

Welsh Carbon Budgets – Call for Evidence Response

Organisation
Transition Chepstow
Question 1: Does the Paris Agreement mean that Welsh emissions targets should keep open a deeper reduction in emissions than 80% by 2050? Are there implications for nearer-term targets?
Yes, 90%. We need to make easier cuts earlier or reaching the 80/90% target will be difficult. Legislation may be needed to enforce some initial change and leading by example.
Question 2: Do you think that leaving the EU has an impact on the targets or how they can be met?
No, the Paris agreement is a worldwide agreement. Less permeable borders will mean it is easier to measure Wales' emissions impact but EU partnerships will be more challenging.
Question 3: In the area(s) of your expertise, what are the opportunities and challenges in reducing Welsh emissions in the nearer term (e.g. to 2030)?
Getting wider public support and the advantages it brings and making change
Question 4: What is required by 2030 to prepare for the 2050 target for an emissions reduction of at least 80% on 1990 levels, recognising that this may require that emissions in some areas are reduced close to zero? Is there any impact of the need to go beyond 80%, either in 2050 or subsequently?
<p>ANSWER: Reducing emissions by 80/90% has to be common parlance which all feel the commitment to take part and the benefits thereof. There are easy targets which benefit all which Welsh Government can set such as banning the sale of non LED lights, all new buildings to be zero carbon by 2020 – users of these buildings will realise the benefit of zero energy bills and share with others. The public sector have ambitious targets on insulation, energy efficiency, generation of renewable energy, reduction of water usage, increased recycling rates. Transport will be key and early adoption of electric vehicles encouraged. Meat and animal produce are very resource intensive and a very large emitter of emissions – the movement of using less meat should be encouraged from Welsh Government with meetings with vegetarian food, schools and public sector encouraged to have vegetarian options and reduce the meat content in other meals – farmers will need to be compensated with encouragement to generate renewable energy and return land to forestry and orchards producing a carbon store and producing fruit locally.</p> <p>Electricity generation is in revolution with the potential that all homes produce and store the vast majority of their electricity – with the current energy providers topping up over winter and during prolonged bad weather. Heating is more challenging but hydrogen is a quick fix to reduce gas emissions: however this is probably the largest area of difficulty to reduce emissions relying on new technology and the switch to electricity and the use of air source and ground source heat pumps.</p>
Question 5: What are the respective roles of UK Government, Welsh Government, the wider public sector, business, third sector and individual or household behaviour in delivering emissions reductions between now and 2030? And, separately, between 2030 and 2050?
<p>There is a danger that each sector relies on the other sectors. This is a chance for the Welsh Government to take the lead and other sectors follow. Clearly every sector has a role to play:</p> <p>UK Government: To set UK targets, to legislate where appropriate, to offer incentives (such as FIT tariffs) and penalties/taxes (such as business rates charges on petrol and diesel)</p> <p>Welsh Government: to set targets, legislate where appropriate, to offer incentives and penalties/taxes (such as charging for 5p on plastic bags) Examples of legislation are the banning on the sale of all but LED lights from 2019, enhanced building regulations to move to all new buildings be zero carbon by 2020.</p>
Question 6: As a business, as a Public Sector Body, or as a citizen, how do emissions targets affect your planning and decision-making?
If they are long term targets they effect them – short/middle term policies have much less effect. Therefore a solid, long term commitment to reducing emissions will affect decision making at all levels and all sectors.
Question 7: In your area(s) of expertise, what specific circumstances need to be considered when setting targets and budgets for Wales and how could these be reflected in the targets?
Transition Chepstow has a great deal of experience in public engagement, step change (Chepstow was the first town in the UK to be plastic bag free), managing charges and the resistance to change.
Question 8: The power and industry sectors in Wales are dominated by a small number of large emitters. What are the key challenges and opportunities that this presents in setting the levels of carbon budgets and how should the process of setting them reflect these?

The electricity portion of the power generating industry is undergoing a revolution with a large number of domestic housing generating their own electricity and the ability to store and use this using batteries being supported by UK Government. This proportion of houses with PV and PV and batteries is growing reducing the influence of large power generators. This section of electricity self generation and storage in domestic, public sector and private sector should be encouraged by Welsh Government strengthening democracy of power generation. Those in fuel poverty should be prioritised as there are many secondary benefits (health and crime in particular)

Question 9: What evidence should the Committee draw on in assessing impacts on sustainable management of natural resources, as assessed in the state of natural resources report?

Water and forestry are two key areas. As managed previously moving the population to a diet with less meat and animal produce will greatly reduce emissions; also release land to increase forestry and orchards acting as a carbon store and air filter as well as growing more fruit in Wales. Water is heavy and not appreciated the energy cost in transporting it. More local water capture should be used for grey water reducing use of clean water and reducing runoff. Water meters should be mandatory on households to reduce water usage.

Question 10: What evidence regarding future trends as identified and analysed in the future trends report should the Committee draw on in assessing the impacts of the targets?

The cost of renewable energy (specifically PV) and storage is undergoing dramatic costs making it viable to install without FIT subsidies. PV and storage will play a major part of energy policy. Wales has demonstrated that it is possible to build zero carbon houses. House builders are slow to change but the benefits of zero carbon homes will have a massive influence on the population and move the population to embrace a zero carbon future. There are many new renewable energy generation devices using wave and tidal power in particular that should be factored in to targets. Growing your own food is becoming increasingly popular and as a community activity has proved better for health than running or walking. Increasing land for allotments should be made available to increase Wales' food sustainability and increase the population's health. Air pollution causes a great deal of disease including asthma, with reducing emissions the strain on the NHS will be reduced.