

Annwyl Syr / Fadam,

Atodir agenda a dogfennau eraill isod ar gyfer cyfarfod o'r **GWEITHGOR NEWID HINSAWDD AC ARGYFWNG ECOLEGOL**.

NODER – NID YW'R CYFARFOD HWN YN AGORED I'R CYHOEDD.

Yr eiddoch yn gywir,

Gary Williams
Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol, AD a Democrataidd

Dear Sir / Madam,

An agenda and other documents for a meeting of the **CLIMATE CHANGE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP** are attached below.

PLEASE NOTE – THIS MEETING IS NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Yours faithfully,

Gary Williams
Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services

AGENDA

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AGENDA

MEETING: CLIMATE CHANGE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP

Date	9 th February 2021
Time	10.00-11.30
Location	Microsoft Teams
Chair	Cllr Graham Timms
Facilitator	Helen Vaughan-Evans (Climate Change Programme Manager)
Apologies	TBC

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1. Welcome and apologies | 10.00 – 10.05 |
| 2. Minutes and actions from the last meeting | 10.05 - 10.20 |
| 3. Theme: Land Use for the benefit of carbon sequestration and ecological improvement | 10.20 – 11.20 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning about Nature Resource Wales (NRW) Woodland Creation Programme and how to measure carbon absorption impact at a project level- Presentation and Q&A by Eifion Jones (Specialist adviser, woodland creation), NRW. • Roundtable discussion on Land Use considerations for DCC in meeting our net carbon zero and ecologically positive Council by 2030 goals. | |
| 4. Forward work programme and any other business | 11.20 – 11.30 |

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Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group meeting

Date	14 / 01 / 2021
Time	10.00 - 11.30
Location	Web Ex Video Conference
Present	Cllr Bobby Feeley (BF); Cllr Barry Mellor (BM); Cllr Brian Jones (BJ); Cllr Graham Timms (GT); Cllr Joe Welch (CJW); Cllr Tony Thomas (TT); Cllr Ellie Chard (EC); Cllr Alan James (AJ)
Apologies	Judith Greenhalgh (JG), Cllr Arwel Roberts (AR); Nicola Kneale (NK) Cllr Gwyneth Kensler (GK); Cllr Rhys Thomas (RT); Cllr Meirick Ll. Davies (MD);
In attendance	Supporting Officers: Helen Vaughan-Evans (HVE), Liz Wilcox-Jones (LWJ); Tom Booty (TB); Howard Sutcliffe (HS); Andrew Cutts (AC), Heidi Barton-Price (HBP), Joel Walley (JW), Tony Ward (TW), Manon Celyn (MC), Sian Owen (SO)

1. Welcome and apologies

Chair GT welcomed all to the meeting and noted apologies.

2. Minutes and actions from the last meeting

Minutes of last meeting agreed as accurate.

Actions of last meeting reviewed and update provided by HVE. See summary table below.

Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group meeting; 14.01.21

ACTION	UPDATE
<p>RP – to provide contact details for the land use lead at Welsh Government for DCC representatives to have a meeting.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HVE has requested and chased on email
<p>HVE – to make changes to the letter to Lesley Griffith AM and send to BJ for review.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p>
<p>TW - to discuss with Nigel Highfield in Facilities Management about introducing low carbon menus and bring back thoughts to the group.</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported back to group 17.12.20
<p>GT- As the Chair of the working group, to suggest to Chairs and Vice Chairs of Scrutiny Committee the opportunity for a written report from School Catering to go to Scrutiny in September/October 2021 regarding progress made on low carbon and reduction of single use plastics</p>	<p>ONGOING</p>
<p>LD – to send staff survey results in relation to new ways of working to the HVE to distribute to Climate Change and Ecological Emergency working group.</p>	<p>SUPERCEDED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal report given to group 17.12.20 • Survey results to be sent out to all staff and cllrs at same time in January 2021
<p>LD – to feedback back to the New Ways of Working working group the concerns raised around some meetings not working virtually and the need to circulate insurance requirements and tax advantages for staff who are now working from home.</p>	<p>SUPERCEDED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal report given to group 17.12.20 • See action below for HVE
<p>HVE- send on to AS the collated feedback from the working group from the meeting held in November.</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p>

Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group meeting; 14.01.21

ACTION	UPDATE
HVE- make all changes agreed to the strategy document in light of public feedback.	ONGOING
HVE- liaise with Democratic Services to change sign off of strategy document to February 2021 in Forward Plan.	COMPLETED <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet- 16th Feb • Council- 23rd Feb
HVE- produce and publish to the public the Consultation Response Report.	ONGOING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafted- now with translators to produce welsh version • Aim to publish by end of January
HVE- swap January and February agendas and secure NRW representatives to come along.	COMPLETED

Discussion around Carbon Literacy training. HVE – updated the group on up take so far in the priority cohort (including Cllrs, SLT, Middle Managers and other key officers).

Discussion around encouraging all Councillors to book onto the course. Agreed that standing members of this working group will take responsibility in encourage Councillors within their political grouping to book onto course.

BM – informed the group of a letter he had received from a constituent who had heard about the Carbon Literacy opportunity and was concerned this would only be made available to managers and office-based staff.

HVE explained that from 28th January remaining places will be opened up to all staff across the Council.

Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group meeting; 14.01.21

ACTIONS:

- **HVE-** to provide information to standing Members of this group for them to email/encourage councillors to book onto training by January 27th.
- **COUNCILLORS OF THIS GROUP** – to encourage councillors within your political grouping to sign up for the Carbon Literacy training.
- **HVE/LWJ-** promotion of the remaining places to all staff from January 28th.

3. Theme: Behaviour Change - Encouraging and sustaining low carbon and ecologically positive behaviours amongst Staff and Councillors

Theory of Behaviour change

SO took the group through her slides on the Theory of Behaviour Change collated from material from Bangor University, Welsh Government and UK Government.

Talked about: Capability, Opportunity and Motivation.

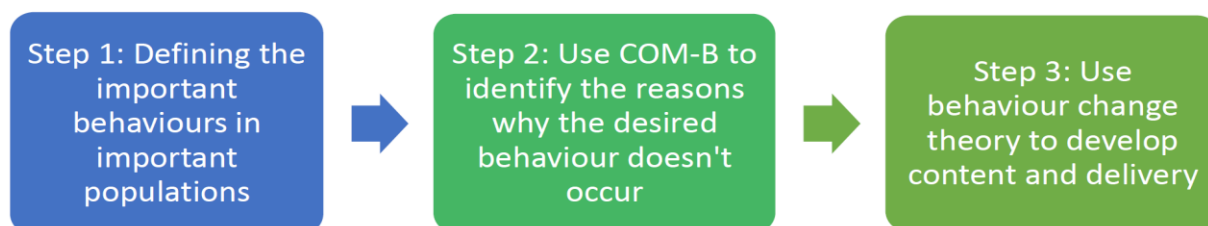
Capability – Does the audience have the right skills?

Opportunity – does the audience have the resources required?

Motivation - does the audience want to carry out the desired behaviour?

Effective communications – essential this is harnessed and used well. Different communications will be right for different people.

Process for design and delivering a Behaviour Change campaign/initiative as follows.



Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group meeting; 14.01.21

SO - suggested we pilot this process for a discreet part of the Climate and Ecological Change agenda to see if it works and then roll it out to other parts of the Programme.

Talking heads are useful – e.g. if a Cllr had a great experience on the training, this could be shared as a talking head piece (video) to encourage others to increase their knowledge.

Welsh language – encouraging and sustaining Welsh language uptake within the Council

MC took the group through her experience and top tips in her work to encourage and sustain Welsh language uptake within the Council.

Emphasised the need for trying to keep it fun and not a chore – improve physical and mental wellbeing e.g. walking groups, Cled the Elf (encouraging engagement), Cor Sir Y Sain etc.

Social media engagement encourages people to take part. If something is well received, others are encouraged to get involved in the future.

Top 5 tips given were:

1. Keep things fun and simple
2. Consult and plan with others
3. Familiarise yourself with participants
4. Make them feel a part of a community
5. Give anything a go

Building engagement and planning programmes is more difficult virtually but not impossible.

Round table discussion

GT –Thanked SO and MC for their presentations. Achieving the public engagement and getting the message out effectively is a big task and will take time to pull together.

Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working

Group meeting; 14.01.21

BF – Careful with our messaging so not to cause negativity or confusion. Ensure what we communicate is simple and clear. Mindful there are many who don't do social media or IT (many avoid it currently as they don't want to hear the scary/negative news). Ensure we are realistic with our expectations on behaviour change and avoid the risk of stopping people wanting to be engaged.

HVE – creating the feeling of being in a 'cohort' seems to be important from what we have heard from SO and MC. A Climate Warrior/Climate Champion Group perhaps.

HVE- Important we understand and identify the key behaviours we want to change – some things within our strategy staff/cllrs can contribute to directly – business travel, supply chain, staff commuting, low carbon practice in the office (waste, energy). Stakeholder analysis and research will be needed.

HVE- Tone is important. Ensuring this remains fun to keep people on board important. Positive stories to share. Link to the arts perhaps, health and wellbeing. An annual focus event linked to a National/Global 'holiday' e.g. Earth Day perhaps.

HBP- creation of a character e.g. 'Carbon Zero Zog' perhaps like the 'Green Cross Code Man' to share learning in schools.

JW- it's about reinforcing the behaviours you want and deconstructing the ones you don't want- making it fun so that people are encouraged to do the behaviours we do want. It's a tough task to do this effectively, a lot of challenges.

GT –Interested to hear how far the Climate and Ecological Change messaging has got to within the council – is it just senior officers? HS- confirmed his officers within Countryside Services were all aware.

SO – huge message to get across. Needs to be split it up and challenged separately – potentially can't tackle them all in the same way.

TW – mentioned the National Campaign targeted at groups who don't recycle and DCC are part of that campaign.

Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working

Group meeting; 14.01.21

LWJ – we need to be leading by example where we can and communicating this across the authority and to the public in the most effective means. The more people see other's behaviour changing the more others will hopefully jump board. Put some communication that we put out internally on our public social media channels as well perhaps e.g. any videos we create in the future 'talking heads' on positive behaviour changes made.

HVE – Thanked the group for their ideas and discussion. Lots of think through and plan for 2021/22.

ACTIONS:

- **HVE/LWJ-** Devise a behaviour change and communications plan for 2021/22.

4. Forward work programme and next meetings

HVE took the group through the forward work programme.

Month	Proposed items for discussion
9 th February	<p><u>Theme: Land Use</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Land Use for the benefit of carbon sequestration and ecological improvement• Learning from Natural Resource Wales
9 th March	<p><u>Theme: Closing the group and celebrating success</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reflecting on Council's consideration of Climate and Ecological Change Strategy and Action Plan• Reflecting on the groups journey since the emergency declaration• Plans for governance and continued scrutiny of progress on this agenda moving forward.

Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group meeting; 14.01.21

Month	Proposed items for discussion
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lessons learned and next steps for the Council

5. AOB

GT – informed the group the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs will be considering options of how to challenge and monitor the delivery of the Climate and Ecological Change Strategy and the Single Use Plastics agenda.

AJ – will be at that Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs meeting and will share his views.

GT – explained this group has limited life in its current form as it was set up due to the Emergency Declaration motion to deliver the Climate and Ecological Change Strategy Document.

TB – careful for any group to have a measurable focus and clear Terms of Reference and not be too broad.

TB- expanded on green number plates after information regarding this was sent out after the previous meeting. Can we as Council do something to acknowledge this and perhaps offer free parking to those with a green number plate? Numbers will probably quite low initially so the cost would be minimal, but the positive message would be beneficial and welcomed. Something to consider in the revised Sustainable Travel Plan due to be produced 2021/22.

BJ – understands that a task and finish group being put together for flood/land management discussions which could involve Natural Resources Wales and suggested we needed to have communication between this agenda and that task and finish group on flooding. Suggested we need to find out more about the flood/land management task and finish group and how agendas can interlink.

Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working

Group meeting; 14.01.21

AC [Sent via email following meeting] – Email sent to inform the group of the work being done to introduce 'Living Asset' to colleagues. Due to lockdown this has been difficult to do in person so Andrew has created an introductory presentation which can be accessed here -

<https://wetransfer.com/downloads/9e7571380b0a68bd305684e4b86eed2420210113141104/8898df60de7b9f5cd2cbdf25d085882320210113141143/9598fd> (please let Andrew know if you would prefer a welsh version). He would welcome any feedback and comments you may have.

ACTIONS:

HVE – to find out more about the potential Flood Land Management Task and Finish group and report back.

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Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group meeting

Date	09 / 02 / 2021
Time	10.00 - 11.30
Location	Microsoft Teams
Present	Cllr Bobby Feeley (BF); Cllr Barry Mellor (BM); Cllr Brian Jones (BJ); Cllr Graham Timms (GT); Cllr Joe Welch (CJW); Cllr Tony Thomas (TT); Cllr Arwel Roberts (AR).
Apologies	Judith Greenhalgh (JG); Nicola Kneale (NK); Cllr Gwyneth Kensler (GK); Cllr Meirick Ll. Davies (MD).
In attendance	Supporting Officers: Helen Vaughan-Evans (HVE); Liz Wilcox-Jones (LWJ); Tom Booty (TB); Howard Sutcliffe (HS); Andrew Cutts (AC); Heidi Barton-Price (HBP); Joel Walley (JW); Tony Ward (TW); Eifion Jones NRW (EJ). Councillor Observers: Cllr Ellie Chard (EC); Cllr Alan James (AJ); Cllr Martyn Holland (MH).

1. Welcome and apologies

Chair GT welcomed all to the meeting and noted apologies.

2. Minutes and actions from the last meeting

Minutes of last meeting agreed as accurate.

Actions of last meeting reviewed and update provided by HVE. See summary table below.

Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group meeting; 09.02.21

ACTION	UPDATE
<p>RP – to provide contact details for the land use lead at Welsh Government for DCC representatives to have a meeting.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HVE has requested and chased on email to RP
<p>HVE – to make changes to the letter to Lesley Griffith AM and send to BJ for review.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p>
<p>GT- As the Chair of the working group, to suggest to Chairs and Vice Chairs of Scrutiny Committee the opportunity for a written report from School Catering to go to Scrutiny in September/October 2021 regarding progress made on low carbon and reduction of single use plastics</p>	<p>ONGOING</p>
<p>HVE- make all changes agreed to the strategy document in light of public feedback.</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategy going to Cabinet on 16th February for approval and Council on 23rd February for adoption.
<p>HVE- produce and publish to the public the Consultation Response Report.</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Published end of January
<p>HVE- to provide information to standing Members of this group for them to email/encourage councillors to book onto training by January 27th .</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p>

Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working

Group meeting; 09.02.21

<p>COUNCILLORS OF THIS GROUP – to encourage councillors within your political grouping to sign up for the Carbon Literacy training.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p>
<p>HVE/LWJ- promotion of the remaining places to all staff from January 28th .</p>	<p>ONGOING</p>
<p>HVE/LWJ- Devise a behaviour change and communications plan for 2021/22.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p>
<p>HVE – to find out if a Flood Management Task and Finish group was being formed and decide which members would be best involved from this group</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose: To explore potential methods for strengthening communication channels and building effective working relationships between all parties and organisations that have responsibilities for managing flood risk from rivers and watercourses across Denbighshire. • Report to Communities Scrutiny Committee on its work to date by late 2021

Matters arising

Working group

Discussion had around the future of the working group next financial year. Steve Price/Rhian Evans/Cllr Graham Timms to present a report at March's Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs Group (11th March) with possible options for the way forward for monitoring/challenging/supporting progress in delivering the Climate and Ecological Change Strategy. GT to talk this group through options being considered at March (9th) meeting.

Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working

Group meeting; 09.02.21

BM agreed that the climate and ecological change agenda is a long journey and stopping these meetings at the end of March doesn't seem right.

BF – queried how members will follow and stay involved with the agenda if there is no working group? GT – stated that if Strategy approved on the 23rd February then Strategy delivery will be overseen by the Corporate Plan Board.

BJ emphasised that the right people need to be on the board.

Carbon literacy training

Praise for the Carbon Literacy for Local Government training from those already attended and it was urged all Councillors to book on if not already done so.

Welsh Government has set out its legal commitment to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, following Committee for Climate Change 6th Carbon Budget Advice

Council meeting in January secured of budget for Net Carbon Zero delivery 2021/22, including budget for staff (1x Programme Manager, 2 x Project Manager, 1 x EV Fleet Officer) and revenue to fund the borrowing for capital projects. Projects being delivered in following workstreams Buildings, Fleet Travel, Non-Fleet Travel, Waste and Land Use.

Response from North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent / Welsh Government (NMWTRA/WG)

Response from NMWTRA/WG regarding the tree felling on the A5 and A494 was discussed.

Group discussed NMWTRA/WG replanting plans and whether there are any synergies with our carbon sequestration plans. Would be good to know where they are planning to replant, what and when.

Discussion around Ash Die Back. TW suggested the ash die back project could come to this group as a future agenda action.

Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group meeting; 09.02.21

AC informed the group work was being carried out to develop a dataset to keep track of the county's live assets.

ACTIONS:

- **GT** – work with Rhian Evans and Steve Price on possible options for the future of the working group after March. Report back to the group.
- **HVE** - add future of working group to agenda for March's meeting.
- **HVE** - to provide a list of Councillors still to book on Carbon Literacy training to councillors of this working group for them to encourage up take.
- **HS/LWJ**- to respond to the NMWTRA/WG letter regarding tree felling on the A5/A494.
- **HVE** – to add the ash die project as a potential agenda item for a future meeting in 2021/22, depending on future of group, as suggested by TW.

3. Theme: Land Use for the benefit of carbon sequestration and ecological improvement

Presentation and Q&A by Eifion Jones (Specialist adviser, woodland creation), NRW.

Learning about Nature Resource Wales (NRW) Woodland Creation Programme and how to measure carbon absorption impact at a project level.

Eifion Jones from NRW took the group through the NRW woodland Creation programme.

Talked about: The right tree, right place, right reasons.

8 strands to consider:

- Alternative funding
- Regulation review
- Extending the WG woodland estate – buying land/long term lease
- Centenary and Beacon trees – small scale

Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working

Group meeting; 09.02.21

- Plant! – planting a tree for every child in Wales
- Glastir verification service – right tree, right place
- National Forest – WG committed to developing the policy
- Urban trees and Green infrastructure

3 important factors:

- Land
- People (to plant the trees)
- Investment

When creating new woodland:

- Plan – what and where
- Consult – who – current and future stakeholders
- Engage – how – funding and support

NRW use the CARBINE model for measuring carbon stocks of stands and forests. The right carbon modelling tool must be selected to suit your needs, around 60 available.

Q&A

GT - How much land have NRW acquired? – Approx. 2000 hectare rising to 4000 hectares asap but the aim is to get as much as possible.

BF – Is there any advice on tree planting in gardens and small holdings to help with the carbon sequestration goal? - The Woodland trust have a scheme currently doing that and NRW are working with them on the tree packs. Looking to increase the success of those trees when planted.

Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working

Group meeting; 09.02.21

HVE – funding to support the planting of trees? – Woodland Trust provide funding for tree planting up to 3 hectares. It is possible to subscribe to an organisation called 9 Trees whose mission is to plant 9 trees for every person and maintain the trees once planted.

AR –DCC have a varied environment, how do we identify appropriate areas for woodland successfully? - There is a Woodland Opportunity Map which shows where woodland creation is appropriate and where it isn't.

MH – what are we doing to protect woodland that is already existing? - Agree, it is key to maintain what we've got. Great opportunity with the National Forest for Wales and linking up with that. A consultation on the National Forest programme is due to happen in Autumn 2021.

MH- Are we talking to quarry companies to convert these areas into woodland? – these sites are often species rich habitats so would need to check site by site whether tree planting is appropriate in these areas.

HS – Tree Protection Orders - Important to educate land owners that they see trees as an asset as opposed to a problem.

LWJ – planting a tree for every child in Denbighshire? – HS confirmed Garry Davies is leading on a scheme already in Denbighshire called PLANT Project- 18,000 trees by end of March 2022.

Round table discussion on Land Use considerations for DCC in meeting our net carbon zero and ecologically positive Council by 2030 goals- Summary on Denbighshire's position

TB stated to achieve our target of becoming net carbon zero by 2030 we need to sequester a lot more carbon than we do currently.

Following an initial meeting TB and other officers have developed a draft matrix to act as a guide to support decision making on land acquisition and disposal within the county to ensure carbon sequestration and ecological improvement opportunities are maximised.

Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group meeting; 09.02.21

Key points being considered are: carbon sequestration potential, biodiversity, mitigate flood risk.

The idea is that the matrix would be used by the group of officers look at potential land and score it to help with site acquisition/disposal decisions.

Ongoing management and responsibility need to be considered. Traditionally land is leased out but this is problematic for this agenda as to count against Net Carbon Zero goal DCC needs to both own and operate the land.

TB happy to expand more at the next meeting (March).

ACTIONS:

- **TB** – to bring further information re the land acquisition and disposal matrix to next meeting (March).

4. Forward work programme and any other business

HVE took the group through the forward work programme.

Agreement that the Theme will be about reflecting on groups journey since the emergency declaration and looking ahead to first year of Strategy delivery.

Month	Proposed items for discussion
9th March	<p><u>Theme: Reflecting on progress and looking ahead</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reflecting on Council's consideration of Climate and Ecological Change Strategy.

Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group meeting; 09.02.21

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reflecting on the groups journey since the emergency declaration.• Plans for governance and continued scrutiny of progress on this agenda moving forward.• Lessons learned and next steps for the Council.
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