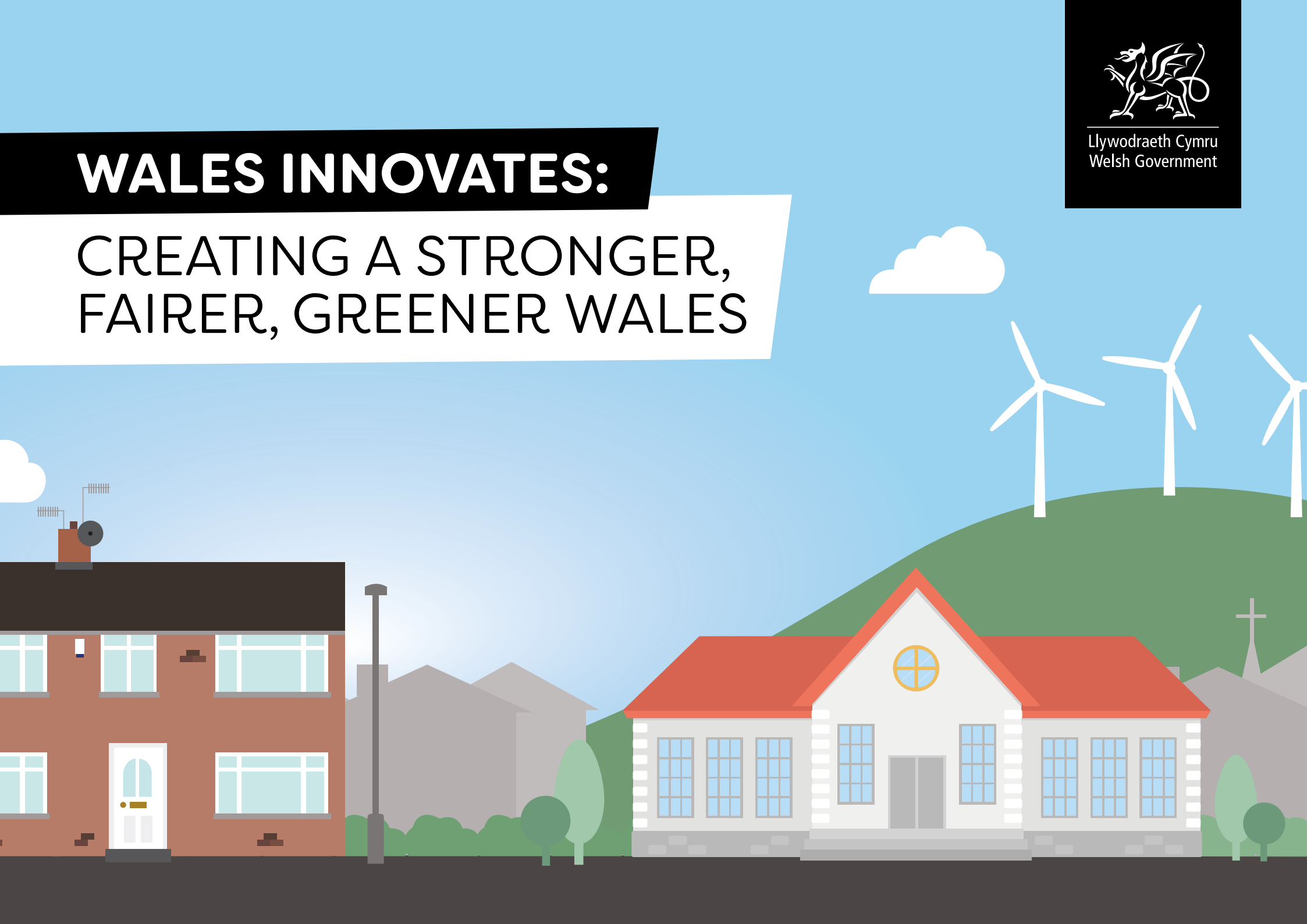


WALES INNOVATES:

CREATING A STRONGER,
FAIRER, GREENER WALES



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government





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Wales Innovates: Creating a Stronger, Fairer, Greener Wales

A summary for young people.

Hello

Wales is a great place to live, work and visit. It's alive, growing and developing all the time. But just like the rest of the world, Wales is facing lots of challenges.

The Welsh Government wants to make sure Wales continues to grow – stays relevant – connects to the rest of the world – and prospers in the future.

We want to keep growing our culture of innovation in Wales.

Innovation means introducing something new. It's about:



Having a **culture of innovation** means making innovation normal. It's about:



Innovation is important!

This is our Innovation Strategy for Wales.

Our Vision

To create and nurture a vibrant innovation culture for a stronger, fairer, greener Wales.

Nurture – to care for and encourage so it grows.

Vibrant – full of life and energy.



This vision needs everyone to work together



Government

All the departments of the Welsh Government



Education

Schools, colleges and universities



Industry

Businesses of all sizes



Third Sector

Organisations and charities



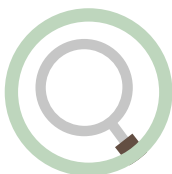
Funding providers

Government funding and other schemes



Innovation assets

Groups and organisations that focus on innovation



Research organisations

Universities and other organisations



Welsh Public Sector

Local Authorities, NHS and other services. Citizens and Communities

Our mission

We want everyone to focus on supporting innovation across these four areas:

1. **Education**

2. **The Economy**

3. **Health and Wellbeing**

4. **Climate and Nature**

We will publish an Action Plan to help us check how this Strategy is working. Change takes time and you don't always see the results straight away. We will check progress at the end of years 1, 3 and 5.

The Innovation Advisory Council for Wales are professionals in research and innovation. They will help us check our work, give advice, and make sure this strategy is working. This will help us reach our vision for innovation and a stronger, fairer, greener Wales.



Supporting innovation across education

The mission

We want schools, colleges and universities to support innovation skills and knowledge. This will help prepare learners for their future and help Wales build the skills it needs for the future.

Innovation in education has:

✓ helped some young people get the careers they want!

For his GCSE Design and Technology coursework, Joe Ringrose designed and created a washing line alarm that could detect rain. He won a student Innovation Award and Flintec Ltd in Cardiff asked him to join their four-year apprenticeship programme.

✓ helped some children be adopted quicker!

Cardiff University worked with St David's Children Society to develop the Adopting Together Service. This brought the adoption process into one system and reduced the time it took for families to adopt.

Our part

To help grow a culture of innovation we will:

✓ support and invest in digital learning and technology

- investing another £8 million into this
- supporting programmes like Sêr Cymru to develop new technologies

✓ celebrate and value young people's innovation

- working with the WJEC to deliver Innovation Awards

✓ promote research and innovation across schools, colleges and universities

- working with the Commission for Tertiary Education and Research to make sure young people from all backgrounds can get involved

✓ explore different ways to get funding for innovation and research

- including funding from the UK Government, businesses and other funding schemes

✓ support business and organisations to build innovation skills

- promoting Knowledge Transfer Partnerships
- working with the Regional Skills Partnerships to understand the skills employers need

✓ make sure this strategy links to other plans including:

- our Programme for Government
- Stronger, Fairer, Greener Wales: a plan for employability and skills
- Curriculum for Wales
- Digital 2030

Supporting innovation across the economy

The mission

We want to support innovation so our economy grows across Wales. This will help us deal with the challenges society faces and make Wales a fairer place to work for everyone.

Innovation in the economy has:

- ✓ **helped universities get funding from other places**
Cardiff University worked with other universities, local authorities and businesses to develop the media.cymru consortium. They have raised £50 million until 2026. This money helps build skills and increase bilingual projects.
- ✓ **helped equal opportunities for women**
Deborah Coughlin owns Method X Studios. Method X produced a mental wellbeing app full of entertaining and educational content. It's free to download and has helped lots of people.
- ✓ **helped grow Cymraeg**
Helo Blod developed a bi-lingual technology toolkit for procurement and grant applications. It means businesses have more opportunities to develop products and grow in the Welsh language.

Procurement – the goods and service government departments buy.

Our part

To help grow a culture of innovation we will:

- ✓ **keep working with others to encourage innovation including:**
 - Innovate UK
 - the UK Government
 - Industry and business
 - Research organisations and academia
 - Education providers
 - Local Authorities
 - Communities
 - International partners
- ✓ **keep working with others to explore different ways to get funding for innovation and research:**
 - including funding from the UK Government, Innovate UK, and other funding schemes
- ✓ **make sure everyone has equal opportunities to develop their ideas including:**
 - advice to protect their ideas and intellectual property

✓ **support businesses and organisations to develop new ideas, products and services by:**

- developing a new advice and funding application system
- investing over £20 million through grant funding over the next 3 years
- making sure Welsh Government procurement supports innovation and sustainability
- working with innovation advice services like Business Wales

✓ **support innovation that brings sustainable growth and a circular economy by:**

- investing in projects that stop waste and pollution, reuse products and materials, and protect nature
- supporting businesses to decarbonise
- supporting businesses to move to greener energy sources and technology

✓ **continue to learn from, and work with other countries by:**

- sharing research and development
- exploring ways to share skills and funding to develop ideas
- raising awareness of what Wales has to offer

✓ **continue to focus on our 6 priority areas for innovation investment including:**

- Digital transformation
- Net-zero and decarbonisation
- Agri-tech, food and rural economy
- Creative industries and media
- Population health and biotech
- Materials and manufacturing

✓ **make sure funding supports innovation projects that create well-paid jobs and improve lives like:**

- the Global Centre of Rail Excellence
- Welsh Universities work on data and Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- new technology that connects our communities
- Welsh language technology

✓ **make sure all the regions in Wales have innovation investment by:**

- encouraging investment in research centres and Universities across Wales
- keep working with the new Corporate Joint Committees

✓ **make sure this strategy links to other plans including:**

- our Manufacturing Future for Wales framework
- our Digital Strategy for Wales
- our International Strategy
- Net Zero Wales
- Beyond Recycling

Supporting innovation across health and wellbeing

The mission

We want health and social care services to work with others and develop innovative solutions that improve people's lives. This will help NHS Wales and social care services to find new ways of working and cope with the growing demand.

Innovation in health and wellbeing has:

✓ improved lives and created jobs

The Welsh Life Sciences sector employs over 12,000 people, in over 260 companies and turns over £2 billion. Innovation has improved therapy and medical procedures like diagnostics, wound healing, regenerative medicine, cancer treatments and cell therapy.

✓ improved services and outcomes

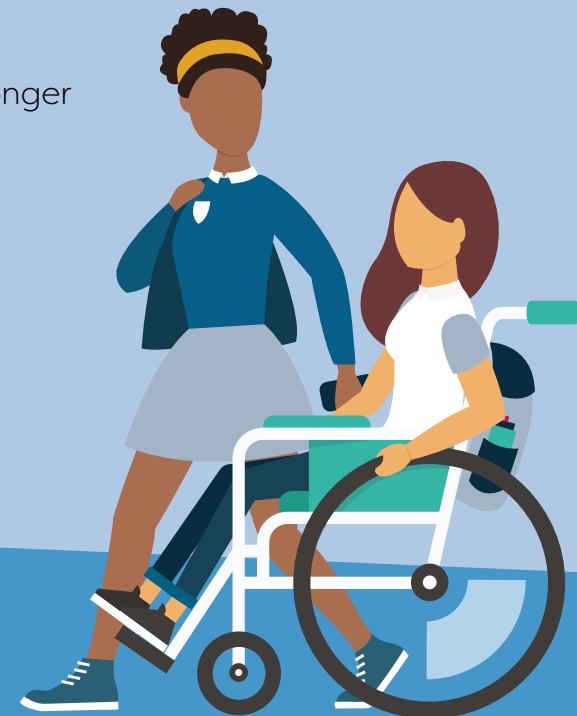
Lymphoedema is chronic swelling that can cause infection, wounds and falls. The Lymphoedema Wales Clinical Network have been researching new ways to improve patients' lives.

Our part

To help grow a culture of innovation we will:

✓ support health and social care services to explore how innovation can improve people's lives including:

- helping health and social care cope with the demands on their services
- helping people stay in their own homes for longer
- reducing waiting lists
- improving patient outcomes



✓ **support health and social care services to share innovation ideas and learn including:**

- looking at what worked during the pandemic
- training leadership and staff
- developing policies that help staff use their knowledge and skills
- developing platforms so social care providers can share ideas and resources

✓ **make sure health and social care is open to innovation by:**

- improving systems so there's room for new ideas and ways of working
- making sure leadership encourage innovation and manage risks
- making sure everyone has opportunities to get involved
- raising awareness of the difference innovation can make
- developing an innovation rulebook and policy framework for the NHS Wales
- working with Social Care Wales to develop an innovation plan

✓ **support services to find and apply for innovation funding including:**

- developing a single funding portal for health and social care innovation projects
- using the Digital Priorities Investment Fund

✓ **make it easier for health and care services to work with others including:**

- working with universities, businesses and organisations

✓ **make sure this strategy links to other plans including:**

- our new Digital Health and Social Care Strategy for Wales
- A Healthier Wales
- A Digital Strategy for Wales
- Net-Zero Wales



Supporting innovation in climate and nature

The mission

We want to discover innovative ways that make the most of our natural resources while protecting them for future generations. This will help us look after our nature, land, water and air.

Innovation in climate and nature has:

- ✓ **helped us reduce our carbon and waste**
A Welsh road has been resurfaced using more than 107,000 dirty nappies. 4.3 tonnes of nappy fibres were mixed with bitumen glue to surface the road.
- ✓ **helped us understand the challenges we face in getting to net-zero**
The Smart Living initiative is exploring different options for carbon free energy sources.

Our part

To help grow a culture of innovation we will:

- ✓ **work with others to support our goals for climate and nature including:**
 - the UK Government
 - energy network operators in Wales
 - Local Nature Partnerships
 - farmers and landowners
 - transport
 - food systems
 - forestry and woodlands
 - construction industry
 - marine
 - universities, businesses and organisations

✔ **explore how innovation can solve climate issues and protect nature including:**

- reducing climate change and protecting the environment
- using technology
- giving advice and raising awareness
- having the right skills, knowledge and jobs

✔ **work with research and innovation projects to develop:**

- decarbonised energy
- new fuels like hydrogen
- renewable energy and electrification ideas
- smart technologies
- finding low-carbon ways to heat and cool buildings and homes
- transport with zero-emissions

✔ **support new infrastructure designs including:**

- how we transport food and products
- technology and internet access
- rail networks and seaports
- how we connect renewable energy networks

✔ **make sure our transport systems are greener and easier to use by:**

- supporting projects and technologies that help car-sharing and other options

- supporting technology that helps people plan their journeys
- supporting the development of electric trains, electric vehicles and e-bikes

✔ **encourage people to look at new ways of doing things so we all protect our nature:**

- decarbonising their homes
- using their cars less
- re-use and recycle

✔ **find new ways to fund innovation by:**

- including funding from the UK Government, businesses and other funding schemes

✔ **make sure this strategy links to other plans including:**

- the Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS).
- Llwybr Newydd – The Wales Transport Strategy
- the Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales
- Future Wales: The National Plan
- Welsh National Marine Plan
- Net Zero Wales

Thanks for reading this

You can read our full Innovation Strategy for Wales here:
gov.wales/innovation-strategy-wales

