



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

# Beyond Recycling

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Well-being of Future Generations Act  
**Goals Assessment**

## Well-being of Future Generations Act – Goals Assessment

1. The purpose of this document is to set out how the Beyond Recycling – Circular Economy Strategy will maximise its contribution to the Well-being Goals.
2. An early Goals Assessment was published alongside the consultation on the Beyond Recycling – Circular Economy Strategy  
<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-12/well-being-of-future-generations-act-goals-assessment.pdf>

- **The Five Ways of Working**

### The Five Ways of Working

- *Long-term*: The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.
- *Prevention*: How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.
- *Integration*: Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.
- *Collaboration*: Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives.
- *Involvement*: The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.

3. The Strategy document sets out how the Five Ways of Working have been embodied in its development.
4. Consideration of the long-term is at the heart of the strategy, with overall targets of zero waste, net zero carbon and 'One Planet' resource use by 2050. It lays out a pathway to achieving these objectives, with interim targets and actions. The Strategy aims to transition the future economy and society of Wales to a circular, low carbon economy, which will support both current and future generations to live in safety and prosperity, whilst reducing the impact on and working with the natural systems on which we depend.
5. The Strategy is focussed on preventing further environmental, economic and social damage arising from the predominantly linear Welsh economy, which assumes an endless supply of natural resources. In moving to a more circular economy, it will help prevent further environmental harm and impacts such as climate change, biodiversity loss and plastic and other pollution. It will also prevent loss of economic value which results from disposing of materials to landfill and incineration, rather than re-using, remanufacturing or recycling, and prevent the social harms caused by wasted resources such as food.

6. The integration of the circular economy approach is also referenced in other documents published by the Welsh Government, including “COVID-19 Reconstruction: Challenges and Priorities”. This reflects the fact that the Circular Economy is a key element of the Welsh Government’s approach to a Green Recovery. This can also be seen in the action being taken, with 112 business and public sector projects having been supported through the £43 million Circular Economy Fund. On areas of the Strategy which will be affected by UK-wide legislation, such as the introduction of Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging and a Deposit Return Scheme for drinks containers, we have also collaborated closely with the UK Government and the other devolved UK administrations.

Not only is this a truly cross-government plan with actions stretching across every part of the Welsh Government, but throughout its production we have actively collaborated with citizens and stakeholders.

7. There has been a strong emphasis on engagement in the development of the Strategy. The official consultation period saw over 40 events held across Wales and one in London. This engagement connected with around 1,000 citizens and stakeholders through online consultation and regional events.
8. The consultation programme was designed to connect with many citizens and stakeholders with a number of key groups identified for targeted engagement.
9. Our specific targeted audiences comprised:
  - a. Children and Young People – as part of this we arranged a series of events to engage this group including engagement with Foundation Phase children in Chepstow; older primary age children at two arranged regional events in Bangor and Swansea; further education students in Haverfordwest and higher education students in Bangor. We also prepared an easy read version of the consultation and sent this to eco-schools across Wales, accounting for over 90% of schools - representing over 430,000 pupils. We also engaged with the Welsh Youth Parliament.
  - b. Businesses – we invited businesses to all our consultation events but held specific business breakfast events with local and regional businesses in Anglesey; Pembrokeshire; Monmouthshire and Flintshire.
  - c. Local communities – we held evening events within local community settings to encourage citizens to attend. We raised awareness with local organisations such as town and community councils and local partners such as the Women’s Institute, Merched y Wawr and Scouts Cymru. These were also popular and were held in Gwalchmai, Haverfordwest, Mold and Chepstow.
  - d. Local Authorities – we held a number of regional events with local authorities in Mold, Bangor, Narberth and Chepstow to have detailed discussions on the consultation. This was then followed up by further discussions at the

Ministerial Programme Board. We worked closely with the Welsh Local Government Association in this approach and following the consultation, a small working group was convened to look at the development of the Strategy.

- e. Other key stakeholders important to Strategy delivery – we held sessions with key stakeholders including Natural Resources Wales and WRAP Cymru to run technical events on details in the consultation.
- f. Academic community – we engaged with higher education institutions across Wales and had a targeted engagement session with the Circular Economy Research and Innovation Group (CERIG) which brings together academics from across Wales.
- g. This programme of engagement allowed us to hear the voices of different groups with their own perspectives, enriching the evidence captured.

Crucially, the collaboration did not end at the close of the consultation and we have continued to engage via webinars and by holding other sessions to seek views and ideas to help shape the final Strategy document. Around 1,000 people attended the following four webinars or downloaded it for viewing after the event:

- h. Climate Change and the Circular Economy
- i. Repair, Re-use, Refill and Remanufacture
- j. Circular Towns
- k. Feedback on the consultation findings

10. Following the consultation, we published a summary of responses and continued to engage with a range of partners to seek views and expertise in preparing the final Strategy document. We identified around 25 areas of Welsh Government activity that could support the development of the Strategy and engaged with them on a range of issues.

11. The following is a snapshot of that internal and external engagement that we have facilitated following the consultation:

12. This has included working with WRAP Cymru, bringing them together with a range of internal colleagues, to develop guidance and support in better procurement and analysing how we could use more sustainable low carbon materials like wood.

13. We have been working with internal colleagues on regeneration, planning and housing issues to feed in responses from the consultation on the importance of place and opportunities to support low carbon communities. As such, we have been examining how we can achieve whole-life net zero carbon in construction in Wales with a view to applying this first to public sector construction projects, such

as the Innovative Housing Programme and the and the construction of new schools .

14. We have been working with Local Authorities and internal local government colleagues and the WLGA to develop the Strategy through regular engagement on key issues such as future recycling targets. We have also been looking at approaches to infrastructure such as the take-up of electric collection vehicles and the roll out of around £43m of the Circular Economy Fund to support initiatives across Wales. We made £13.2 million available via our Circular Economy Fund to support sharing, re-use, repair and remanufacture in town centres, and worked with local authorities to develop eco-hubs of recycling and remanufacture.
15. The Strategy sets out a commitment to continue the excellent engagement and continue to collaborate with citizens and stakeholders

- **The Goals**

### **A Prosperous Wales**

An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.

### **The Strategy will work to maximise our contribution to this goal by –**

A circular economy is an economy which keeps resources in use and avoids all waste. The Strategy states our goals of zero waste, net zero carbon and ‘One Planet’ resource use by 2050. Moving Wales to a circular economy is essential in order to fulfil the goal of a Prosperous Wales, particularly around increasing our resource efficiency, acting on climate change and using resources proportionately.

Seeing value in our resources, and ensuring that they are re-used, reprocessed, remanufactured and recycled also provides skills development, employment opportunities, innovation and wealth creation. We are already seeing the green shoots of this in the growth of the digital sharing economy, repair and remanufacturing community initiatives and businesses adopting circular economy models.

The Strategy as a whole has been developed to accelerate progress towards key objectives within the goal and this is illustrated by these headline actions in the Strategy:

- **We will support businesses in Wales to reduce their carbon footprint and become more resource efficient.**
- **We will procure on a basis which prioritises goods and products which are made from remanufactured, refurbished and recycled materials or come from low carbon and sustainable materials like wood.**
- **We will reduce the environmental impact of the waste collection from our homes and businesses.**

These actions are designed to support a prosperous Wales by ensuring greater efficiency of resource use, and measures which we know can reduce emissions. These actions have the potential to save and make money for businesses.

The pandemic has encouraged people to look again at economic reconstruction to improve resilience with shorter supply chains, investment in industries of the future and the skills we need in a modern working environment.

Across the Strategy, there are numerous actions under our six themes which maximise the contribution towards a more prosperous Wales. These include:

*Driving Innovation in Materials Use:*

- Support businesses in finding high quality uses and markets in Wales for secondary materials derived from waste and provide investment for this through our Circular Economy Fund.
- Prioritise the use of sustainable and low carbon materials in construction in Wales. We will apply this first to public sector construction projects, including, for example, the Innovative Housing Programme, the refurbishment of the social housing stock in Wales, and the construction of new schools.

*Upscaling Prevention and Re-use:*

- Ensure every business in Wales can access advice on reducing their own waste and eco-designing their products and associated packaging to use fewer resources and generate less waste through support provided by Business Wales, Food and Drink Wales and Farming Connect.
- Actively work with our communities and businesses, especially in town centres, to promote sharing, waste prevention and re-use and support the re-use, repair and remanufacturing sectors to grow. Our £13.2 million Green Recovery circular economy fund 2020-2021 for Local Authorities and social enterprises to support repair and re-use activities in town centres is a start.

*Building on our Recycling Record:*

- Develop additional infrastructure to separately collect and recycle household materials not currently widely recycled.

*Investing in Infrastructure:*

- Work in partnership with Local Authorities to continue to develop regional 'eco-park' type hubs of recycling, reprocessing, and remanufacturing technologies to capitalise on the economic opportunities arising in a more circular economy.

*Enabling Community and Business Action:*

- Support the development of green skills and training in a variety of areas, including the digital economy, resource efficiency, circular economy business models, forestry and timber, repair, remanufacture and composite materials.

*Aligning Government Levers:*

- Share best practice in circular economy actions through the creation of – or active participation in – support networks and information/ innovation exchange hubs, both pan-Wales and internationally.

## **A Resilient Wales**

A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change.

### **The Strategy will work to maximise our contribution to this goal by –**

Natural resource consumption for production of everyday products is a fundamental driver of both the climate emergency and biodiversity crises, and tackling the consumption of natural resources is vital to addressing both. By reducing the pressure on our natural resources, and working with natural systems by promoting the sustainable use of materials like wood, the Strategy will support investment in resilient ecosystems. The Strategy also aims to shorten supply chains, moving towards the sourcing of local goods and services; again increasing Wales' resilience and capacity to adapt to future changes.

Moving towards a circular economy relies upon reducing consumption of products and raw materials, ensuring that products already in use are re-used, reprocessed and recycled to be kept in productive use as long as possible. Through reducing resource use and extending the lifetime of products we already have, the resilience of Wales to changing global markets and environmental factors will be improved. Alongside this, the reduction in material use will reduce our environmental impact.

In terms of the key headline actions in the Strategy, the following look to maximise our contribution to this goal:

- **We will support businesses in Wales to reduce their carbon footprint and become more resource efficient.**
- **We will phase out unnecessary single use items, especially plastic.**
- **We will procure on a basis which prioritises goods and products which are made from remanufactured, refurbished and recycled materials or come from low carbon and sustainable materials like wood.**
- **We will achieve the highest rates of recycling in the world.**

These actions will support a resilient Wales in reducing consumption and the environmental impact of products across all sectors, ensuring that any products we do use are kept in use for as long as possible, be it through sharing, re-using, reprocessing or recycling. The actions will encourage businesses to source materials and products more locally, taking into consideration their environmental impact; this creation of shorter supply chains will further reduce environmental impact, whilst increasing the resilience of Wales to future shocks.

Across the six themes of the Strategy, there are numerous actions which will contribute to a more resilient Wales. These include:

#### *Driving Innovation in Materials Use:*

- Ask all public sector bodies funded by the Welsh Government to follow a sustainable materials procurement hierarchy, including achieving a minimum



level of recycled content by value and to report the level of recycled content in the buildings they procure.

- Adopt a whole-life approach to financial, carbon and overall environmental costs. We will examine and aim to reduce the material and consumption carbon footprints of core services such as health and social care, and education.

#### *Upscaling Prevention and Re-use:*

- Develop a new minimum preparation for re-use target for Local Authorities for the intermediate period leading to zero waste by 2050.
- Pilot a re-use platform which will allow those in re-use markets to connect with the public and third sectors to access quality used goods rather than buying new products.

#### *Building on our Recycling Record:*

- Put in place further minimum statutory recycling targets for Local Authorities beyond 2025, potentially at a level of 80% for around 2033, to support the trajectory to achieve zero waste (100% recycling) by 2050.

#### *Investing in infrastructure:*

- Review the infrastructure we need as we continue to progress towards zero waste. This includes the forecasting of likely future trends in the generation of the quantities and types of waste in Wales, and examining the flows and supply chains of key raw materials such as plastic, fibre and wood.
- Promote the development of community infrastructure which helps citizens to reduce waste. This includes zero waste and zero plastic shops, surplus food redistribution, community fridges, refill, community hire shops, material-lending libraries and other related initiatives.

#### *Enabling Community and Business Action:*

- Support businesses to take the opportunities from a more circular economy by making a clear offer of advice and support. We will work with relevant trade, sector and professional bodies who are active in Wales, to support their members to become more resource efficient.

#### *Aligning Government Levers:*

- Legislate to ensure separated key recyclables are banned from energy recovery or landfill.
- Work with the other governments of the UK in developing legislation for an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) approach for additional products such as tyres, textiles, bulky wastes (for example furniture, mattresses and carpets) and products used in construction.

## **A Healthier Wales**

A society in which people's physical and mental wellbeing is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.

### **The Strategy will work to maximise our contribution to this goal by –**

Tackling loneliness and having decent, engaging work are vital for good mental and physical health. A key part of the Strategy is support for community initiatives which encourage greater community connections, improving mental well-being. The Strategy also aims to provide opportunities to develop new skills and employment opportunities.

Eradicating avoidable food waste will help to reallocate food resource to those in need. Providing support to growing initiatives such as Repair Café Wales and FareShare Cymru will also allow for more efficient use of food and products, helping to alleviate poverty and making food and products more accessible to the more vulnerable in our society.

Transforming town centres so they include opportunities to swap, share and repair, shop at local businesses and zero waste shops, will have a number of benefits. These include increasing active travel, access to fresh food and reliance on local supply chains. Investments in ultra-low emission waste vehicles will, alongside improvements in waste collections, lead to lower emissions and better air quality and local environments for citizens.

In terms of the key headline actions in the Strategy, the following look to maximise our contribution to this goal:

- **We will provide the tools to enable community action.**
- **We will eradicate avoidable food waste.**
- **We will reduce the environmental impact of the waste collection from our homes and businesses.**

Across the six themes of the Strategy, there are numerous actions which will contribute to a healthier Wales. These include:

#### *Enabling Community and Business Action:*

- Ask communities, by reviewing what support is needed, to take local action on material resources, and helping them come together to make a bigger collective difference.
- Support the development of green skills and training in a variety of areas, including the digital economy, resource efficiency, circular economy business models, forestry and timber, repair, remanufacture and composite materials.
- Through the Circular Economy Fund, continue to invest in and support community initiatives which encourage sharing, redistribution, repair, re-use and remanufacture.

#### *Investing in Infrastructure:*

- Promote the development of community infrastructure which helps citizens to reduce waste. This includes zero waste and zero plastic shops, surplus food redistribution, community fridges, refill, community hire shops, material-lending libraries and other related initiatives.
- Roll out electric and other forms of low carbon waste collection vehicles across Wales and use the learning to encourage wider uptake.

## **A More Equal Wales**

A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances.

### **The Strategy will work to maximise our contribution to this goal by –**

Developing training opportunities in a large variety of circular economy skills at all educational levels, alongside increased job opportunities, is a crucial part of the Strategy, allowing citizens from all backgrounds an increased chance of gaining employment in our future economy. Investing in communities will further provide opportunities for skill sharing and entrepreneurial opportunities at a local level. Initiatives such as FareShare Cymru and Repair Café Wales will support citizens from all backgrounds and income levels to have improved and more equitable access to goods and services.

In terms of the key headline actions in the Strategy, in particular the following are key to maximising our contribution to this goal:

- **We will provide the tools to enable community action.**
- **We will eradicate avoidable food waste.**

These actions are complemented by the development of significant training programmes in many circular economy relevant areas, from repair to the digital economy to forestry, and at all levels of education from primary through to tertiary, and via apprenticeships. Redistribution of quality second-hand goods and food will help alleviate some of the effects of poverty, as will the cost savings at an individual household level of waste prevention, re-use and repair. Across the six themes of the Strategy, there are numerous actions which will contribute to a more equal Wales. These include:

#### *Driving innovation in materials use:*

- Invest in green skills such as eco-design, re-use, repair, remanufacture and reprocessing to support the development of Wales' workforce. We will work with relevant professional bodies to secure their accreditation of circular economy related training and qualifications offered by training providers in Wales, especially our universities and colleges. We will seek to address any gaps in circular economy training, skills development and qualifications. Aligning apprenticeships with the needs of the Welsh economy is at the centre of our skills policy, and we will continue to look at the role apprenticeships have in closing any of those gaps. We recognise that safety is a key consideration, especially for the re-use and repair of electronic equipment.

#### *Investing in Infrastructure*

- Support regional economic development through the transition to a circular economy which encourages shorter supply chains and a more local and regional focus on sourcing materials. We will work with the Valleys Taskforce

and City Deal Regions to encourage the development of resource efficient, circular economy infrastructure.

- Promote the development of community infrastructure which helps citizens to reduce waste. This includes zero waste and zero plastic shops, surplus food redistribution, community fridges, refill points, community hire shops, material-lending libraries and related initiatives.

#### *Upscaling Prevention and Re-use:*

- Provide access to advice to citizens on what they can do to reduce waste in their homes, including cutting down on food waste, home composting, using re-usable nappies and sanitary products, using more refillable products and passing on unwanted items for a second life.
- Encourage the public sector to donate valuable and useful surplus equipment, including to other countries who cannot readily access such equipment and who can benefit from its use.
- Actively work with our communities and businesses, especially in town centres, to promote sharing, waste prevention and re-use and support the re-use, repair and remanufacturing sectors to grow. This will include exploring the potential development of quality standards for second-hand products. Our £13.2 million Green Recovery circular economy fund 2020 to 2021 for Local Authorities and social enterprises to support repair and re-use activities in town centres is a start.
- Support the development of training and skills necessary for safe re-use, repair and remanufacturing through the establishment of courses and diplomas (e.g. green apprenticeships).

#### *Aligning Government Levers:*

- Ensure our support for skills development, including training, qualifications and apprenticeships fully adopts and embraces a circular economy approach at all levels – from primary to secondary schools (both through the curriculum and through eco-schools), and from colleges to universities, including adult continuing education and the university of the third age (U3A).

## **A Wales of Cohesive Communities**

Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.

### **The Strategy will work to maximise our contribution to this goal by –**

Supporting and investing in community action will increase the development of resource efficient initiatives, such as repair cafes, zero waste and plastic free shops, use of local produce, and community kitchens, increasing local access to services and building cohesion in the community as well as increasing town centre footfall. Investment in recycling infrastructure, ultra-low emission vehicles and the phasing out of single-use items will enhance the local environment, reducing both litter and pollution. All of these will contribute to a robust economic recovery of our communities.

In terms of the key headline actions in the Strategy, the following look to maximise our contribution to this goal:

- **We will provide the tools to enable community action.**
- **We will phase out unnecessary single use items, especially plastic.**
- **We will reduce the environmental impact of the waste collection from our homes and businesses.**

These actions will help to provide an attractive local environment, with a reduction in pollution and litter, thereby being a safer environment for all citizens. Investing in and supporting towns will enhance community cohesion, bringing people together for a common goal.

Across the six core themes of the Strategy, there are numerous actions which will contribute to a Wales of cohesive, resilient, growing communities which can support the Welsh language and a vibrant culture far into the future. These include:

#### *Driving Innovation in Materials Use:*

- Restrict the sale of the most commonly littered single use plastic items on our way to phasing out other unnecessary single use items completely.

#### *Upscaling Prevention and Re-use:*

- Ensure people have access to advice on what they can do to reduce waste in their homes, including cutting down on food waste, home composting, using re-usable nappies and sanitary products, using more refillable products and passing on unwanted items for second life.

#### *Building on our Recycling Record:*

- Develop additional infrastructure to separately collect and recycle household materials not currently widely recycled such as absorbent hygiene products, wood, plastic film, rigid non-packaging plastic, cartons, textiles, mattresses, carpets and waste electrical and electronic equipment.

- Continue to work with Local Authorities and others to take measures to support citizens to recycle at home, on-the-go and through local recycling centres, including through the 'Be Mighty' recycling campaign.

*Investment in Infrastructure:*

- Promote the development of community infrastructure which helps citizens to reduce waste. This includes zero waste and zero plastic shops, surplus food redistribution, community fridges, refill, community hire shops, material-lending libraries and other related initiatives.
- Roll out electric and other forms of low carbon waste collection vehicles across Wales and use the learning to encourage wider uptake.

*Enabling Community and Business Action:*

- Ask communities, by reviewing what support is needed, to take local action on material resources, and helping them come together to make a bigger collective difference.

## **A Wales of Vibrant Culture and thriving Welsh Language**

A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.

### **The Strategy will work to maximise our contribution to this goal by –**

A circular economy is also a place-based economy. As supply chains shorten, people will purchase more locally-produced food, and other products and services. Our increased investment in community infrastructure for re-use, repair, remanufacture, zero waste, swapping and sharing will also encourage people to spend more time locally. This increased engagement with local places will also increase engagement with local culture, including promoting the Welsh language.

A shift to a circular economy will also be accompanied by a shift in our culture, embedding sustainable behaviours and encouraging reflection on our values. We have already seen in plastic-free communities around Wales how local people coming together to affect environmental change can also lead to a flourishing in art and creativity. We hope that the actions in this Strategy will do the same. Furthermore, we will use the arts and multi-media as appropriate tools to assist with raising awareness and influencing behaviour change; Welsh language is central to all communications so that all parts of Wales can be reached and included.

The density of Welsh speakers is highly regionalised in Wales, and sustaining the language in those areas is important for the planned growth in Welsh speakers. A circular economy will support rural jobs and help to make these culturally important communities more economically and culturally resilient.

In terms of the key headline actions in the Strategy, the following look to maximise our contribution to this goal:

- **We will provide the tools to enable community action.**

Enabling our communities to thrive is a key pillar of the strategy, with support for repair cafes, community kitchens, surplus food redistribution, community hire shops, material-lending libraries, and town centres. These will all bring the community together, support the expansion and continued resilience of the Welsh language, help citizens reduce waste, and make rural and urban communities more vibrant, greener and with more employment opportunities.

The following actions from the six core themes of the Strategy will have a positive effect on the wellbeing and future of the language.

#### *Driving Innovation in Materials Use:*

- Commission analysis to better understand the market, supply chain flows and long-term need for key materials in Wales. We will investigate how to decarbonise these materials and use this information to have a long-term resources plan for Wales. We have already commissioned WRAP Cymru to produce road maps for plastic, fibre and wood.



- Prioritise the use of sustainable and low carbon materials in construction in Wales as a way to contribute towards achieving whole life net zero carbon for construction. We will apply this first to public sector construction projects, including, for example, the Innovative Housing Programme, the refurbishment of the social housing stock in Wales, and the construction of new schools. We will explore the potential for introducing embedded carbon footprint technical standards.

#### *Aligning Government Levers:*

- Ensure our support for skills development, including training, qualifications and apprenticeships fully adopts and embraces a circular economy approach at all levels – from primary to secondary schools (both through the curriculum and through eco-schools), and from colleges to universities, including adult continuing education and the university of the third age (U3A). These initiatives can provide the medium for the growth of the Welsh language in order to meet targets.
- Work with Public Services Boards to identify and act on local opportunities to take a circular economy approach.

#### *Enabling Community and Business Action:*

- Through the Circular Economy Fund, continue to invest in and support community initiatives which encourage sharing, redistribution, repair, re-use and remanufacture.
- Join up work across government to support towns. This will include working with colleagues developing the Transforming Towns agenda, and implementing effective mechanisms to support towns and cities to take action, and recognise the steps they are taking. We have noted the emerging thinking on smart towns and the effective use of digital data and monitoring technology.
- Work with Business Wales to develop and share business success case studies to inspire learning.
- Ask communities, by reviewing what support is needed, to take local action on material resources, and helping them come together to make a bigger collective difference.

## **A Globally Responsible Wales**

A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.

### **The Strategy will work to maximise our contribution to this goal by –**

For Wales to be a globally responsible nation we must take action to address the impact of our consumption on other parts of the planet. This means reducing our emissions and tackling the impact of our waste on biodiversity both in Wales and globally. The move towards a circular economy is vital if we are to remove the drivers that cause the destruction of biodiversity and the acceleration of climate change internationally. Through the actions outlined in the strategy we will move towards a one planet, net zero waste future.

Reducing our material use will reduce our contribution to climate change, and minimise the need to mine and process materials (especially critical raw materials) overseas. Ensuring that we responsibly manage our waste, from re-use through to landfill, will prevent our waste from having a negative impact overseas. We will also support innovation in many areas, from materials to the shortening of supply chains, leading the way globally.

In terms of the key headline actions in the Strategy, the following look to maximise our contribution to this goal:

- **We will support businesses in Wales to reduce their carbon footprint and become more resource efficient.**
- **We will phase out unnecessary single use items, especially plastic**
- **We will take full responsibility for our waste.**
- **We will reduce the environmental impact of the waste collection from our homes and businesses.**

Across the six themes of the Strategy, there are additional specific actions to eliminate the export of problem waste overseas. We will also work in partnership with other nations in tackling their own waste issues and the impact of our own resource needs. Wales can lead the way and assist other nations with these actions.

#### *Aligning Government Levers:*

- Work with the other governments of the UK in developing legislation for an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) approach for additional products such as tyres, textiles, bulky wastes (for example furniture, mattresses and carpets) and products used in construction.
- Share best practice in circular economy actions through the creation of – or active participation in – support networks and information/ innovation exchange hubs, both pan-Wales and internationally.
- Prioritise the purchase of resource efficient products with a low carbon footprint by the public sector, via powers being sought under the Social

Partnerships Bill. We will use less virgin material and prioritise the use of, for example, wood and high recycled content as well as prioritising re-used and remanufactured items in the goods the public sector purchases. The Welsh Government will be an exemplar in leading the way for other nations to follow.

- Make sure the public sector in Wales does not purchase products which adversely affect the human rights or the environment in other countries, including ensuring that deforestation does not occur. We will also encourage Welsh businesses to adopt the same principle.

#### *Building on our Recycling Record:*

- Put in place further minimum statutory recycling targets for Local Authorities beyond 2025, potentially at a level of 80% for around 2033, to support the trajectory to achieve zero waste (100% recycling) by 2050.
- Continue to work with the other UK nations to bring in radical improvements to the recycling of packaging, including introducing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging to ensure the producers bear the full net end of life costs for their packaging and that they report on and meet packaging recycling targets set for Wales, and a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for drinks containers.

#### *Driving Innovation in Materials Use:*

- Adopt a whole-life approach to financial, carbon and overall environmental costs, especially in public sector procurement. We will examine and aim to reduce the material and consumption carbon footprints of core services such as health and social care, and education – focussing on the ‘Scope 3’ (supply chain) emissions under the Greenhouse Gas Protocol.
- Restrict the sale of the most commonly littered single use plastic items on our way to phasing out other unnecessary single-use items completely.
- Support innovation in developing new, alternative materials and switch to lower carbon alternatives for the materials we use. We will strive to eliminate the use of chemical additives which can cause harm or prevent recycling at end of life.