

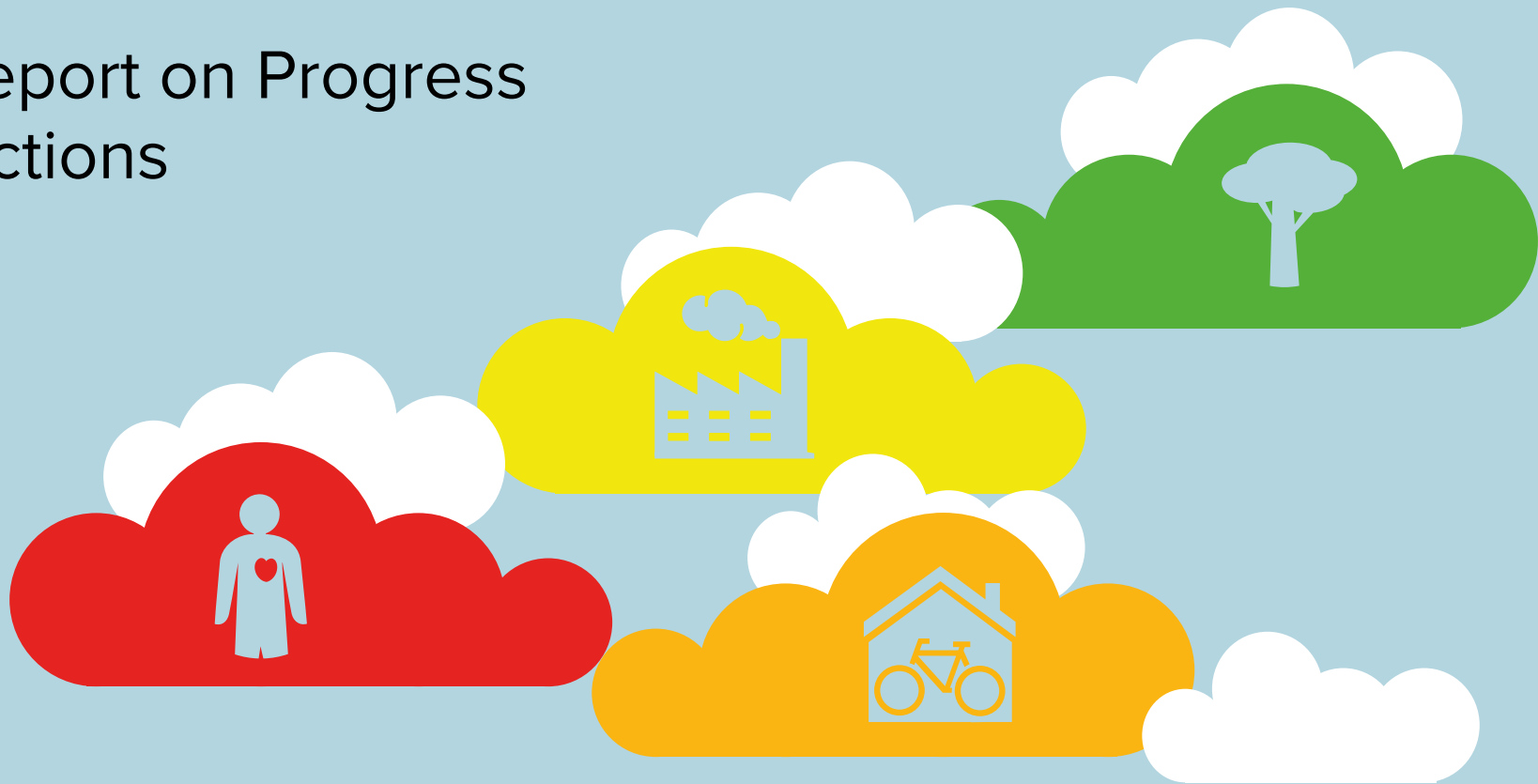


Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

The Clean Air Plan for Wales

Healthy Air, Healthy Wales

Update Report on Progress
Against Actions



April 2023

People

Protecting the health and well-being of current and future generations

Actions	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
Monitoring and Assessing Air Quality in Wales					
<p>We will enhance our monitoring and assessment capabilities to support targeted action on air pollution. We intend to implement a national air pollution monitoring and assessment service by December 2022. The service will support annual reporting on the state of air quality in Wales. In addition, it will make recommendations on interventions required to reduce air pollution and the harm it causes to public health and the environment. We are working in partnership with Natural Resources Wales, Local Authorities, Public Health Wales and other partners to design the framework for air quality monitoring, modelling, assessment and evaluation by autumn 2021.</p>	●	●		IN PROGRESS	<p>We have been working with consultants and other partners to design a national AQ Network and develop indicative costs for the provision of enhanced nationwide air quality monitoring, modelling, assessment, and evaluation.</p> <p>We are currently progressing development of target setting proposals. The actual design and costs will depend on the scope, scale and timing of the specific targets set using regulation making powers under the Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Bill.</p>

Actions	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
New targets to reduce exposure to air pollution					
We are working closely with the Clean Air Advisory Panel to receive independent and expert advice on the development of evidence-based and effective air quality targets for the benefit of current and future generations.	●	●		ON TRACK	The panel and sub-panels are preparing evidence-based advisory reports.
We will develop and enact a new target for fine particulate matter, taking account of the WHO guidelines on air quality. This will drive reductions in public exposure to air pollution as part of the development of a Clean Air Act for Wales and its regulations.	●	●		ON TRACK	The Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Bill was introduced into the Senedd in March 2023 containing a requirement for Ministers to set a PM _{2.5} target.
Managing air quality in the event of a pollution incident					
Working with NRW, during 2020-2021, we will update air quality incident monitoring equipment and build on the existing services provided by the Air Quality Cell to ensure arrangements are in place to respond to air quality incidents 24/7, 365 days of the year, anywhere in Wales.	●	●		COMPLETE	Due to delays caused by the COVID-19 response, the air quality incident monitoring service was established in February 2023. We are investing over £1.1 million in this service over the next three years.

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Local Air Quality Management (LAQM)					
We will introduce LAQM policy changes by 2023 to ensure the regime is public health focused and proactively finding and tackling areas of pollution.	●	●		ON TRACK	The Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Bill was introduced into the Senedd in March 2023 containing changes to the LAQM regime. The Bill will be supported by updated statutory guidance and reporting templates. We also launched a Local Air Quality Management Support Fund in 2021 to enable action.
We will consult on LAQM legislative intent in a White Paper by the end of this Senedd term.	●			COMPLETE	We published a White Paper on a Clean Air (Wales) Bill in 2021. The Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Bill was introduced into the Senedd in March 2023 containing changes to the LAQM regime.

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Designation of Clean Air Zones/ Low Emission Zones					
We will publish our Clean Air Zone Framework in spring 2021, taking into account the findings of our review of road user charging which will report by autumn 2020.		●		DELAYED	We have delayed this action to allow for joint policy development of wider Road User Charging policy with Transport. Under our Wales Transport Strategy, Llwybr Newydd, there is a commitment to develop a wider strategy, or framework, for fair road user charging as part of a broader package of measures to improve travel choices. The timescale for this work, as set out in the National Transport Delivery Plan, is 2022-26.
Smoke Control Areas (SCAs)					
We will amend existing Smoke Control regulations, through a Clean Air Act for Wales in the next Senedd term. This will ensure Local Authorities have the tools required to undertake effective enforcement against offenders.	●	●		ON TRACK	The Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Bill was introduced into the Senedd in March 2023 containing changes to the existing smoke control regime.

Actions

	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
In 2021, we will investigate the contribution domestic bonfires and fireworks make to levels of PM _{2.5} emissions. We will work with other UK administrations to develop further regulatory and/or non-regulatory action, where it is needed in this, taking an approach which is sensitive to the cultural significance of these practices.		●		ON TRACK	A review of emissions from domestic bonfires and fireworks was undertaken by Welsh Government in 2021. Welsh Ministers and officials have engaged with UK Government to press for tighter England and Wales regulations on fireworks in relation to their use and sale to the public. Findings from this review in relation to domestic bonfires are being considered as we develop our broader policy on tackling emissions from domestic burning.
We will shortly be consulting on domestic burning, and this will include consideration of whether outdoor solid fuel burning appliances and the fuels they use should be subject to regulation. We will develop necessary regulations during 2021.	●	●		COMPLETE	The consultation on domestic burning of solid fuel is complete and we are aiming to publish the summary of responses by summer 2023. This will include details on the next steps we will take in relation to this policy.

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Domestic Combustion					
<p>We will prohibit the sale of wet wood and traditional/bituminous house coal, subject to consultation. We aim to introduce the necessary legislation in 2021, with bans commencing during 2023.</p>	●	●		DELAYED	<p>COVID-19 led to a delay in this work. However, the consultation on domestic burning of solid fuel is complete and we are aiming to publish the summary of responses by summer 2023. This will include details on the next steps we will take in relation to this policy.</p>
<p>We will regulate to ensure only the most efficient appliances are available for purchase and installation by 2022. The regulation will include installation of second-hand appliances.</p>	●	●		DELAYED	<p>The consultation on domestic burning of solid fuel is complete and we are aiming to publish the summary of responses by summer 2023. This will include details on the next steps we will take in relation to this policy. Welsh Government intends to develop an online list of authorised fuels and approved appliances in 2023.</p> <p>EcoDesign standards apply to all new stoves sold from May 2022.</p>

Actions	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
We will regulate to require annual maintenance of domestic burning appliances by a certified professional, subject to review. This review will be undertaken by 2023.		●		DELAYED	The consultation on domestic burning of solid fuel is complete and we are aiming to publish the summary of responses by summer 2023 which will include details on the next steps we will take in relation to this policy.
We will work with industry and other governments to establish test standards for new manufactured solid fuels entering the market by 2024 to ensure they are compliant with appropriate regulations on smoke and sulphur emissions.		●		DELAYED	We are working collaboratively with the UK Government and other devolved governments to take forward this action.
Improving domestic energy efficiency					
We will investigate options to support households to ensure no-one slips into or remains in fuel poverty as a result of any prohibition on fuels or appliances, or an extension to the use of SCAs. We aim to have a scheme in place by 2022, before any transition period for use of prohibited solid fuels expires.		●		DELAYED	The consultation on domestic burning of solid fuel is complete and we are aiming to publish the summary of responses by summer 2023. This will include details on the next steps we will take in relation to this policy. No changes to authorised fuels or appliances are currently planned by Welsh Government, due to the ongoing fuel and cost of living crises. Local Authorities that wish to implement a SCA would undertake an impact assessment which would take these factors into account.

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Indoor air pollution					
We will continue to work with academia, public health organisations and other partners to develop and respond to new evidence on indoor air pollution as it emerges.	●	●	●	ON TRACK	We are working with others, including academia on how awareness and understanding of domestic burning can be improved, and gathering evidence on sources and impacts of fine particulate matter.
We will raise people’s awareness of indoor air pollution through communication interventions, including ways to reduce exposure risks.	●	●	●	ON TRACK	<p>We are considering what public health advice is available to raise awareness and inform/support action.</p> <p>We wrote to all social landlords seeking assurance on how landlords are responding to complaints of damp and mould. The letter requested information on what reviews have been done and what actions undertaken following complaints.</p> <p>We are arranging a webinar with local authorities to discuss health effects of damp and mould and what more landlords can and should be doing to improve indoor air quality.</p>

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A Clean Air Act for Wales					
We will publish and consult on a White Paper on a Clean Air Act for Wales before the end of this Senedd Term.	●			COMPLETE	We published a White Paper on a Clean Air (Wales) Bill in 2021.
Communications and behaviour change					
<p>We will enhance the existing Air Quality in Wales website to develop a communications and information hub.</p> <p>The initial redesign will be complete by the end of 2021 and we will add and develop new features over the next five years.</p>	●	●		ON TRACK	<p>Work is underway to update the website this year.</p> <p>This will include making it easier to access local monitoring data and updated information on the impacts of air pollution and ways concentrations and exposure can be reduced.</p>

Actions

	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
Over the next five years, we will deliver national air quality communications and campaigns such as Clean Air Day.	●	●		ON TRACK	<p>We have provided funding to Global Action Plan in support of Clean Air Day. This funding has enabled the development of a bilingual Clean Air Wales Day page and education materials for schools and the public, which are available all year round.</p> <p>We have funded EESW/Stem Cymru to deliver school workshops which promote awareness of air quality, its impacts and mitigating action.</p> <p>We have also supported local initiatives through our Local Air Quality Management Support Fund.</p> <p>We continue to fund and seek opportunities to improve information on air quality through our Air Quality in Wales website.</p>
Over the next five years, we will work with local organisations to support delivery of local air quality initiatives.	●	●		ON TRACK	<p>We are supporting local initiatives through our Local Air Quality Management Support Fund and the Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Bill now includes a duty on Welsh Ministers to promote awareness of air pollution impacts and mitigating actions.</p>

Actions	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
Education and the new Curriculum for Wales					
<p>We are working with education partners to promote and develop educational resources in support of the new curriculum in advance of its introduction from 2022. This includes developing opportunities which lead to greater understanding of air quality, pollutants, evidence and interpretation, and developing personal awareness and responsibility.</p>	●	●		ON TRACK	<p>We have funded Engineering Education Scheme Wales (EESW)/ Stem Cymru to deliver school workshops which promote awareness of air quality, its impacts and mitigating action.</p> <p>There are existing Welsh Government funded learning resources and enrichment activities which highlight the importance of learning about climate, nature, pollution, and the environment, which have been aligned to the Curriculum for Wales. Officials are currently identifying how to build upon existing and identified resources and develop further materials to support learning on this priority area across all areas of the Curriculum for Wales.</p>

Actions	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
Empowering workforces to improve air quality					
By 2022, we will produce new statutory guidance for the public, private and voluntary sectors to empower workforces to tackle air pollution, subject to consultation.	●	●		POLICY CHANGE	Following feedback on the White Paper consultation, the Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Bill now includes a duty on Welsh Ministers to promote awareness of air pollution impacts and mitigating actions. This is a broad provision that can include action relevant to workforces where appropriate.

Environment

Taking action to support our natural environment, ecosystems and biodiversity

Actions	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
Evaluating evidence to support policy					
<p>A suite of indicators is under development to monitor the state of biodiversity in Wales. This includes the National Indicators under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, and an indicator for air quality. It is expected the majority of these indicators will be in place by the end of 2021.</p>	●	●		DELAYED	<p>The high-level Well-being of Future Generations Act indicators and milestone are in place. We have delayed developing the lower-level biodiversity indicator suite to allow for consideration of the outcomes from COP 15. We are refreshing the Nature Recovery Action Plan to align with the Kunming Montreal Agreement and will develop an indicator suite and statutory nature targets to fit.</p>

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Improve biodiversity and ecosystem health to enhance resilience to air pollution and climate change impacts					
We will develop actions to reduce the impact of air pollution in the context of wider proposals highlighted in the Nature Recovery Action Plan.	●	●	●	ON TRACK	We are developing a Nature Networks map which identifies priority ecological networks and opportunities to buffer and connect our protected sites to improve the resilience and condition of these sites. Area statements are building the evidence to inform place based actions to improve ecosystem resilience and the ecosystem services we get from our natural environment.
Supporting a Greener Wales					
Through our Local Places for Nature Programme, we will support communities to create 'nature on your doorstep', with a particular focus on urban and peri-urban areas.	●	●		ON TRACK	The Local Places for Nature (LPfN) Programme is in its third year and is successfully meeting all the measures under the Programme for Government commitment to creating Green Spaces. We have supported more than 1400 green spaces being created or improved in the last 2-3 years. We are currently procuring for the remaining 2 years of the programme with activity on the ground ramping up year on year.

Actions	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
Intelligent tree and hedge planting supporting air quality improvements					
<p>We will increase the amount of woodland by at least 2,000 hectares per year, rising to 4,000 hectares. This will deliver a range of ecosystem benefits, including the interception of air pollutants.</p>	●	●	●	ON TRACK	<p>We have opened a new woodland creation planning scheme which offers funding for people to develop plans for new woodland creation projects. In August 2022 we opened two new grants to fund the planting of these projects, including a simpler grant for small areas of woodland. This funding is available consistently throughout the year.</p>
<p>We will deliver a National Forest for Wales, which includes new areas of community woodlands in urban and rural areas. These will help to reduce people's exposure to air pollution.</p>	●	●	●	ON TRACK	<p>We have begun work to develop a National Forest for Wales. The National Forest will create areas of new woodland and help to restore and maintain some of Wales' irreplaceable ancient woodlands. In time it will form a connected network running throughout Wales, which will bring social, economic and environmental benefits.</p>
<p>We will promote guidance and best practice to Local Authorities and urban planners to better design urban tree planting and plant species which maximise benefits by reducing people's exposure to air pollution.</p>	●	●		DELAYED	<p>We are working with Natural Resources Wales on the updating of their webpages which provide guidance on urban trees.</p>

Actions	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
Agriculture and land use					
Information and advice					
<p>We will make sure Farming Connect continues to give farmers advice and support to ensure best available practices are adapted to lower ammonia emissions. This will include supporting farmers to make informed decisions as they apply for current and future support schemes, such as the Nutrient Management Investment and Small Grants – Efficiency Schemes, which support farmers to invest in infrastructure and technologies to achieve these reductions.</p>	●	●	●	COMPLETE	<p>A new £22.9m Farming Connect programme started on 1 April and will be available for farmers in Wales over the next two years. The themes for the new programme include sustainability and improved environmental performance. In the financial year 2022-23 there was two applications windows for the Small Grants – Efficiency scheme, with a budget of £5m per window. There was also an application window for the Nutrient Management Investment, with a budget of £15m.</p>

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Sustainable farming scheme					
<p>In December 2020, we will consult further on proposals for a reformed regulatory framework and financial support scheme to support delivery of SLM outcomes through the Agriculture in Wales White Paper. SLM outcomes include air quality, which will be supported through actions on the land to improve soil and animal husbandry, habitat and nutrient management and tree planting.</p>	●	●		COMPLETE	<p>The consultation was launched in December 2020 and closed to responses on 25 March 2021. The Agriculture (Wales) Bill is currently progressing through the Senedd. The outline proposals for the Sustainable Farming Scheme were published in July 2022 and set out the proposed actions for how the scheme will support farmers to lower their ammonia emissions when it launches in 2025. A consultation on the final scheme design will take place later this year.</p>
Regulation					
<p>We intend to consult on a new Technical Advice Note, by the end of 2020. This will make sure planners know how to access the right advice to help prepare LDP policies and robustly determine planning applications.</p>	●			DELAYED	<p>The preparation of the TAN has been paused while work on planning guidance is undertaken to respond to excess phosphorus in riverine special areas of conservation. Consultation is now scheduled for later in 2023.</p>

Actions

	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
We will introduce regulations to tackle agricultural pollution, which will contribute to achieving air quality targets including Wales' contribution to a 16% reduction of UK ammonia emissions by 2030.	●	●	●	COMPLETE	The Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations came in to force on 1 April 2021. There will be transitional periods for some measures to 1 January 2023 and 1 August 2024.
In co-ordination with other UK administrations, a consultation on reducing emissions from manufactured fertilisers will take place before the end of 2020 to ensure Wales' contribution to a 16% reduction of UK ammonia emissions by 2030 is achieved.	●	●	●	DELAYED	The Welsh Government has been monitoring developments on plans to reduce ammonia emissions from manufactured fertilisers across the UK and is considering its approach, in the context of the implications of international events on fertiliser supplies and costs and the recently updated National Air Pollution Control Programme. The Welsh Government is engaging with stakeholders on agricultural ammonia emissions through the Wales Land Management Forum Sub-group on Agricultural Pollution.

Prosperity

Working with industry to reduce emissions, supporting a cleaner and more prosperous Wales

Actions	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
Industrial Air Pollution					
<p>We will review process guidance for Small Waste Incineration Plant (SWIPs) and crematoria. This will bring them up to date to support more effective emissions controls at these sites.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 		ON TRACK	<p>Both reviews have been completed. The SWIPS guidance deals with the technical (Chapter 5) Industrial Emissions Directive requirements on incineration. The Crematoria guidance aims to set new and ambitious standards for crematoria by determining the Best Available Techniques for reducing emissions for this type of regulated facility. Advice will be put to Ministers shortly on publication of the completed SWIPS guidance and a joint (UK) public consultation on crematoria.</p>

Actions

	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
We will consider the evidence on emissions from small-scale combustion plant, including commercial biomass combustion plant. This includes combustion plant in the 500kW to 1MW thermal input range, where initial evidence suggests there is a regulatory gap. We will introduce new regulatory controls where evidence supports this.		●		ON TRACK	Through the joint common framework arrangements we are at an early stage of scoping this workstream. We have procured evidence from Ricardo Plc which is intended to provide us with a more granular and confident understanding of emissions from combustion plants, amongst others.
We will consider the evidence on emissions from Specified Generators used for research, development and testing, introducing measures excluding them from the provisions of the environmental permitting regime if the evidence supports this. This would align them with the provisions which apply to Medium Combustion Plant used for research, development and testing purposes.	●	●		ON TRACK	This workstream has not formally gotten underway but will be informed by the broader work currently being considered in relation to emissions from combustion (above).

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Best available techniques					
<p>We will implement a new, domestic, process for developing and adopting BAT Conclusions. This will ensure pollution control techniques applied by industry in Wales, including those used to reduce emissions to air, continue to develop and improve according to best evidence from the EU and elsewhere.</p>	●	●		ON TRACK	<p>We have an agreed process for developing UK BAT Conclusions and the first two tranches (9 industrial sectors) have been agreed and confirmed by way of our Summary of Responses and Government response to our 2021 consultation on the same. The first of these sectors will likely be completed, following public consultation later this year, in early 2024.</p>
Pollution in Port Talbot and the Swansea Valley					
<p>We will undertake a review of our Short Term Action Plan (STAP) for Port Talbot in 2021 to ensure it remains effective and fit for purpose in its aim of minimising short term air pollution (PM10) episodes in the area.</p>		●		DELAYED	<p>This work has been delayed due to the impacts of COVID-19 but we have been working with our partners to review the STAP and are aiming to publish a consultation once the review is complete.</p>

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Resource Efficiency					
<p>We are determined to accelerate the transition from diesel powered waste and recycling vehicles to ultra-low emission powered vehicles (ULEVs). We recognise the contribution it can make to air quality alongside the fact Welsh Government and many Local Authorities have declared a Climate Emergency and resolved to be a net zero carbon user within ten years (2030).</p>	●	●	●	ON TRACK	<p>To date the Welsh Government has invested c£9m of grant funding to secure [60 of the c1,000 strong] Local Authority waste fleet vehicles as ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEV). Over half (13 out of the 22) Local Authorities have now started the journey to convert their fleets from diesel to ULEV.</p> <p>To help build support for the electrification of waste vehicles across Wales, any Local Authority benefiting from Welsh Government grant support is required to loan the vehicle to a minimum of 2 other Welsh Local Authorities for 30 days each during the first 18 months. Furthermore, to ensure that the benefits are fully realised, the requirements include a condition that the vehicles must replace an equivalent diesel vehicle. This ensures that there is a clear carbon benefit.</p>

Actions

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We are working on a proposal for all new cars and light goods vehicles in the Public Sector fleet to be ultra-low emission by 2025 and where practicably possible, all heavy goods to be ultra-low emission by 2030.	●	●	●	ON TRACK	The Welsh Public sector has set an ambition to be collectively net zero by 2030 and make low carbon the default choice in everything we do. We have worked directly with PS stakeholders and published a Routemap to support this ambition, together with the Emissions Reporting Guide , to ensure all organisations report in a common, consistent format.

Place

Creating sustainable places through better planning, infrastructure and transport

Actions	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
Planning policy supporting air quality, noise and soundscape improvements					
We will produce further planning guidance specifically on air quality, noise and soundscape for local planning authorities and developers in Wales, within this Senedd term.	●			ON TRACK	Consultation on Technical Advice Note 11: Air Quality, Noise & Soundscape , took place between 21 October 2022 and 20 January 2023. Responses are currently undergoing analysis.
The National Infrastructure Commission for Wales					
We will amend NICW's remit so the commission looks for opportunities to safeguard and improve air quality.		●		ON TRACK	The current remit letter , issued 7 April 2022, requires a focus on "[Making] our cities, towns and villages even better places in which to live and work."

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Transport Emissions					
Wales Transport Strategy					
We will develop a new Wales Transport Strategy in 2020-21, which will set out our policy framework to achieve our decarbonisation targets and required air pollution reduction.	●	●		COMPLETE	We published Llwybr Newydd: the Wales Transport Strategy in 2021.
Promoting the shift from the private motor vehicle to active travel and public transport					
We will continue to work with partners to achieve improved provision of public transport.	●	●	●	ON TRACK	Our National Transport Delivery Plan sets out how we will deliver against the priorities and ambitions within our Wales Transport Strategy. This includes delivery, over the next 5 years, of our ambitious plan for modal shift and improved provision of public transport.
We will be issuing updated Delivery and Design Guidance, setting out planning and consultation approaches and requirements and the design specifications for walking and cycling infrastructure by autumn 2020.	●			COMPLETE	The Active Travel Act guidance GOV.WALES was published in 2021.

Actions

	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
We will provide tools and training to support Local Authorities in effective planning and design of active travel infrastructure, as well as community engagement, by end of 2020.	●			COMPLETE	An Active Travel Mapping application was developed for DataMapWales and all local authority Active Travel Network Maps have been developed and can be viewed on the system. The CommonPlace platform was provided for active travel engagement and consultation throughout the pandemic.
As part of the work to introduce default 20mph speed limits in built up areas, we will develop a monitoring and evaluation framework to track and assess impacts, including on air pollution.	●	●		ON TRACK	We published an interim report in 2023. The next monitoring report is expected to be published in autumn 2023.
Our Active Journeys Programme, which promotes walking and cycling to school, was refreshed in 2020 and is running until 2023. This is in close collaboration with over 400 schools over the next three years and provides curriculum resources and support available for all schools in Wales.	●	●		ON TRACK	Active Journeys has been extended for a fourth year to run until 31 March 2024.
We are funding cycle training for children and adults and child pedestrian training. In 2021, we will review how this training can be optimised to go beyond acquisition of skills to include behaviour change elements.	●	●		DELAYED	The review of Child pedestrian training was postponed until all local authorities have fully resumed delivery and will be undertaken in 2023. Work to reform cycle training delivery in Wales is ongoing.

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Public Transport					
Bus and Taxi					
<p>We are developing a vision document, delivery plan and governance structures to progress the work of reforming the provision of Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles. This will include the key themes of how we achieve air quality improvements as well as the decarbonisation of the fleet to meet our bold aim for a zero exhaust emission taxi fleet by 2028.</p>	●	●		ON TRACK	<p>We are aiming to publish a White Paper in early 2023 that will set out how we propose to legislate in this area. The aim of our proposals is to make taxi and private hire vehicle provision in Wales safer, fairer and greener. At the heart of this will be the introduction of National Standards to ensure consistency in approach across Wales.</p>

Actions

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Rail					
We will increase capacity through the delivery of new and innovative Metro systems. The South Wales Metro will bring about a step change in the integration and frequency of public transport services to offer a compelling alternative to car journeys by 2023.	●	●	●	DELAYED	There have been some delays to the transformation of the Core Valley Lines due to the impact of the pandemic, global material supply constraints and the insecurity due to the Ukraine conflict. However, the work is progressing at pace with brand new trains, part of the £800m investment in new fleets, now operating on the Rhymney Valley Line alongside work to electrify the lines and to upgrade the track and signalling. The majority of the work to transform the lines will be completed in 2024.

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Ultra-low emission vehicles					
<p>We are working with UK Government, Local Authorities, the energy sector and business to plan for and implement the roll out of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure. By investing £2M by 2020 we will help create a network of rapid charging points to enable longer distance travel by electric vehicles throughout Wales. We will consult on an Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy to inform wider investment in autumn 2020.</p>	●	●	●	COMPLETE	<p>We published the Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy and an associated action plan in 2021. We continue to invest in the provision of EV charging infrastructure to deliver on the commitments set out in the EV Charging Strategy and Action Plan. This includes allocations for local authority led schemes for 2023-2024 which will be announced in early April.</p>
<p>We are working on a proposal for all new cars and light goods vehicles in the Public Sector fleet to be ultra-low emission by 2025 and where practicably possible, all heavy goods to be ultra-low emission by 2030.</p>	●	●	●	ON TRACK	<p>The Welsh Public sector has set an ambition to be collectively net zero by 2030 and make low carbon the default choice in everything we do. We have worked directly with PS stakeholders and published a Routemap to support this ambition, together with the Emissions Reporting Guide, to ensure all organisations report in a common, consistent format.</p>

Actions

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We will further examine the evidence base for strengthening anti-idling measures and will set out our proposals during 2020, in our Clean Air Act White Paper.	●	●		COMPLETE	A White Paper on a Clean Air (Wales) Bill was published in 2021 which contained proposals for tackling vehicle idling. The Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Bill was introduced into the Senedd in March 2023 containing proposals for tackling vehicle idling.
Tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations in Wales					
We will publish an updated NO ₂ Plan (Welsh Government supplemental plan to the UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations 2017) by November 2020.	●	●		DELAYED	The process of finalising the NO ₂ Update Plan has been delayed whilst further assessment is made of more recently identified exceedance locations on the trunk road network. WeITAG Stage 2 reports for the additional two exceedance areas have now been finalised and will be consulted on alongside the Update Plan. Publication is now expected during summer 2023.

Actions

	Short term to 2021	Medium term 2021 to 2026	Longer term 2026 to 2031	Update on progress	Further comments
We will publish annual data, each March, on levels of emissions concentrations at the locations of exceedance on the Welsh Government Managed Road Network.	●	●	●	DELAYED	Data has been released up to the 2021 calendar year. Final data on 2022 annual concentrations has been delayed due to later than expected release of Defra's national bias adjustment factor for 2022 which wasn't available until the end of March. The adjustment figure addresses the tendency of diffusion tubes to under or over-read NO ₂ concentrations when compared to a reference analyser. This bias is corrected by the adjustment factor to improve the accuracy of diffusion tube data. The 2022 data release will now be published in April.