

Council for Economic Renewal

Update on Green Growth

Background

1. A paper on green growth and the potential for developing the whole of the Welsh economy was presented to the Council for Economic Renewal in June 2013.
2. As a follow on a Green Growth Steering Group was established, which is co-chaired by Peter Davies and Professor Garel Rhys. The role of the Steering Group is to provide leadership and to steer a Green Growth Baseline Study of how a green growth approach can be adopted for the long term sustainable growth and prosperity of Wales.
3. The Steering Group commissioned a study to establish a baseline understanding of international best practice on Green Growth.
4. The results of the study will be launched on 9 February in Cathays Park. The report will be published on the Cynnal Cymru Sustain Wales web site. Council members are invited to attend the launch.
5. The study will inform the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill, the Goals and the national indicators of progress that are being developed.

Proposed Definition of Green Growth

6. The study took the OECD definition for green growth and proposes widening it to include social and educational elements capturing the Welsh Government's policy agenda. The proposed definition is as follows:

“Green growth in Wales is about fostering economic growth, development and social inclusion while ensuring that the natural assets provide the resources and environmental services on which our well-being relies. To do this it must stimulate investment and innovation which will underpin sustained growth and give rise to new economic opportunities, human capital formation and skills building, and redistribute the proceeds of growth”.

Areas of Opportunity Identified by the Study to Advance Green Growth in Wales

7. The study identified nine areas where action is needed to drive forward the green growth approach. These are as follows:
 - 1 European Structural Funds 2014-2020
 - 2 Horizon 2020 Research Funding
 - 3 UK Feed-in Tariff
 - 4 Clean Energy Resource Development
 - 5 Waste and the Circular Economy
 - 6 Building Energy Retrofit Incentive Scheme for Wales
 - 7 Incentives to Achieve Greater Financial Capital Draw-Down
 - 8 More Specific Measurement of Firms and Products
 - 9 Identify Markets for Certified Sustainable Welsh Produce

Progress and Further Actions

8. The Welsh Government is proposing to host a Green Growth International Conference in September 2015. The conference would aim to bring together public, private sector and civil society leaders to demonstrate how smaller economies can take the initiative and lead economic transformation.
9. Further details and an update on progress will be provided to the Council as matters progress.