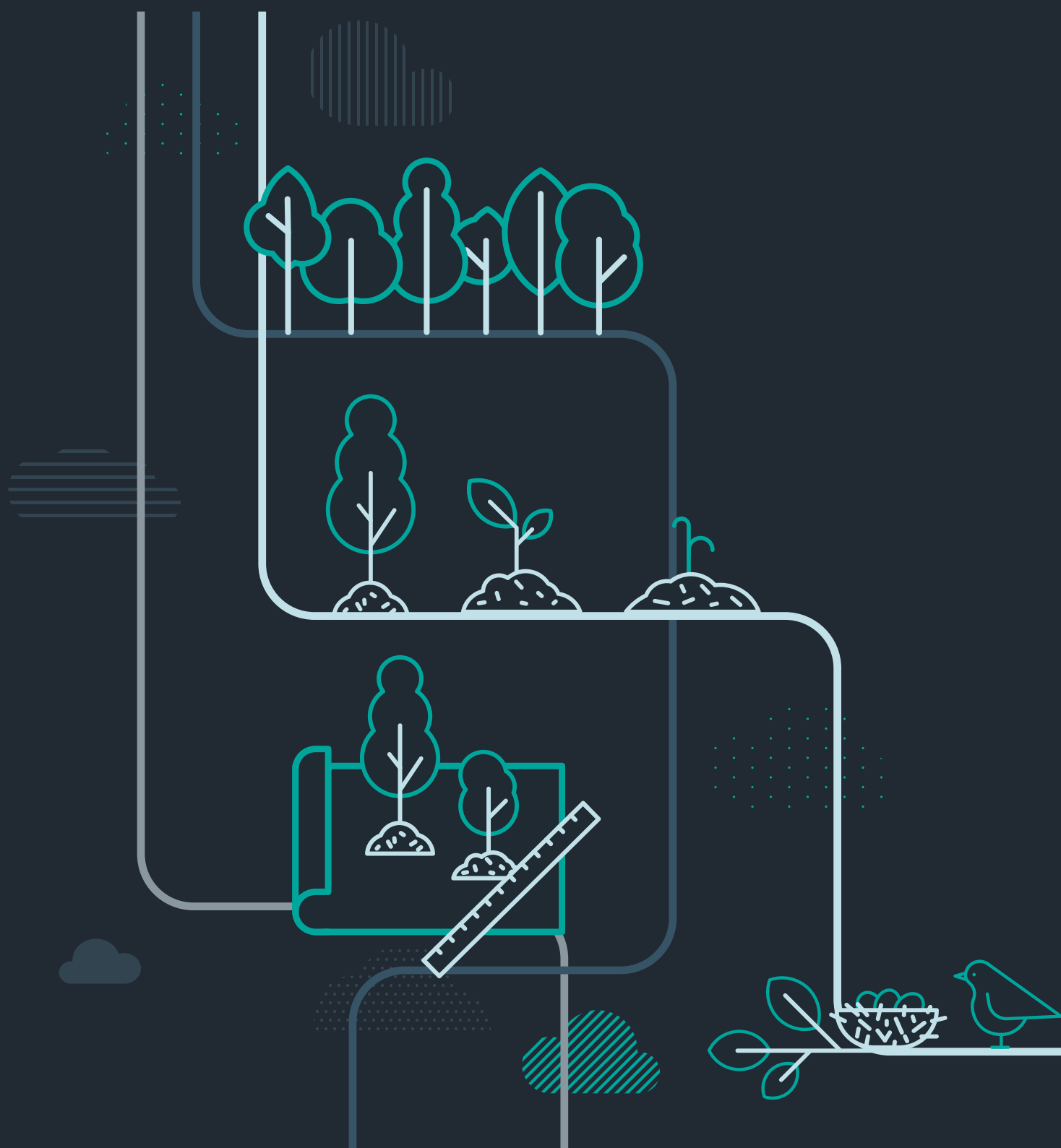




Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry: Sector Emission Pathway



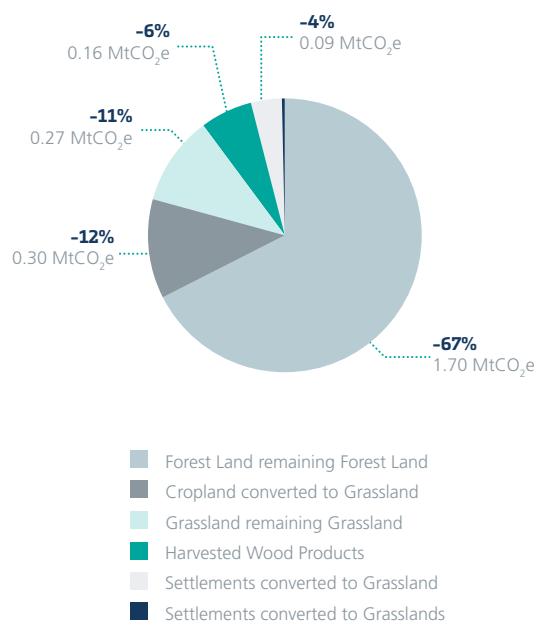
Land Use, Land Use Change & Forestry: Sector Emission Pathway

This emissions sector is the only one, which has the current capability to remove emissions from the atmosphere.

Ambition

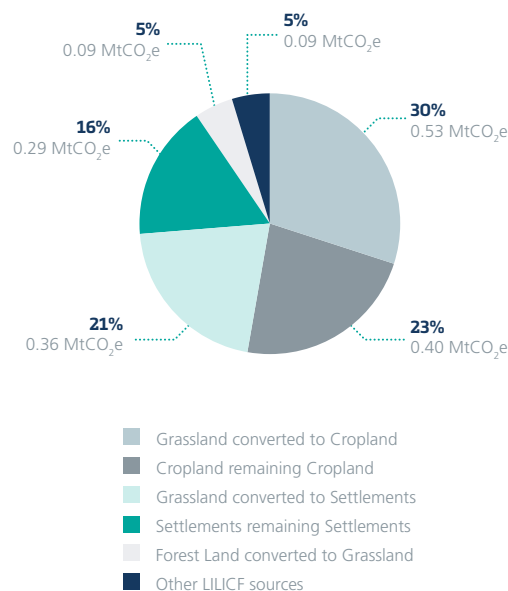
It is crucial that the sector in Wales should remain a net sink for carbon for Wales to meet its own climate change targets. To do this, the store of carbon in the biomass in the natural and built environment should increase and that the overall amount of the sink will need to increase significantly, in line with the recommendation of the UKCCC.

Therefore, we need to increase our woodland creation activity and ensure the management of our soils is sufficient to be compatible with our statutory obligation. We also recognise there are wider opportunities for carbon storage through safeguarding and increasing carbon stores in soils and other biomass.



Total sink (2016): -2.53 MtCO₂e

LULUCF sector sinks in 2016



Total source (2016): 1.75 MtCO₂e

LULUCF sector sources in 2016

What are we aiming for?

2020 Emissions Target

The UKCCC project this sector will provide a sink. Whilst there is considerable uncertainty in LULUCF sector reporting compared to other sectors, we along with the UKCCC believe the sector will provide a sink, together with the mitigation activities identified in the other sectors, which will enable us to deliver the overall NWEA budget and targets.

The LULUCF sector will continue to provide a sink from baseline levels in the year 2020.

LULUCF sector allocation for Carbon Budget 1

We intend that this sector should remain a sink. We aim to work with UKCCC to improve methodological approaches and quantify its contribution more fully.

LULUCF sector pathway to 2030

We will significantly increase the LULUCF sink in Wales by the year 2030 by:

- › increasing tree cover; and
- › reducing carbon loss from peatlands and building carbon stores within biomass

Policies & Proposals for Carbon Budget 1 (2016–2020) & towards 2030

The policy action in this area focuses on two broad areas of increasing tree cover and safeguarding and increasing carbon stores. We will take appropriate steps to ensure that our woodland creation activity is sufficient to be compatible with our statutory obligation to reduce carbon emissions by at least 80% in 2050. Woodland creation is also essential to enable increases in resilience in existing woodland, diversification of tree species and restoration of open habitats.

Woodlands also support wider benefits for society, such as supporting natural flood management or absorbing pollutants from the air, while at the same time maintaining supply of renewable products, including timber and wood fibre to meet the future needs of Welsh society. In addition to increasing tree cover, we need to safeguard and enhance the carbon in our soils. Peat is found throughout Wales and modification and degradation can negatively impacted upon their ability to deliver a range of ecosystem services, most notably; their ability to absorb and store carbon.

Policies & Proposals

We will increase tree cover through

- › Implementing our Natural Resource Policy
- › Woodland Strategy for Wales
- › Felling licences
- › Welsh Government woodland estate
- › Increase tree planting
- › Identifying preferred areas for tree planting

We will reduce carbon loss from peatlands and build carbon stocks within biomass through

- › Peatlands for the Future
- › Planning Policy Wales

Well-being

The priorities set out in the Natural Resources Policy are the key ways that Wales' natural resources contribute across all the well-being goals. Woodland provides society with a range of multiple benefits. Provided they are managed carefully and sustainably, they provide shelter for livestock, reduce noise pollution, slow down flood waters and improve air, soil and water quality. They are havens for biodiversity and provide a wealth of recreational opportunities and a means of improving our general health and well-being.

In addition, the timber and non-timber products from our woodlands are key renewable resources which contribute to prosperity for all. We need more of them, to aid the sustainability of our industries and to contribute to a more circular economy.

The Well-being Matrix Tool highlights the policy has a large impact on all the wellbeing goals but specifically high against a more equal, healthier and resilient Wales.

