughout the year focussing on evidence around the setting of our interim targets and carbon budgets and how we are going to develop our Low Carbon Delivery Plan. If you would like to be kept informed around these events please contact the Decarbonisation mailbox below.

Contact Details

Mailbox: Decarbonisationmailbox@wales.gsi.gov.uk
Decarbonisation Team
Floor 1
Cathays Park
Phone: 02920 821721