

Addressing the Nature and Climate Emergencies: A Summary of Steps to take for Public Services Boards

1 Understand the key systems driving unsustainable practices

The environmental systems, food systems and resource systems that influence environmental well-being often behave in ways that are complex and unpredictable. In areas like land management, waste management, biodiversity conservation, pollution prevention, food security and decarbonisation, the cause and effect of arising issues are complex or unattainable. The term “wicked issues” is sometimes used to describe problems like climate change and biodiversity loss. In these kinds of situations, interventions need to be designed in the absence of perfect knowledge of how human and natural processes interact, and in a way that draws together fragmented evidence and multiple perspectives. Systems approaches can provide structure in such cases.

- The overwhelming message from [SoNaRR2020](#) is that societal transformation is needed in the [Food, Energy and Transport systems](#). Taking a system view will allow a wider range of leverage points than have traditionally been used to regulate the environment and it is recommended that PSBs explore the opportunity to influence these systems collectively and to build transformative capacity and capability amongst and between partnerships.
- Consideration of the three systems which require transformation will lead to the production of bespoke and place based collaborative opportunities for PSBs to consider. It is important that each place is supported to identify interventions in this more integrated way in order to consider how different national policies may interact with specific local socio-economic conditions and wider well-being locally.

2 Ensure a Just Transition

There is a need to ensure that the transition to a net zero Wales is carefully managed to be both **equitable and fair**. The need to decarbonise our economy and communities will have impacts on industries, sectors of the workforce and socio-economic groups in different ways, depending on the pathways, policies, and actions we choose.

- The Public Services Board is well placed to consider the place-based impacts and opportunities of the transition required and the options to address them in its communities. NRW is advocating that PSBs have an important role in understanding the social, environmental, economic and cultural consequences of the transition and to consider, in an integrated way, how local well-being will be impacted by the transition required now and in the future.

3 Influence change in the measures of economic success

Whilst current environmental and conservation and management actions are having positive impacts on environmental well-being, their effects are overwhelmed by the growing socio – economic pressures on biodiversity.

- NRW are advocating that the PSB make clearer connections to their respective growth and local and [regional economic](#) frameworks across a range of areas such as energy, the economy and skills and work with these partnerships to take a more ‘inclusive’ approach to measuring economic success. By measuring our wealth in terms of all assets, including natural assets, ‘inclusive wealth’ provides a clear and coherent measure that corresponds directly with the well-being of current and future generations.

4 Deliver collaborative interventions

There are also a number of best practice collaborative interventions which the PSB may like to deliver collaboratively. The following generic steps fall into that category:

a) Safeguard and enhance stocks of natural resources

by decarbonising assets, procurement processes and services across organisations and providing opportunities for communities to do the same; recognising biodiversity as an asset and maximising the role of public sector assets to sequester carbon and deliver biodiversity enhancements; taking collective actions which will improve resource efficiency and the re-use of materials.

b) Improve the health of our ecosystems

by increasing the extent of semi-natural habitats; enhancing connection within and between ecosystems by creating connectivity patches and habitat corridors; restoring and creating semi-natural habitats; reducing and better managing the pressures and demands on ecosystems and natural resources (INNS, Climate Change, Pollution, Over-use, habitat loss).

c) Reduce communities' exposure to environmental risks

by adapting to the impacts of climate change and addressing inequalities and exposure to environmental risk by:

- I. Undertaking a local climate change risks assessment:
 - Systematically review the risks identified in the [Climate Change Risk Assessment \(CCRA3\) Evidence Report: Summary for Wales](#).
 - Identifying which risks are relevant to the local area; it is anticipated that virtually all will apply, to some extent. Review past weather events and how effectively we dealt with them. What went well? What did not go well?
 - Prioritising the identified risks and specific communities exposed to those risks (considering socio-economic risk factors as well as environmental) and using this information to pinpoint spatial hotspots where adaptation should be prioritised in the local area.
- II. Building adaptive capacity and capability amongst PSB partners:
 - Understanding the PSBs sphere of influence in this area and what is within its gift to change, considering how the PSB can add value?
 - Harnessing opportunities to influence systems change and transformation such as the PSBs' influence on other strategic partnerships operating in the region (e.g. CJs, RPBs)
 - Agreeing collectively which PSB partner should lead on each climate risk
 - Devising collectively a standard format for summarising local information in relation to each climate risk
 - Considering whether existing policy, practice and resource allocation will be enough to mitigate long term Climate Change impact. This activity should include a consideration of what existing activity needs to stop, change or be renewed
 - Developing a mechanism for engagement / involvement with communities most at risk
 - Identifying where and how public sector assets could be repurposed to increase resilience / mitigation
 - Developing locally-led adaptation actions and projects
 - Continuing to develop evidence and insights on interactions between climate risks and wider social, economic, and natural systems.
 - Monitoring progress and taking an adaptive management approach to continually improve performance

d) Incentivise a regenerative local economy whereby the environmental impacts of production and consumption are reduced

by promoting a circular economy and wider social transformations. Examples might include local procurement, repair cafes, local food systems, sourcing energy from waste and renewables, reducing packaging, payments for ecosystem services, incentivising integrated active travel networks.

Case studies, best practice.

Understand the key systems driving unsustainable practices

[SoNaRR2020](#)

[Integrating a systems approach into Defra - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[A WELSH FOOD SYSTEM FIT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS | WWF, The 20-minute neighbourhood - Town and Country Planning Association \(tcpa.org.uk\)](#).

[The 20-minute neighbourhood - Town and Country Planning Association \(tcpa.org.uk\)](#)

[Bikeability | Cycle training for everyone delivering better and safer training](#)

Just Transition

[Achieving a just transition in Wales | WCPP](#)

[What is climate justice? | Climate Just](#)

Influence change in the measures of success

[The Economics of Biodiversity The Dasgupta Review: Headline Messages \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

[Meet the doughnut: the new economic model that could help end inequality | World Economic Forum \(weforum.org\)](#)

Deliver collaborative interventions

Climate adaptation:

<https://www.ukcip.org.uk/wizard/current-climate-vulnerability/lclip/>

<https://www.ukcip.org.uk/wizard/future-climate-vulnerability/bacliat/>

<https://lanntair.com/creative-programme/outer-hebrides-climate-beacon/>

https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/climate_change_risks_for_london_-_a_review_of_evidence_under_1.5degc_and_different_warming_scenarios.pdf

[New resource highlights health impacts of climate change - Public Health Wales \(nhs.wales\)](#)