



Ein cyf/Our ref LG/07659/19

Section 40 (2)

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Thank you for your letter of 6 December to Mark Drakeford AM, First Minister of Wales, regarding climate change and protecting the planet. He has asked me to reply as I am the Minister for the Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs.

I am encouraged to see your keen interest in climate change and the impacts this will have on our current lives and future generations. I know young people across Wales care deeply about environmental issues and want to make help make a positive change.

The Welsh Government recognises climate change as one of the greatest challenges facing the world today and the National Assembly for Wales was the first Parliament in the world to declare a climate emergency. As a result, we have put in place laws and targets that will help us to drive our actions and decrease the amount of carbon that we emit.

We have recently launched a consultation for a Clean Air Plan for Wales, which is asking for everyone's views on our approach to reducing air pollution in Wales. I would encourage you and your fellow pupils to get involved and give us your comments. More details can be found here: <https://gov.wales/clean-air-plan-wales>.

The Welsh Government is committed to supporting our young people to develop the knowledge and skills they need to become active, ethical and informed citizens of Wales and the world. We recognise the value of environmental education from an early age and support many activities that provide opportunities for young people to contribute to tackling climate change.

We provide funding to Eco Schools and Size of Wales to run educational and pupil-led, real-world learning that gets schools, young people and the wider community involved in hands on environmental projects.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Size of Wales performs a key role in educating children and the wider public about the key role played by tropical forests in the world's climate system and the need to preserve them as part of tackling climate change.

Like you, I am concerned about plastic waste and pollution. As a Government, we are taking a wide range of actions to eliminate the use of unnecessary plastics and materials that cannot be recycled. We are also committed to restricting the use of single use plastic items and are working on proposals to introduce a ban on items such as straws, stirrers and cotton buds, balloon sticks, cutlery, plates and polystyrene food and drink containers in Wales.

I am proud that Wales is a world leader in how we manage our waste. We are the best in the UK, second in Europe and third in the world. We need to continue to build on this success. It means less of our waste goes to landfill and, as a result, there is less damage to the environment

We have recently published a new plan for how we can keep resources in use for as long as possible and avoid waste and we are asking everyone what they think:

[https://gov.wales/consultations?keywords=&field\\_consultation\\_status=All&field\\_policy\\_areas%5B103%5D=103&%20All%20=All&published\\_after=&published\\_before=](https://gov.wales/consultations?keywords=&field_consultation_status=All&field_policy_areas%5B103%5D=103&%20All%20=All&published_after=&published_before=)

Your call for action is important and it's crucial that we continue to involve young people to act effectively and look for solutions. I encourage you to continue with your learning around climate change as young people will make a huge difference to the world they are going to inherit.

**Lesley Griffiths AC/AM**

Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig  
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs