

# The Wales of Tomorrow: Climate Cymru's blueprint for Senedd 2026 election engagement

## Introduction

Wales stands at a crossroads.

At a time when the cost of living is pushing people deeper into poverty, with an increasing number of households struggling to pay for heating, put food on the table or find secure housing, it is understandable that the climate and nature emergencies can feel like distant priorities. Yet these crises are not separate: they are, in fact, deeply connected.

Climate change is already amplifying the challenges we face, increasing inequality, threatening food, water and energy security and destabilising the ecosystems that sustain us.

We are already seeing the effects here in Wales with rising sea levels eroding our coasts, flooding that devastates homes and infrastructure, and extreme heat that risks our health and wellbeing. Inaction will only make these pressures worse, harming our economy, damaging businesses and, leaving Wales behind in the global race towards a green economy.

But there is another path. Wales has a proud tradition of resilience, community and innovation. Just as our nation once led the industrial revolution, we can now lead a clean and just transition - one that harnesses our natural resources, skills and creativity to build a future that works for everyone.

Climate action is not a choice we make in spite of poverty, inequality and insecurity: it is the route to overcoming them. A fair transition to net zero can bring down

energy bills, create secure green jobs, improve our health, and strengthen our communities.

Climate Cymru is a growing movement of over 14,000 individuals and more than 400 organisations across Welsh society. Together, we are united by a belief that the future of Wales must be nature positive, rooted in climate justice and guided by the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.

This manifesto, published ahead of the 2026 Senedd elections, sets out our vision and priorities for the next Welsh Government. It is both a call to action and an offer of hope: that Wales can build a cleaner, greener, fairer society where communities thrive, nature flourishes and future generations inherit a country they can be proud of.

The decisions we make in the coming years will determine whether Wales falls behind, or rises to the challenge. Together, we can choose a future of prosperity, justice and sustainability. A future where climate action is not a burden, but the foundation of a better Wales for all.

Developed through consultation and co-creation with our network, this document offers a vision for a climate-just future. While our partners share the ambition for shared solutions, not every policy is officially endorsed by every contributing partner.

## **How this document is structured**

Each area within this document is a call to action, built from the ground up with a focus on real-world impact. For each area, you will find:

- 1) **A vision for the future:** A compelling glimpse into what Wales could look like if these ideas were implemented.
- 2) **Voices from the frontline:** A powerful quote from a partner organisation or individual who has been instrumental in bringing these ideas to life.
- 3) **Why it matters:** A clear, concise explanation of the urgency and importance of the theme.

- 4) **What it could deliver:** A summary of the tangible benefits for communities and the nation.
- 5) **Suggested ideas for implementation:** These are merely suggested actionable steps for the next government to take, not directives. This was added following conversations with MSs, as they wished to receive more ideas for implementation that were practical, which did not solely focus on legislative proposals.

## Our plan for engagement

We will use this document to engage with political parties and MSs in the run-up to the Senedd elections in 2026. We will create influencing opportunities from it and wider public engagement events.

## Contents-

Theme	Sub-themes
<b>A future we build together</b>	<b>Just good sense:</b> Practical policies for real lives
	<b>Meeting everyone's needs:</b> Investing in everyday wellbeing
	<b>Change is in our communities:</b> Local delivery, shared purpose, and national progress
	<b>A proud green Wales:</b> Industry, identity and transition
<b>When people lead, decisions last</b>	<b>Meaningful involvement:</b> of the Welsh public in decision making
	<b>Forest communities:</b> Reimagining place through co-managed green assets
	<b>Community right to buy land:</b> Allow Welsh communities to take action to restore nature where they live
	<b>Empowering post industrial communities:</b> A Community led just transition for steel and wind

	<p><b>Access Reform:</b> Connecting communities with nature and green spaces A right to wild spaces</p>
<p><b>Nature, climate and Wellbeing</b></p>	<p><b>Health-first approach:</b> Tackling pollution for a healthier Wales</p>
	<p><b>Fostering community-led tree planting and woodland expansion:</b> Uniting the environment, economy and equity.</p>
	<p><b>Strengthening nature governance:</b> Protecting and restoring nature and biodiversity.</p>
	<p><b>Our Wales, Our Future:</b> Revitalising and rewilding Wales’s Rivers and Seas through community led programmes</p>
	<p><b>A Connected Wales:</b> Sustainable Transport for Welsh Communities.</p>
<p><b>Tackling poverty through a clean energy transition</b></p>	<p><b>Communities at the Heart:</b> Securing Community Benefits and Shared Ownership in Renewable Energy Projects</p>
	<p><b>Maximising Resources:</b> Devolving the Crown Estate and Creating Wales Wealth Fund</p>
	<p><b>Building Capacity:</b> Creating the Climate for Accelerating Change</p>

	<p><b>Wales' former coalfields heat transition:</b> repurposing heritage for low-carbon living.</p>
<p><b>A Just and Caring Revolution</b></p>	<p><b>Caring Economy:</b> giving power back to local people, and securing a better work-life balance for every family.</p>
	<p><b>Wales' green homes &amp; land reclamation:</b> a dual-action plan for just transition</p>
<p><b>A globally responsible Wales</b></p>	<p><b>Treaty for Our Future:</b> Wales Against Fossil Fuel Expansion</p>
	<p><b>Global Food Resilience:</b> Securing Wales' Plate, Sustaining Our Planet.</p>
	<p><b>Loss and Damage:</b>Wales Standing for Climate Justice</p>