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Welsh Government

Climate Conversations Fund 2024

Report

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Climate Conversations Fund 2024 Report

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Views expressed in this report are those of the researcher and not necessarily those of the Welsh Government

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Glossary

CCF Event(s)

Climate Conversations Fund Event(s)

Climate Adaptation

Term used to describe actions taken to address climate risks and prepare for the changes ahead, as per the Organisers' Pack.

Climate Mitigation

Refers to actions taken to limit further global warming through reductions in greenhouse gas emissions as per the Organisers' Pack.

Principal Area

The principal areas in Wales are a form of local government division comprising 22 counties and county boroughs. Each principal area is single-tier form of local government, each governed by a principal council.

Resilience

Capacity to effectively prepare for, respond to, and recover from impacts of climate change, whilst minimising negative impacts on social, economic, and environmental systems.

WCW

Wales Climate Week

1. Introduction

1.1 Climate Conversations Community Engagement Fund and Wales Climate Week

Wales Climate Week (WCW) is organised by the Welsh Government annually in November, coinciding with the United Nations COP climate change conference. Its purpose is to involve people in discussion around how to accelerate progress towards Wales's climate goals. The focus of the Week is a stakeholder conference which brings together public sector bodies and networks, industry bodies and businesses, environmental organisations, academic institutions and more, to explore solutions for tackling climate change.

Introduced in 2022, the Climate Conversations Community Engagement Fund (the fund) has widened engagement beyond the conference to include dialogue with local communities and members of the public. Through the fund, the Welsh Government has provided support to organisations with connections to local communities to hold 111 local events, involving over 6,000 members of the public.

To qualify for the grant funding, organisers are required to hold their event during or beyond the Week (over an agreed period), explore a set of structured questions provided by the Welsh Government, and submit a post-event evaluation report with key findings. The evidence is used to inform future Government decision-making and to provide additional insights into climate issues that matter to people. For further information, see [the Wales Climate Week website](#).

In 2024, the fund was used to explore knowledge, perceptions and ideas around the 2024 WCW theme: *how can we adapt to our changing climate?* In 2024, the questions were detailed in an organisers' pack, serving as a reference point for the conversations (Annex D: Organisers' Pack).

The Welsh Government commissioned Eunomia Research & Consulting Ltd to analyse and summarise the evidence gathered through the 2024 Climate Conversations Fund events into this report. This report will be used to deepen the Welsh Government's understanding of people's views on the climate risks, including whether members of the public believe they have the knowledge and resources to protect themselves, their communities and families from these risks, and to consider their ideas around support for community-based initiatives.

1.2 2024 Climate Conversations - Adapting to our changing climate

In November 2024, the focus of WCW was on the question '*How can we adapt to our changing climate?*', providing an opportunity for community groups to discuss the local implications of climate risks, and preparing for the impacts of climate change. The conversations took place between Monday 4th November 2024 - Friday 10th January 2025.

The fund received 81 applications to hold conversations, 6 of which did not meet the criteria, 1 application was withdrawn, and 10 events did not go ahead. For the 64 CCF events held, in total, 62 reports were received and analysed.

The aim of the 2024 CCF Event was to support the Welsh Government's understanding of the level of public concern about climate change, its impacts on different groups, and participants' perceptions of community preparedness in the face of changing weather patterns and increased incidents of flooding and heatwaves because of climate change. The fund, in particular, aids the Welsh Government to support groups that are less often heard. The events are one part of a wider suite of approaches that the Welsh Government are taking to understand these themes. In addition, the events offer the opportunity to understand any potential opportunities arising from climate change, the risks faced by different groups, and to assess whether communities possess the knowledge, resources, and support to build on successful local initiatives. The events also provide an opportunity to learn from and support a range of groups, and to educate and raise awareness of climate issues at the community level.

The organiser pack (Annex D: Organisers' Pack) included a request for organisers to ask participants a series of open-ended questions, and three closed questions which needed to be posed at the start of, or prior to, the event. These closed questions aimed to measure: levels of worry from climate change; self-reported knowledge on the impact of climate change; and the timeframes within which conversation participants believe they will experience different effects of climate change. The pack also included a list of supplementary questions to be covered during the event.

1.3 About this report

This report presents Eunomia's analysis of 62 CCF events reports submitted.

1.3.1 Methodology and quality of reporting

The event organisers are not professional researchers, and the focus of the fund is to facilitate deliberative public engagement¹ (i.e. not 'rigorous' research); furthermore, the events were not expected to have participants proportionate to the local or national population. Therefore, findings from the events cannot be taken to represent the attitudes of the wider Welsh population. Additionally, there was no prescribed framework for the event organisers on how to report, or how to systematically collect data, which resulted in a variety of reporting styles and level of detail across the dataset. Each organiser took a different approach to leading the conversation and producing the report, leading to a diverse range of data. The reports vary in terms of length, quality and quantity of content, with some adhering closely to the proposed report structure recommended in the organisers' pack, and others providing more general evidence, often diverging from the core topic and open-ended questions provided.

¹ The CCF follow a the recommendations for engagement as set in the [Review of deliberative engagement on climate policy development | GOV.WALES](#)

The Eunomia team applied the following approach for analysis (The detailed methodology is presented in Annex C: Detailed methodology). The information from the reports was divided into two main datasets, one for quantitative analysis and one for qualitative analysis.

The quantitative data provides an overview of the events and the populations that participated in them. There are three main sources of quantitative information: event data (e.g., location, organiser), demographic data of the participants (e.g., age, gender), and the pre-event questionnaire data. This information was extracted from each report and compiled into a database for analysis.

Event organisers used multiple approaches to gather information for the questionnaire before or during the event, online and in-person. The data was also presented in varying ways, with some organisers providing the raw data, some presenting the results in graphs, and others giving general statements. Due to these variations in data collection and reporting, the quality of the data varied significantly from question to question, and certain reports were excluded in parts of the quantitative analysis. For example, a report may state that the participants' ages "ranged from 16 to 72 years", but detail on the number of people of each age was missing, and therefore the report could not be used for analysis of age data. For each finding presented, the number of event reports that were used in the analysis and the number of participants at these events is highlighted.

It is important to note that because some reports were excluded, the quantitative findings presented do not represent *all* participants across *all* events. Instead, they reflect only the characteristics or views of participants from events that provided usable data for that question. In some cases, the same report included good quality data for some participants, but not all. These participants have been captured within the category 'data not provided'.

Event data and demographic data findings are presented in Section 2. The pre-event questionnaire results are presented with the qualitative thematic analysis in Sections 3.1 and 3.2.²

The qualitative data was analysed thematically, using a combination of deductive (top-down) and inductive (bottom-up) analysis. The reports were coded in Dedoose software, which enabled systematic coding and review. Post-coding, the excerpts were thematically analysed to draw out narratives, their nature, range, and interconnectivity.

To ensure consistency, the team conducted a pilot coding exercise and refined the analytical framework through an internal workshop. This resulted in a final coding structure which was applied across 62 reports. 13 reports included creative elements, such as images and poems, which were analysed separately using elements of discourse analysis.

It is important to note that the reports contain a mix of perspectives: the organisers' interpretations, mixed with attendees' views. The latter is heavily mediated by organisers (i.e. organisers' summaries of participants' viewpoints) with only a few direct quotes

² In some cases, the demographic data has been collected for a different group of people to the pre-event questionnaire, due to the method by which the event organisers collected the data (e.g., sending out an online survey prior to the event).

representing the participants' viewpoints. Therefore, Eunomia's analysis was conducted with care to avoid imposing further interpretation.

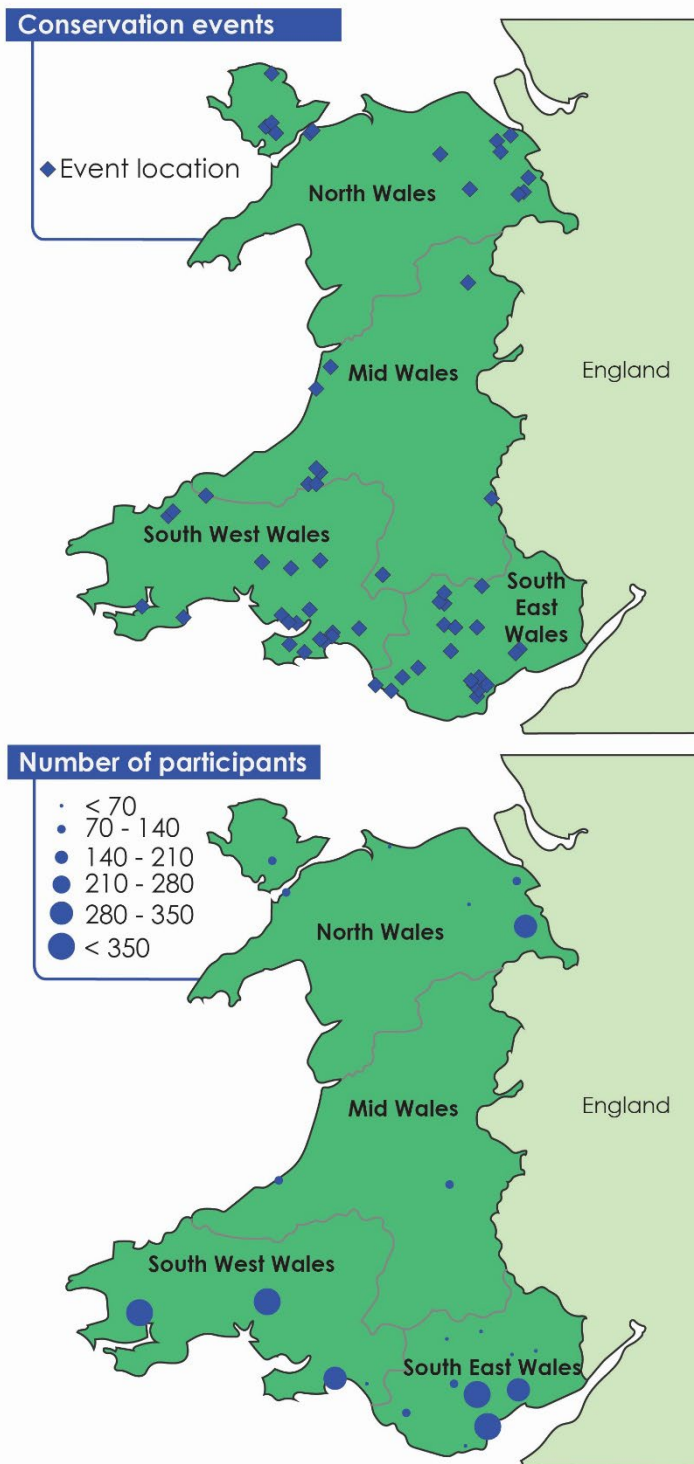
When presenting quotations, where possible, differentiations between the organiser's viewpoints and direct quotes from individual participants are noted by including *Organisation* or *Individual* in bracketed references next to the name of the event. *Organisation* is used when quoting a passage as written by the organiser, while *Individual* indicates an clear and independent quote from a participant. The list of all reports is included in Annex A, which contains detailed information about the events. In the following discussion when referencing a report, a unique event number is referenced in the brackets, Annex A: List of event reports for reference.

Finally, it is important to emphasise that the analysis does not reference numerical frequency of themes. Due to inconsistencies in the data collection process, and the freedom of expression in reporting styles, the report does not consider counts of coded excerpts to be a reliable measure of significance. Whilst we recognise the more frequently discussed themes, assigning numerical frequency would alienate the rich narratives within and across reports. However, as coding is an important step within Eunomia's methodology, the number of excerpts coded against our coding framework are noted in detailed methodology in Annex C, which can be used as a reference tool by the reader. Rather than numerating coded frequencies in the main report, our focus is on the nature, range, depth and interconnectedness of themes, in the attempt to offer a more meaningful understanding of narratives expressed across the dataset.

2.2024 Climate Conversations Fund Events

A total of 3,787 people attended the 62 events across Wales. The location of the event was identified from each report and is presented on the top map in Figure 1. There were two dedicated online events, and six events for which the exact location was unmentioned in the report. In a further four cases, the event location was not provided, however it was stated as being local to the event organisation and therefore the address for the event organisation was used as a proxy. There were a higher number of events held in Southeast and Southwest Wales than in North Wales and Mid Wales.

Figure 1: Map of Wales showing the location of events and the number of participants



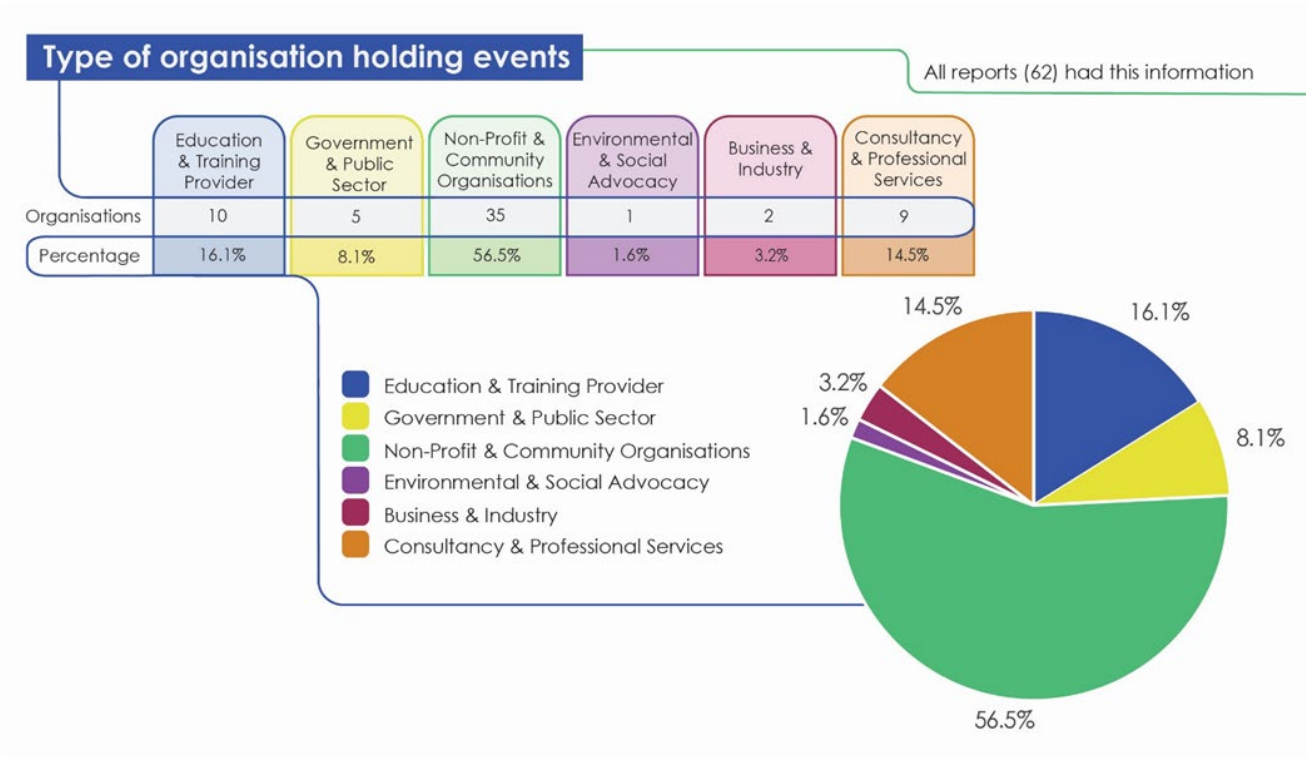
Description of Figure 1: The first map (top) shows the postcode location of where each event was held. The largest concentration of events is in Southwest and Southeast regions of Wales. The Northeast, Northwest and central regions of Wales are less concentrated. The second map (bottom) shows the number of participants at the events in each principal area, with larger circles indicate a greater number of participants in the area. The principal areas which held events with the most participants are mostly in the south of Wales. (Source: Eunomia Research & Consulting Ltd.)

Figure 1 (map, top) illustrates attendance by area using circle sizes: the smallest indicates fewer than 70 participants, while the largest represents more than 350. The number of attendees in each principal area reflects both the number of events held there and the number of participants at those events. Out of the 3,787 participants, 10.2% of them attended events in Carmarthenshire, followed by Caerphilly (10.1%), Pembrokeshire (10.0%), Cardiff (9.1%), Wrexham (9.1%), and Newport (8.7%). No events were recorded in Conwy, Monmouthshire, and Torfaen.

2.1 Event organisers

The types of organisations that held events were identified from each of the 62 event reports. There were 35 events (56.5%) held by non-profit & community organisations such as charities and Community Interest Companies (CIC). Ten events (16.1%) were held by education & training providers, such as primary and secondary schools, and universities. Nine events (14.5%) were hosted by consultancy & professional services organisations, and five events (8.1%) were held by government & public sector bodies, including local authorities and housing associations. Two events (3.2%) were held by business & industry organisations, and one event (1.6%) was led by an environment & social advocacy group.

Figure 2: Types of organisations that held events



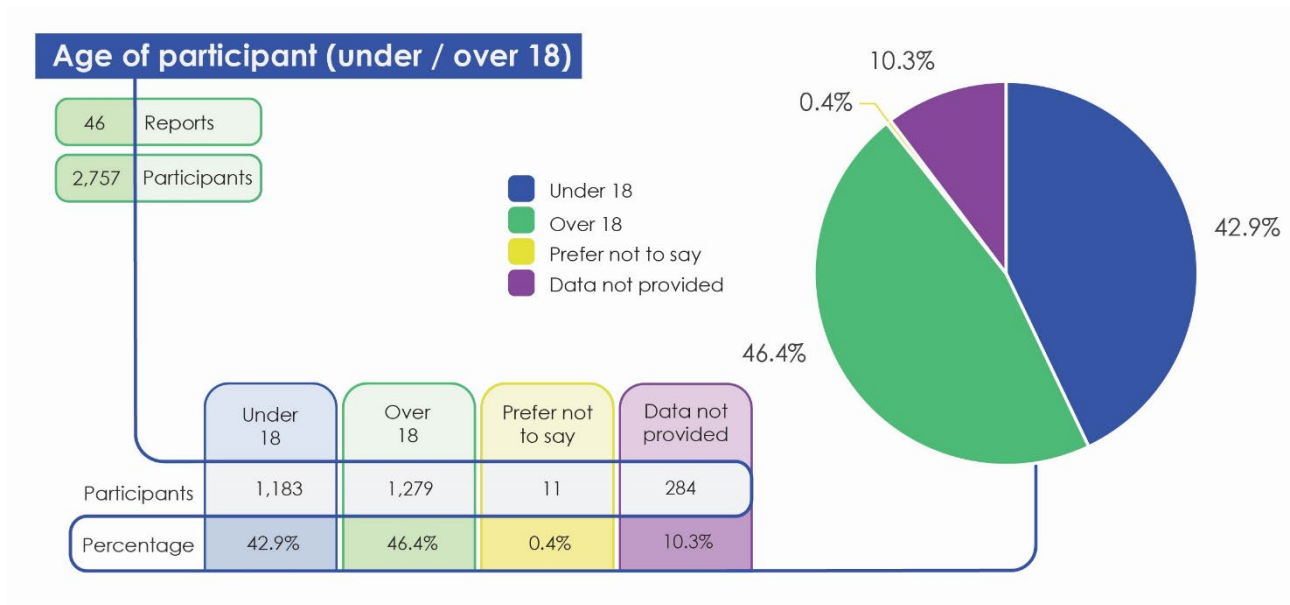
Description of Figure 2: The table and pie chart show the types of organisations who held an event, and the number and respective percentage share of each type. Non-profit and community organisations take up the largest share of the pie chart by a strong majority. (Source: Eunomia Research & Consulting Ltd.

2.2 Demographic data

2.2.1 Age (under or over 18)

Detailed information on the age of the participants was missing from several reports. In many other cases, data was provided in age categories (i.e., how many people were aged between 16 and 25 etc.), but category boundaries varied significantly between reports. Therefore, only the division of people over and under the age of 18 is reported.

Figure 3: Distribution of participants over and under 18

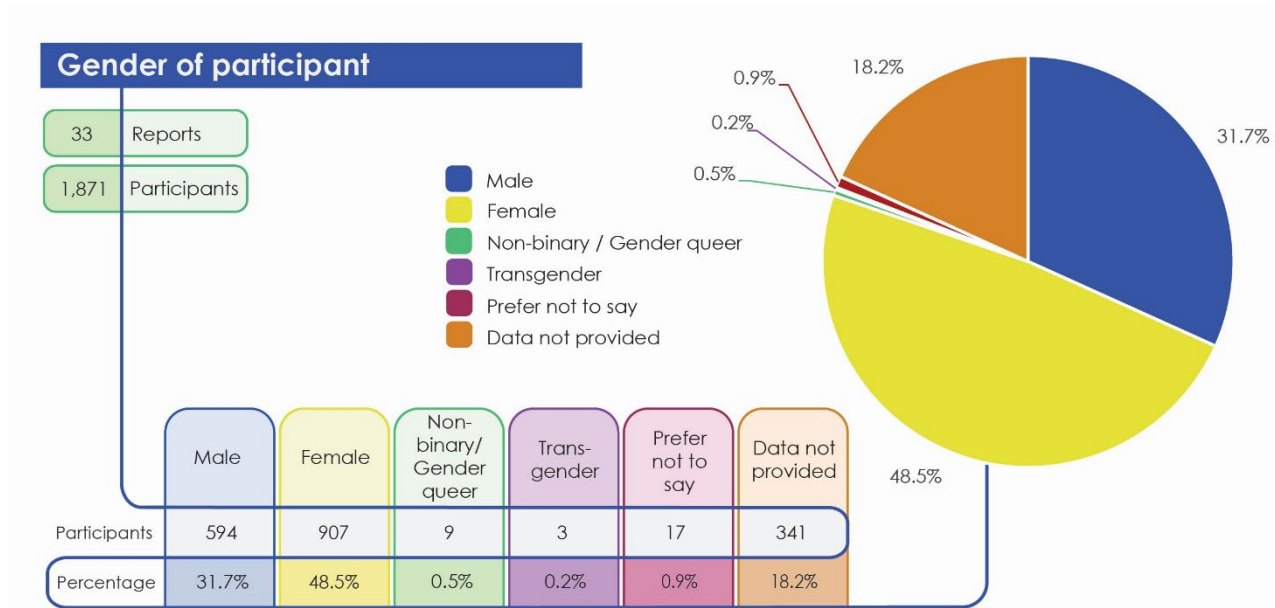


Description of Figure 3: This figure shows a pie chart and table providing insights into the age of participants (under or over 18 years old). 16 reports were excluded from the analysis, leaving 2,757 participants that were analysed for age. (Source: Eunomia Research & Consulting Ltd.)

There were 46 reports that provided usable data on age (over or under 18). At these 46 events, there were 2,757 participants, of which 42.9% were under the age of 18, 46.4% were over the age of 18, and 0.4% preferred not to disclose their age. Age data was not provided for 10.3% of these participants. It is possible the under 18 category is overrepresented here, as the age of younger participants could be inferred from other information even if specific age data was missing, i.e. primary and secondary school students being under 18.

2.2.2 Gender

Figure 4: Distribution of participants by gender



Description of Figure 4: This figure shows a pie chart and table providing insights into the composition of the events by gender. The graph shows the number of reports included in the analysis of the gender of participants. 29 reports were excluded from the analysis, leaving 1,871 participants included in the analysis. (Source: Eunomia Research & Consulting Ltd.)

There were 33 reports that provided usable data on gender, which account for 1,871 participants. From this group, there was a higher proportion of women (48.5%) to men (31.7%). Non-binary and gender queer people accounted for 0.5% of this group, 0.2% identified as transgender, and 0.9% preferred not to disclose their gender. Data on the gender of participants was not provided for 18.2% of this group.

2.2.3 Ethnicity

Ethnicity data was lacking from a significant number of event reports; of the 62 reports, only 36 mentioned ethnicity. Of these 36, 10 reports (27.8%) had no ethnic diversity, with participants stated as being “all White British” or “White Welsh”. 26 reports (72.2%) mentioned at least *some* ethnic diversity, although the level of diversity was not captured due to a lack of detailed data across all reports.

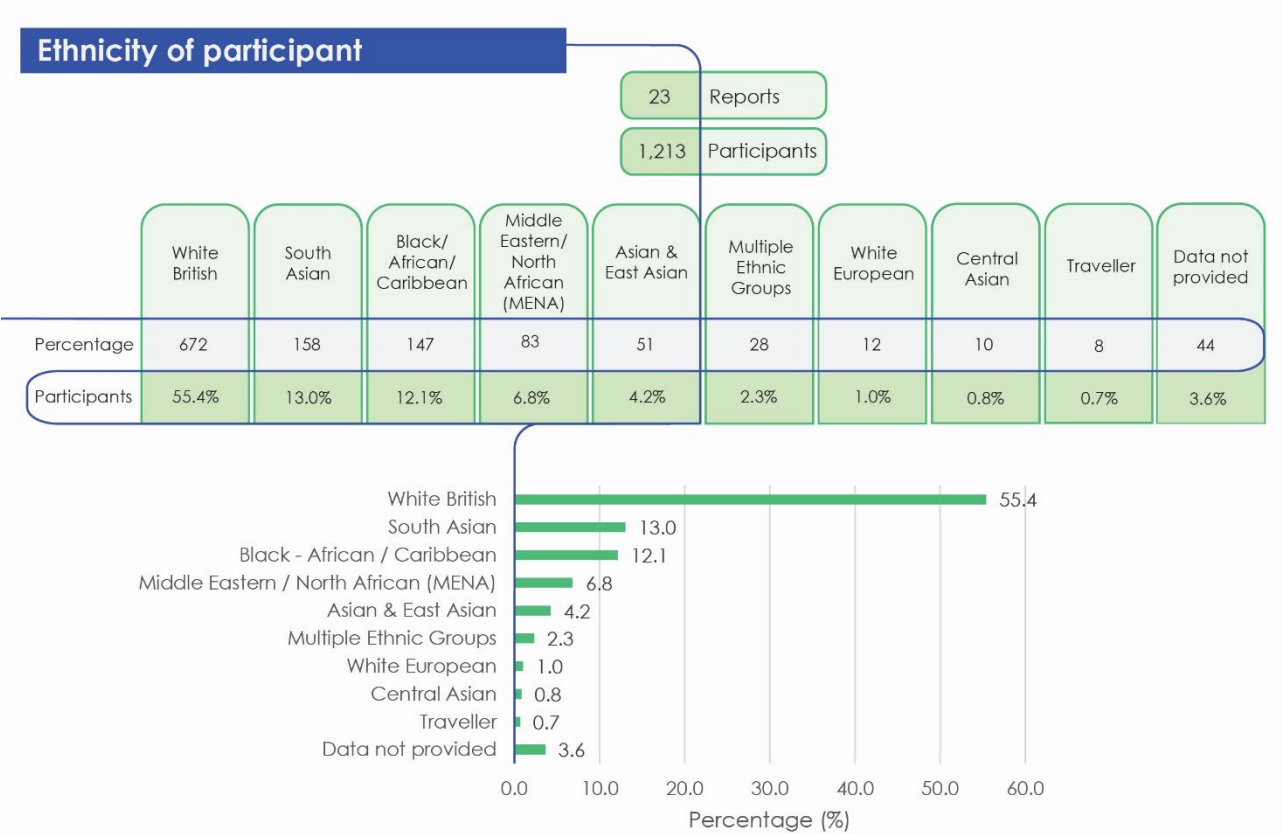
Of the 36 reports that mentioned ethnicity, 23 provided detailed data, accounting for 1,213 participants who indicated their ethnicity.³ The level of detail and type of ethnicity data varied significantly between reports and were grouped to simplify the findings. Because the data was provided in different formats, it was not possible to align the category groupings

³ This included the 10 reports which had exclusively White British or Welsh participants, and 13 (out of the 26) reports which had at least some ethnic diversity.

with conventional ethnicity reporting, and the reporting reflects the ethnicities as mentioned in the original reports.

Of this group of 1,213 participants, the majority were White British (55.4%). The next highest representation was South Asian (13.0%) and Black – African / Caribbean (12.1%). Middle Eastern / North African (MENA) representation accounted for 6.8% of this group, and 4.2% were Asian & East Asian. 2.3% were from Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups, 1.0% were White European, 0.8% were Central Asian, and 0.7% were from the Traveller community. Data was not provided for 3.6% of this group.

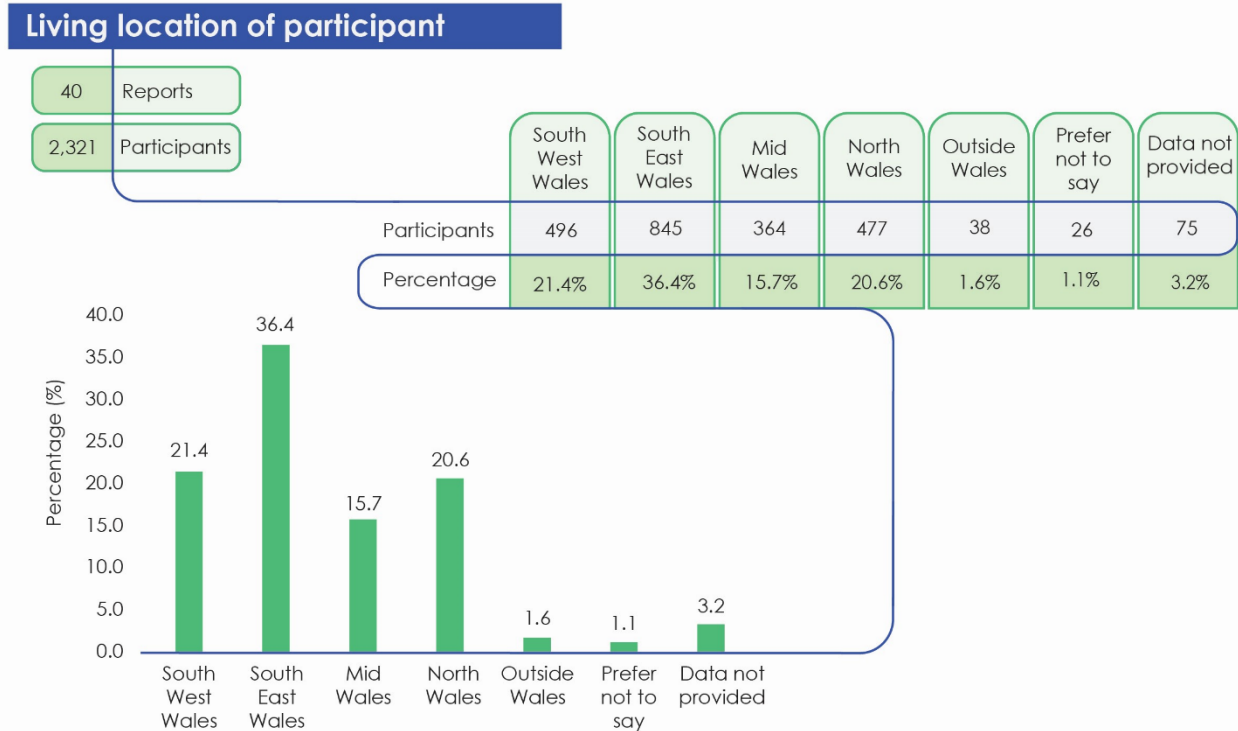
Figure 5: Distribution of participants by ethnicity



Description of Figure 5: This figure shows a bar chart and table providing insights into the composition of the events by ethnicity. The figure indicates the number of reports included in the analysis. 23 reports were included, and 39 reports were excluded. (Source: Eunomia Research & Consulting Ltd.)

2.2.4 Living Location

Figure 6: Distribution of participants by living location

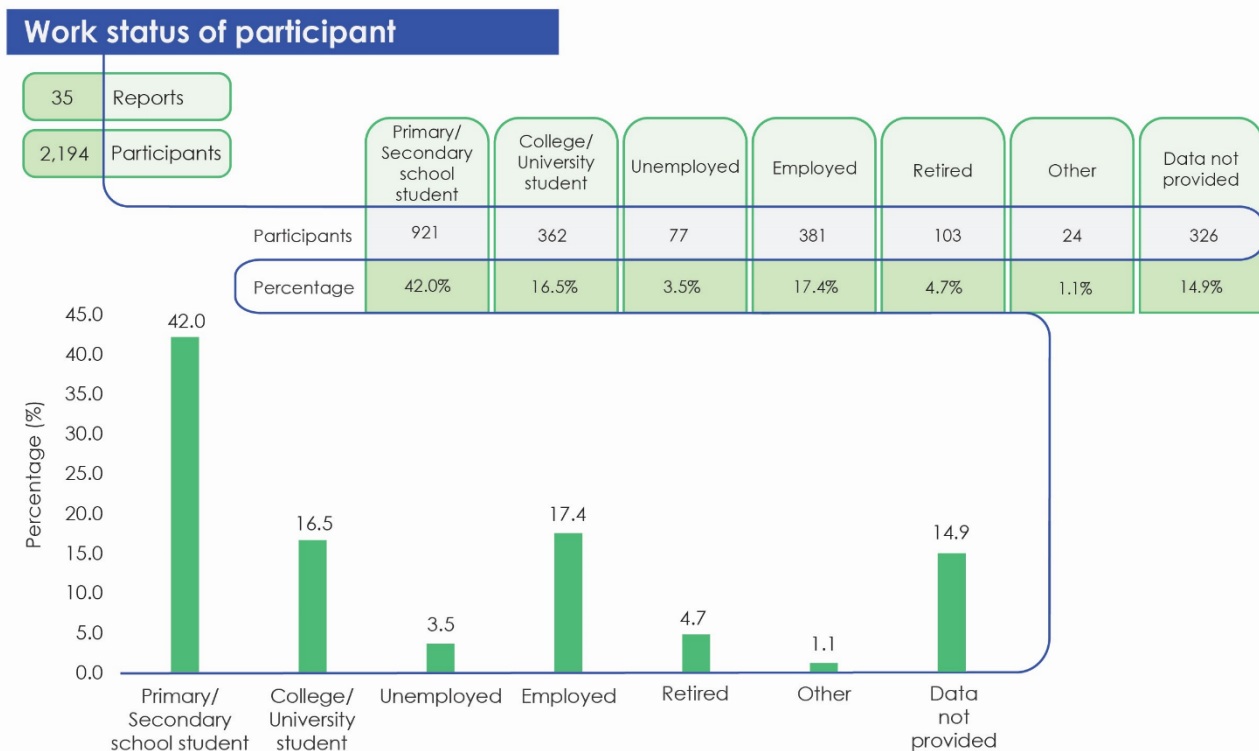


Description of Figure 6: This figure is a bar chart and table showing the composition of event participants' living locations. 40 reports were included in the analysis and 22 were excluded from the analysis. (Source: Eunomia Research & Consulting Ltd.)

There were 40 reports which provided usable data on the living location of participants. At these 40 events, there were 2,321 participants of which the majority (36.4%) live in Southeast Wales. 21.4% of this group live in Southwest Wales, 20.6% in North Wales, and 15.7% live in Mid Wales. 1.6% of people lived outside of Wales and 1.1% preferred not to disclose their living location. Data on living location was not provided for 3.2% of this group.

2.2.5 Work Status

Figure 7: Distribution of participants by work status



Description of Figure 7: This figure is a bar chart and table providing insights into the composition of the events by their work status. The graph shows the number of reports included in the analysis of the participants' work status. 27 reports were excluded from the analysis, leaving 2,194 participants included in the analysis. (Source: Eunomia Research & Consulting Ltd.)

There were 35 reports that provided usable data on work status, which accounts for 2,194 participants. Of this group, the majority were primary and secondary school students (42.0%). However, it is possible that this category is overrepresented here, as younger participants (under 18) were counted as primary/secondary school students even if their work status was not explicitly mentioned in the report. 17.4% of people were in employment, which includes full-time, part-time, and self-employed people. 16.5% of this group were college or university students, 4.7% were retired, and 3.5% were unemployed. 1.1% have been grouped as 'other'.⁴ Data was not provided for 14.9% of this group.

2.3 Event activities

Most of the reports related to one event by one organiser, many of which took place at the organiser's site. This is particularly the case with education organisers, such as colleges and universities. An "event" (in organisers' reports and in this report) may constitute multiple

⁴ The work status response categories included in 'other' includes 6 who were described by organisers as housewives, 6 described as persons with caring responsibilities, and 12 as persons with disabilities. This category represents only a small number of reports. Consequently, it remains unclear whether some of the 3.5% reported as unemployed were out of work due to caring responsibilities or disabilities, as the response categories varied across the reports.

meetings on various locations or dates; more than ten organisers reported on multiple meetings. These meetings may have taken place across different locations or dates. Among these: Hay Energy Assembly, Clynfyw Care Farm, Merthyr Tydfil Housing Association, and KidCare4U. At least one organiser (Big Wave; 5) provided participants with the option to join online, and another included a team chat as part of the event (SwanseaCAN, 47).

Most of the events took a similar structure of facilitated conversations around the suggested topics and questions, including an introduction to some key concepts. This may include smaller group discussions and activities, as reported by All Saints School, Coleg Sir Gar, Outside Lives and M-Sparc, among others. Many organisers reported that they opened their events with expert talks on climate topics. This may have been by someone internal to the hosting organisation or by an external speaker, e.g. from Natural Resources Wales, RSPB and De Montfort University. The expert talks sometimes included showing videos or using presentation slides.

Some of the event activities included practical, hands-on activities such as tree/vegetable planting, seed saving, and composting, to encourage participants to engage with sustainable food systems, e.g. Sazani Associates and Twynyrodyn Community Hub. Some events included promotions for initiatives for tree planting such as Trees4Goals (e.g. Swansea CAN). Similarly, some events included demonstrations of other sustainability-related activities or technologies such as green roofs and rainwater harvesting (e.g. Down to Earth). A few, like Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority and Down to Earth, included outside excursions to observe future or past climate impact on nature or the built environment, respectively.

To allow participants to express their ideas in diverse ways, various events featured creative activities like making collages, drawing, modelling with recycled materials, and using building blocks or plasticine. Some events included a creative activism workshop in which participants made banners and posters as a method to collect messages to the government. Thirteen reports included images of these creative activities, which are incorporated into this report in the relevant sections. Llanover Hall Community Arts had an artist documenting the conversation through graphic recording.

“We believe art gives people the mental space to think and the safety to express their views in a welcoming environment. [...] We had a guest artist who brought natural ink-making to the Arts center workshop and assisted in the gallery workshop” (Organisation: Big Wave; 5)

“Using the model making approaches enabled the groups to consider ideas and solutions, almost becoming ‘inventors.’” (Organisation: PMP Partnership; 31)

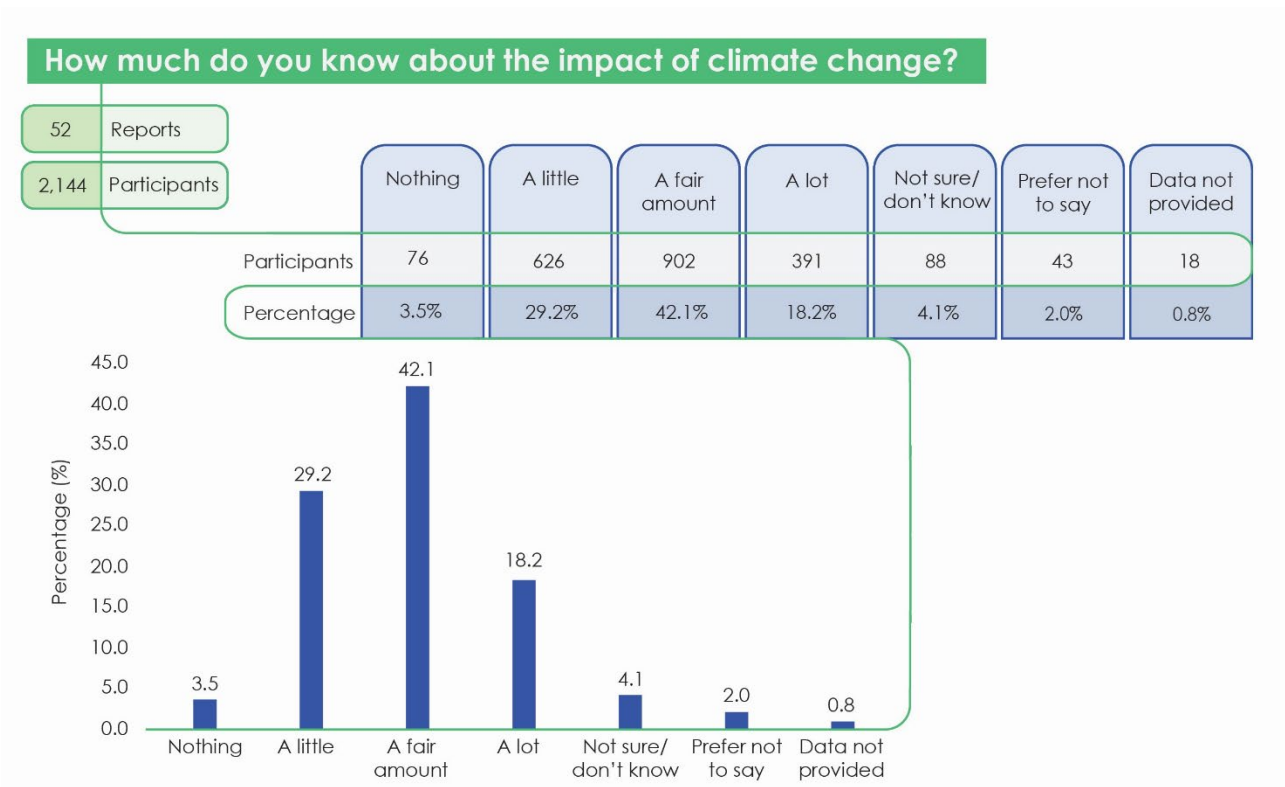
3. Findings

3.1 Levels of knowledge and worry

3.1.1 Knowledge of impacts of climate change

Participants appeared to suggest that they had a reasonable level of knowledge about the impacts of climate change. In the pre-event questionnaire, participants were asked ‘How much do you know about the impact of climate change?’. There were 52 reports with usable data for this question, accounting for 2,144 event participants.

Figure 8: Survey responses for participants’ knowledge of climate change impacts



Description of Figure 8: This figure is a bar chart and table showing the composition of responses to the pre-event survey question ‘how much do you know about the impact of climate change?’. The analysis used data from 52 reports, which included responses from 2,144 event participants. (Source: Eunomia Research & Consulting Ltd.)

42.1% of people said that they knew “a fair amount” about the impacts of climate change, and 18.2% reported knowing “a lot”. 29.2% of the group said they only knew “a little” about the impact, and just 3.5% said that they knew “nothing”. A further 4.1% responded “not sure or don’t know”, and 2.8% said they preferred not to say, or the response was unknown.

Within events, participants appeared to exhibit variation in levels of awareness, or themselves suggested that different groups of people outside the workshops may have different levels of awareness of climate change. Depending on the workshop in question, this could vary according to categories like age group, ethnicity or college course of study and orientation toward activism.

Lack of awareness of issues...was raised by several people from the older generation (65 plus), who either were digitally excluded or were unsure where to find correct information and support. (Organisation: Repair Café Llanelli; 58)

“A lot of people from ethnic groups or vulnerable groups have come from places not facing the same issues that are being faced here. Maybe they've fled you know war they fled for different reasons different countries and climate change wasn't a priority or even a consideration for them.” (Individual: Sustainability Sphere - Ethnic Minorities; 44)

Some workshop organisers reported that whilst there appeared to be a general understanding of the basics of climate change and its impacts, many participants appeared to struggle with the concept of adaptation. Adaptation was often conflated with mitigation, for example. One community organiser explained that despite repeated explanation, they were unable to make headway in getting participants to understand the distinction.

“Despite a number of explanations from multiple facilitators and activities throughout the day...No matter what we tried we were unable to help people understand the distinction.” (Organisation: F.A.N Community Alliance; 17)

A general lack of climate awareness was also seen as a barrier to enable change to take place. According to some participants, many people outside of the events did not link local events like floods or heatwaves to climate change, reducing the urgency to take action. Participants called for better education, local media engagement, and, in some cases, a broader cultural shift away from consumerism:

“We must change our entire “consumer culture” towards a more needs driven society. A capitalist approach is all about making profit but doesn't recognise that we only have one planet.” (Individual: XR Wrexham; 55)

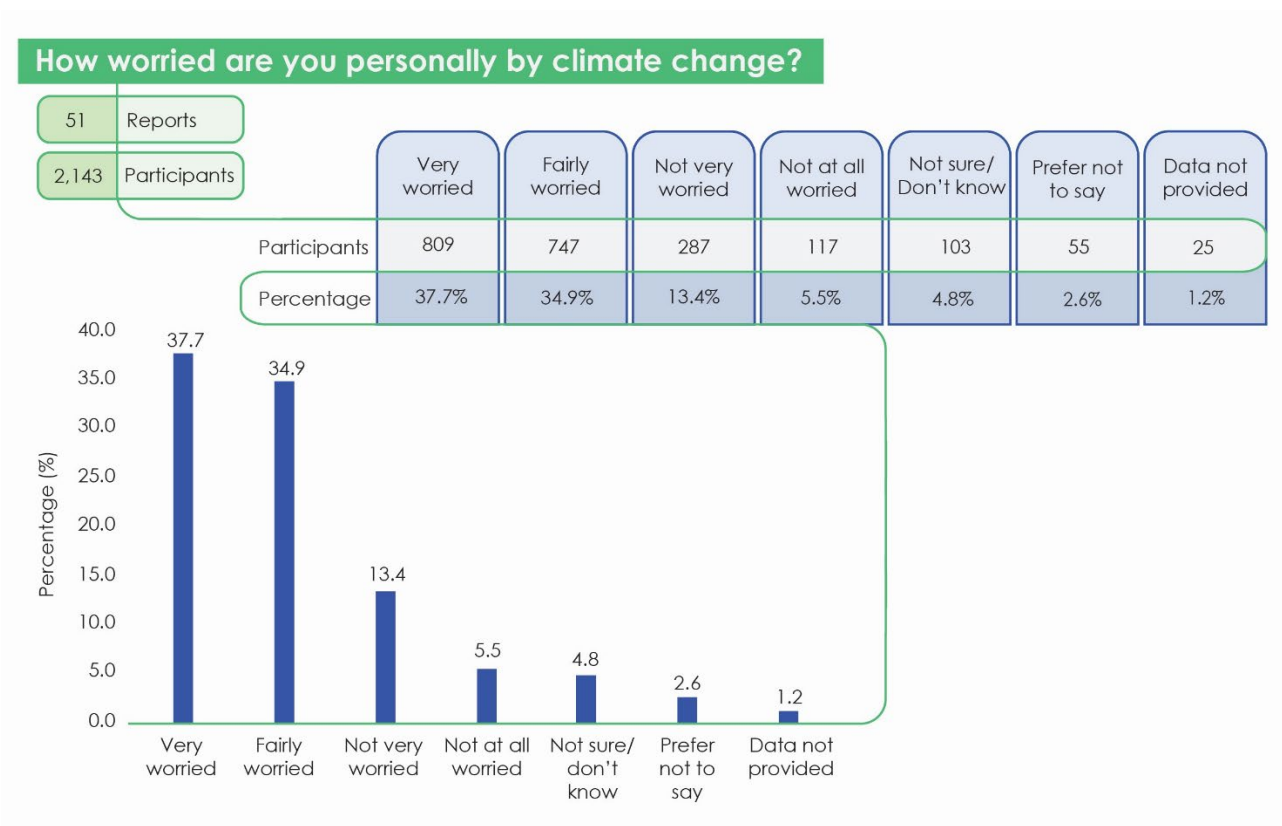
However, some organisers suggested that awareness about climate change grew during the event itself, for example, reporting that whilst concepts may have been new to many involved, the conversations allowed them to understand them.

“Feedback indicated the audience left with a stronger awareness of these critical issues and were inspired to adopt practical changes in their lives and communities.” (Organisation: M-Sparc; 61)

3.1.2 Worry about climate change

The survey data suggested that most participants are worried about climate change. In the pre-event questionnaire, participants were asked ‘How worried are you personally by climate change?’. There were 51 reports with usable data for this question, accounting for 2,143 event participants.

Figure 9: Survey responses for participants’ level of worry about climate change



Description of Figure 9: This figure is a bar chart and table showing the composition of responses to the pre-event survey question ‘how worried are you personally by climate change?’. The analysis used data from 51 reports, which included responses from 2,143 participants. (Source: Eunomia Research & Consulting Ltd.)

37.7% of this group reported being “very worried” about climate change, 34.9% said they were “fairly worried”, whilst just 13.4% and 5.5% reported being “not very worried” and “not at all worried”, respectively. A further 4.8% responded “not sure or don’t know” to this question, and 3.8% said they preferred not to say, or the response was unknown.

Statements made by participants supported the survey data. Some participants presented climate change as globally catastrophic, as exemplified by the following quotes.

“There’s lots of talk about an Armageddon.” (Individual: Omidaze; 29)

“I worry about worldwide system breakdown” (Individual: Big Wave; 5)

“We have already had food shortages, energy outages and people cut off through flooding, why shouldn’t we prepare for this?” (Individual: Powys Action on the Climate Emergency CIC; 32)

There were suggestions that the media, as well as social media, was amplifying anxieties via alarmist messaging.

“The biggest concern was actually relating to anxiety and how seeing and hearing these things on the news or on social media could cause people to worry” (Individual: Bridgend College; 6)

This was sometimes associated with a perception that the mainstream media had ‘an agenda’ and were biased in their reporting. However, the dangers of alternatives to mainstream media (social media channels) also amplifying anxieties through alarmist messaging was also highlighted.

A range of emotions were portrayed in the reports, including hopefulness, stress and anger; these were either expressed by participants or provided as observations by the organisers. A fear of the future was also expressed in workshops.

“I think about climate change all the time, I worry about flooding and food shortages”
(Individual: Big Wave, #)

‘Climate anxiety is a recurring theme, with many young people expressing concerns about the future and their ability to influence change’ (Organisation: Youth Cymru, #)

There was evidence however, of the session itself lessening feelings of worry and anxiety about climate change, primarily due to an increased sense of empowerment and optimism, having engaged in meaningful dialogue and discussed tangible solutions. Participants thoughts on how the workshops resulted in a greater sense of agency and positive outlook toward climate change are explored further in the Communication and discussion in Section 3.7.

Nevertheless, the qualitative data also revealed evidence supporting the minority of participants who, according to the survey, were not particularly concerned about climate change. This perspective was sometimes associated with a rejection of personal responsibility, with participants in different workshops expressing sentiments such as, “Climate change is not my fault,” or, “That’s not for me to worry about.”

3.2 Climate risks and impacts

It is important to note that the organiser pack questionnaire included a request for participants to rate “when will we start feeling the effect of extreme heatwaves / drought and restrictions to the water supply / severe storms and flooding / disruptions to food supply”. This meant that the questions likely led the conversation to focus on these impacts, rather than other impacts such as coastal erosion, or biodiversity loss and species extinction. In addition, the questions focused on disruption to people rather than the broader environment and nature, further influencing the nature of responses.

Qualitative analysis of the conversations reports indicate that individuals are most concerned about particular climate impacts in Wales. Flooding emerged as the impact that was discussed in the conversations, being the most frequently coded individual impact. Associated impacts of an increase in storms and high winds were also a concern.⁵ Droughts and a risk of wildfires were less frequently cited as a major concern by participants but were still a topic of conversation by some and thought of as taking on greater significance in Wales in the future. The impact of climate change on food security was also one of the most

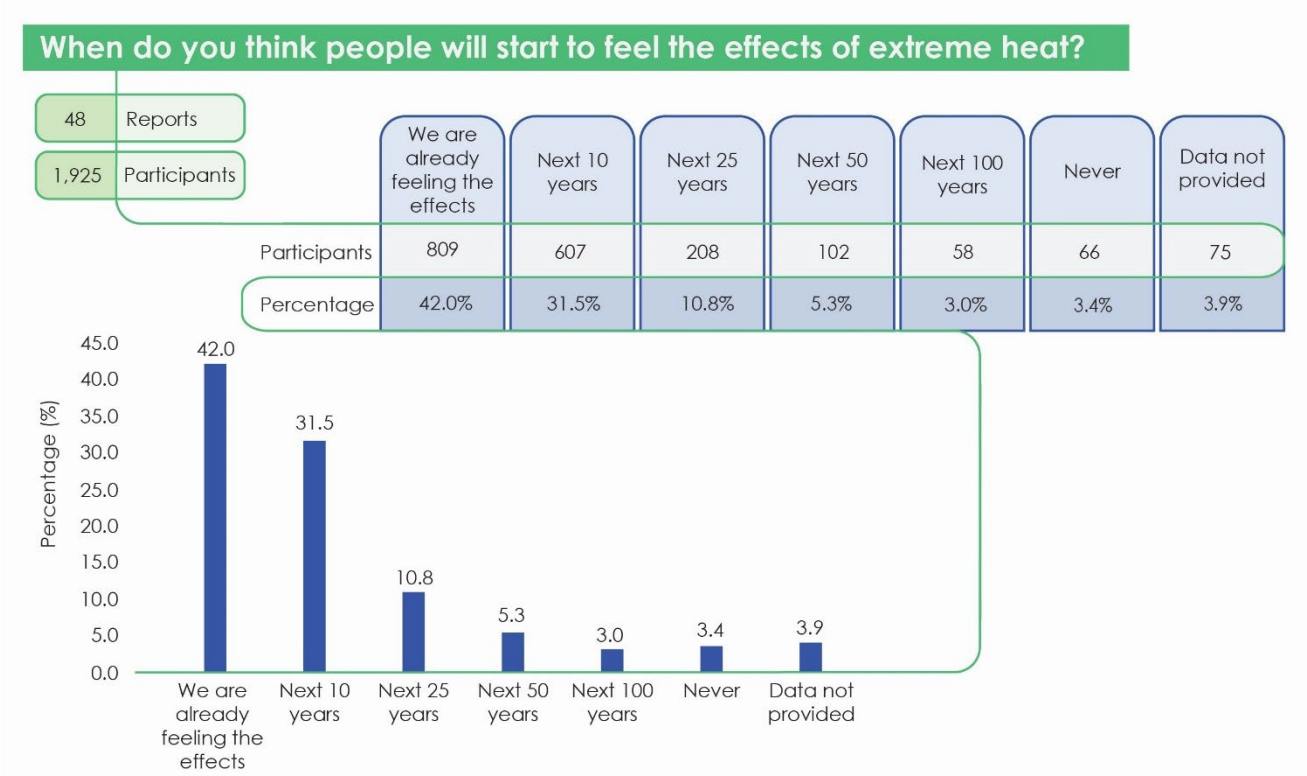
⁵ It may be worth noting that the timings of the workshop coincided with Storm Darragh, which had extensive impacts including floods and loss of power from high winds, potentially influencing the topics of discussion.

discussed themes, as was damage to public infrastructure through increased frequency and intensity of floods and storms.

3.2.1 When will people start to feel the effects of extreme heatwaves?

There were 48 reports with usable data, which accounts for 1,925 participants. 42.0% of this group said that “we are already feeling the effects” of extreme heat, 31.5% said the effects would be felt “in the next 10 years”, and 10.8% responded “in the next 25 years”. Only 5.3% and 3.0% responded that the effects would be felt in the “next 50 years” and “next 100 years”, respectively. 3.4% answered that the effects would “never” be felt. Data was not provided for 3.9% of this group.

Figure 10: Survey responses for when the effects of extreme heat will be felt



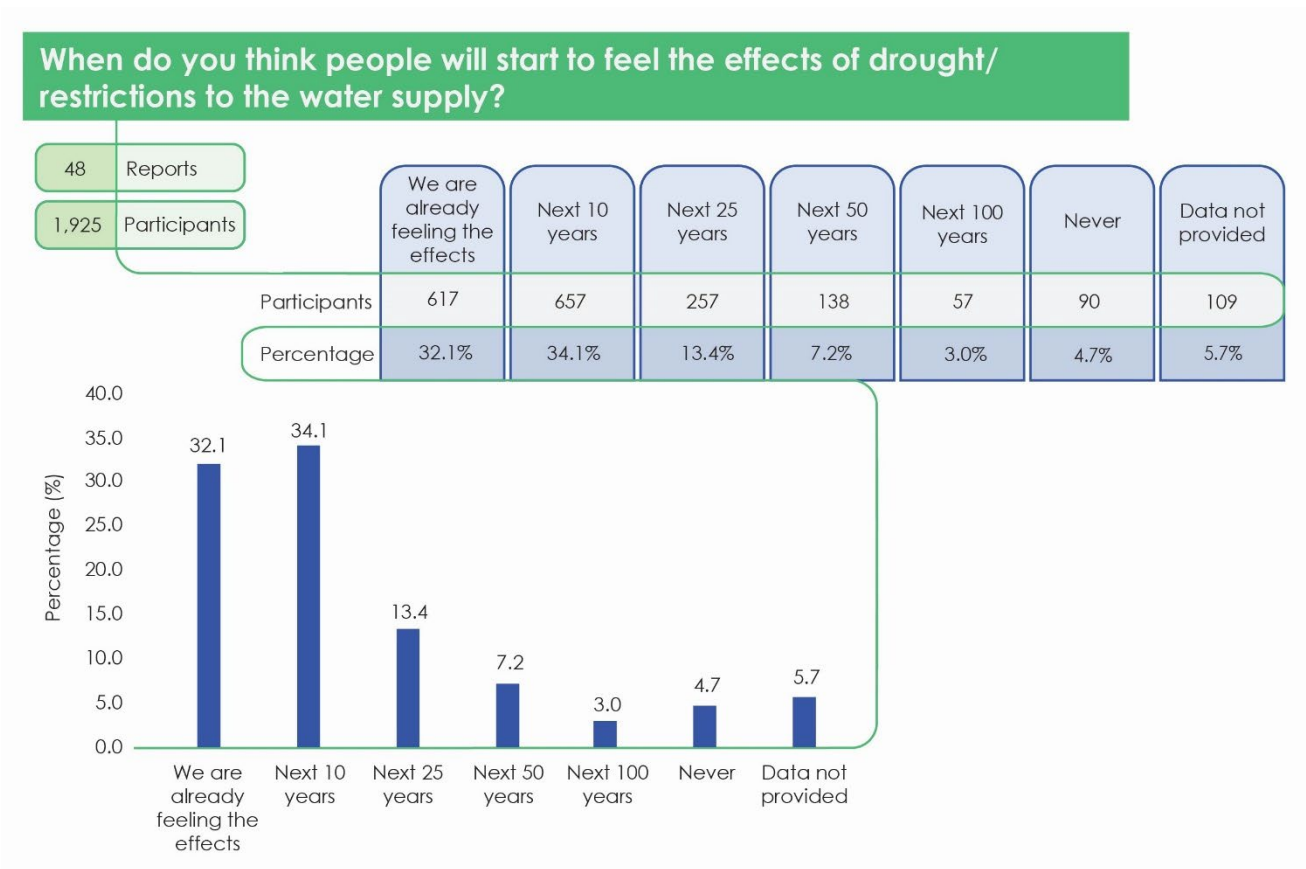
Description of Figure 10: This figure is a bar chart and table showing the composition of responses to the pre-event survey question ‘when will people start to feel the effects of extreme heatwaves?’. The analysis used data from 48 reports, which included responses from 1,925 participants. (Source: Eunomia Research & Consulting Ltd.)

3.2.2 When will people start to feel the effects of droughts?

There were 48 reports with usable data, which accounts for 1,925 participants. 32.1% of this group said that “we are already feeling the effects” of droughts and restrictions to the water supply, 34.1% said the effects would be felt “in the next 10 years”, and 13.4% responded “in the next 25 years”. 7.2% and 3.0% responded that the effects would be felt in the “next 50

years” and “next 100 years”, respectively. 4.7% answered that the effects would “never” be felt, and data was not provided for 5.7% of this group.

Figure 11: Survey responses for when the effects of droughts will be felt

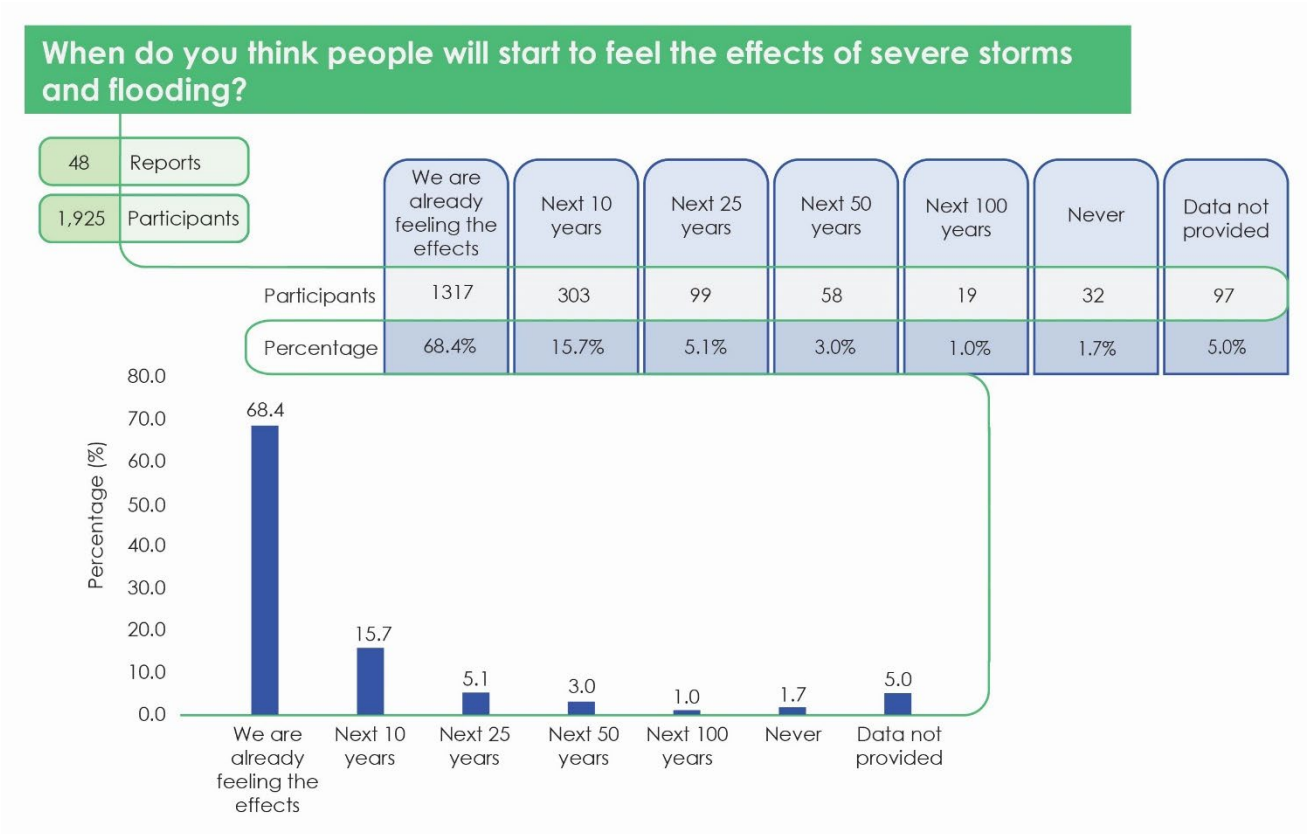


Description of Figure 11: This figure is a bar chart and table showing the composition of responses to the pre-event survey question ‘when will people start to feel the effects of drought and restrictions to the water supply?’.The analysis used data from 48 reports, which included responses from 1,925 participants. (Source: Eunomia Research & Consulting Ltd.)

3.2.3 When will people start to feel the effects of severe storms and flooding?

There were 48 reports with usable data, which accounts for 1,925 participants. 68.4% of this group said that “we are already feeling the effects” of severe storms and flooding, 15.7% said the effects would be felt “in the next 10 years”, and 5.1% responded “in the next 25 years”. 3.0% and 1.0% responded that the effects would be felt in the “next 50 years” and “next 100 years”, respectively. Only 1.7% answered that the effects would “never” be felt.

Figure 12: Survey responses for when the effects of severe storms and flooding will be felt

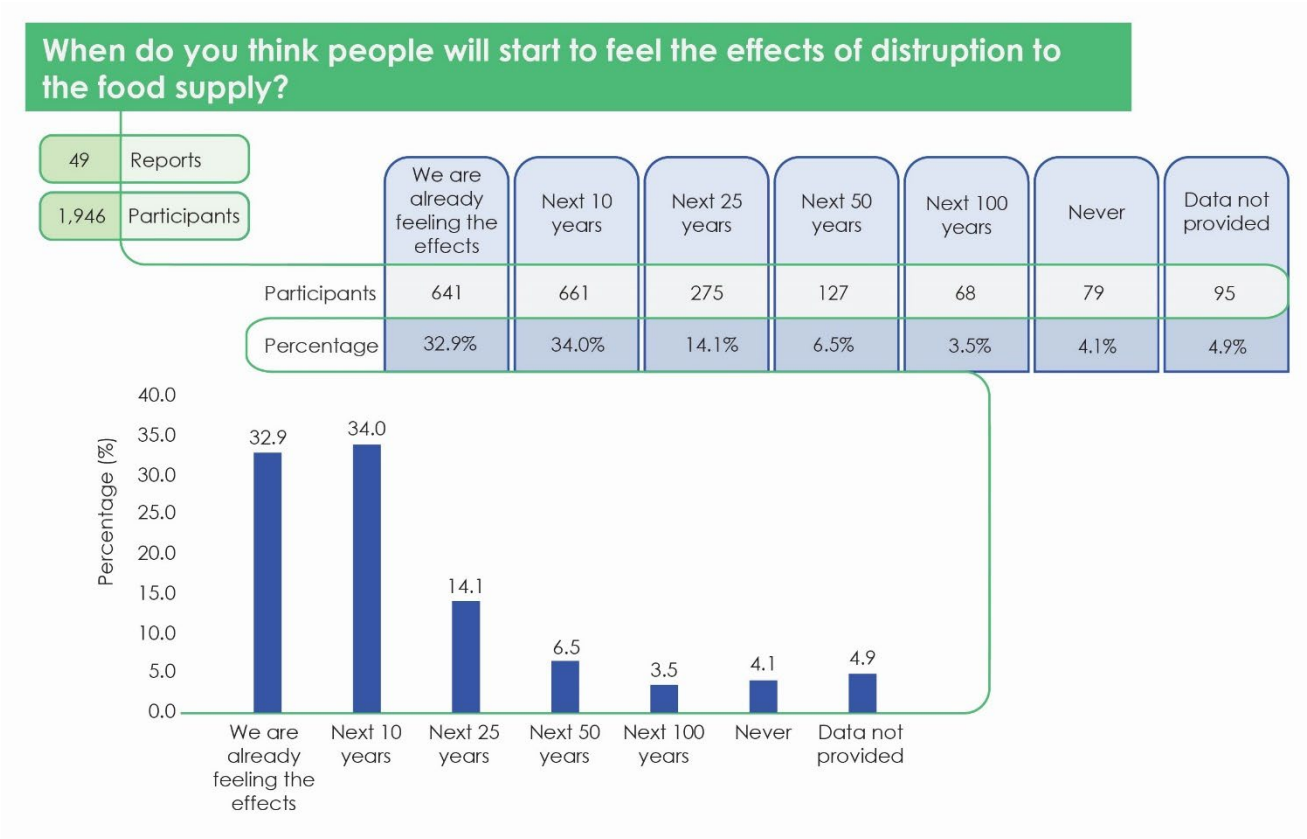


Description of Figure 12: This figure is a bar chart and table showing the composition of responses to the pre-event survey question ‘when will people start to feel the effects of severe storms and flooding?’. The analysis used data from 48 reports, which included responses from 1,925 participants. (Source: Eunomia Research & Consulting Ltd.)

3.2.4 When will people start to feel the effects of disruption to food supply?

There were 49 reports with usable data, which accounts for 1,946 participants. 32.9% of this group said that “we are already feeling the effects” of disruption to the food supply, 34.0% said the effects would be felt “in the next 10 years”, and 14.1% responded “in the next 25 years”. Only 6.5% responded that the effects would be felt in the “next 50 years”, 3.5% in the “next 100 years” and 4.1% answered that the effects would “never” be felt.

Figure 13: Survey responses for when the effects of disruption to food supply will be felt



Description of Figure 13: This figure is a bar chart and table showing the composition of responses to the pre-event survey question ‘when will people start to feel the effects of disruption to food supply?’. The analysis used data from 49 reports, which included responses from 1,946 participants. (Source: Eunomia Research & Consulting Ltd.)

3.2.5 Flooding

Flooding was described as a highly complex issue with a wide range of consequences, including damage to infrastructure, homes, human health and wellbeing, and biodiversity. Flooding was often linked to concerns about insurance and financial implications, though impacts on health and wellbeing were also emphasised (as further explored in Section 3.2.7). There were discussions around how homes are and would be impacted, from mould to other forms of damage, as well as the impact on critical infrastructure like power lines.

“Among the attendees were individuals whose homes had previously suffered substantial flood damage, adding a deeply personal and urgent dimension to the discussions.”
(Organisation: Outside Lives Ltd; 30)

“[In reference to flooding and increased rainfall] Our house is full of disgusting mould...the kids were constantly ill with chest infections” (Individual: Sustainability Sphere - Ethnic Minorities; 44)

Figure 14: Extract from creative element emphasising the negative impacts of climate change and related consequences

Business as usual is not an option.

flooding, power cuts, extreme weather, unsafe water
panic buying, isolation, climate anxiety

generally: unprepared

Description of Figure 14: This image features the statement “business as usual is not an option” prominently. Below this, there is a list of various consequences associated with climate change and a lack of preparedness, including: flooding, power cuts, extreme weather, unsafe water, panic buying, isolation and climate anxiety. The messages conclude with highlighting the lack of preparedness in climate adaptation in the face of environmental challenges. (Individuals and Organisation: Global Gardens Project; 19)

3.2.6 Drought and wildfires

Participants across conversations described drought as a growing concern already affecting their lives. Reports mentioned discussion about water shortages, reduced crop yields, and dry rivers, with impacts on both agriculture and daily living. Drought was linked to longer dry spells and unreliable weather patterns. Some noted that traditional seasonal cues no longer apply, and farmers especially feeling the pressure.

Some participants suggested that extreme events like wildfires could have major economic repercussions and disruption (for example, participants in the Welsh Sports Association workshop discussed this in the context of risk to ticket sales). Wildfires were associated with hotter, drier summers and seen as likely to worsen.

More participants thought that flooding and severe storms were an impact affecting them now than for heatwaves and droughts.⁶ In the survey, 42% of participants identified extreme heatwaves and 32% identified droughts as climate change effects they were already experiencing - both lower than the proportion who reported flooding as an effect they were already experiencing.

Some participants reflected in the workshops how associated risks of droughts, like wildfires, were less of a current risk, reinforcing the survey data.

“Fires are always happening in Australia and America, until it happens here there is no chance that people will understand” (Individual: Omidaze Productions Ltd; 29)

⁶ It is worth noting that the events took place in Winter, which may have influenced event participant discussions.

Figure 15: Dichotomy between positive and negative impacts on the Earth as shown in a creative element



Description of Figure 15: The creative element depicts a visual contrast between two environmental scenarios, communicating the consequences of inaction. The left half of the Earth is shown in a positive light, with adornments symbolising a healthy and flourishing planet with trees, flowers, sunlight and a person interacting with nature. The right half, in contrast, is depicted in muted colours, representing environmental degradation, with imagery of pollution, smog, fire and extreme weather. The Earth is personified with a smiling face on the adapted and healthy side, and a frowning face on the opposite. (Individual: WAN Cymru; 62)

Another participant, from the PMP Partnership workshop, similarly remarked that “*fires and droughts feel very abstract.*” The perception that extreme heat, lack of rainfall and wildfire are less current than flood and wet weather impacts may stem from the fact that the UK is not a hot country by international standards, as well as the fact that these events, while increasing, currently do not cause the same level of visible or financial damage as flooding and storms.

“Fires are always happening in Australia and America, until it happens here there is no chance that people will understand” (Individual: Omidaze Productions Ltd; 29)

3.2.7 Effects of climate change impacts on health and wellbeing

Many events reported discussions about the implications of the impacts on their health and wellbeing, and this emerged as one of the most frequently coded themes. Participants repeatedly mentioned that their physical wellbeing is or would be negatively impacted by climate change through, for example, heatstroke from increased temperatures, respiratory / lung problems (from wildfire smoke, mould), and illness (e.g. from extreme weather). With respect to drought specifically, however, there was little mention of acute water shortages as a major threat to health, suggesting that participants generally do not perceive drought as likely to reach extreme or critical levels. Those with existing health conditions were mentioned as being especially impacted:

“Older people, vulnerable people, those with health issues – [they have a] higher risk of accidental or earlier deaths, isolation, [and are] particularly affected by disruption and accessibility to - already frail - services in our area” (Individual: EcoDewi; 16)

Participants also discussed how food insecurity can impact health and wellbeing through reduced access to nutritious foods, particularly if commodities are priced too high because of domestic shortages.

It was also suggested that climate change could lead to negative mental health and wellbeing outcomes both personally and on a societal level. This was said to occur because of increased stress and worry due to climate's change direct impacts, as well as anxiety over its growing threat.

“[There was] anxiety particularly about ongoing and increasing storm damage in our area and the impact on livelihoods – significant repeated disruption every winter from multiple storms.” (Organisation: Eco Dewi; 16)

“The prevailing worry about climate change may be attributed to increasing public awareness of its tangible effects” (Organisation: Swansea University Bio Hub; 49)

3.2.8 Impacts on food security

The impacts of climate change, through increased frequency and intensity of flooding, extreme weather events, as well as drought, were discussed as having consequential impacts for food security through crop damage and general food supply chain disruptions. Some groups reflected on the food shortages that became apparent during times in Covid-19, as a potential of what could come in the future because of climate change. The survey data showed that 33% of participants thought that climate change was already disrupting the food supply, whilst 34% thought it would over the next ten years.

“The unpredictability of extreme weather disrupts farming, damages crops, and increases the strain on food supply systems, disproportionately impacting lower-income and rural areas.” (Organisation: M-Sparc; 61)

3.2.9 Differential impacts according to demographic group

In the organiser packs, it was suggested that organisers ask participants about whether they think some groups or communities are affected more than others by climate change, and in what ways. Following this request, the discussions often highlighted the differential impact on communities and groups, specifically noting that lower-income groups are disproportionately affected. Reasons included lack of access to solutions and resources (including food and sanitation), and lacking funds to put in place protection measures.

“Some communities are disproportionately affected by climate change. This overwhelming consensus sheds light on the unequal distribution of climate change impacts” (Organisation: Natural Products BioHUB – Swansea University; 49)

“Low-income and homeless individuals are disproportionately affected, facing issues with affordability, health, and sanitation. People with lower incomes often can't afford to stockpile

essentials and... also have fewer resources to repair damage, and when storms occur consecutively, the financial strain can quickly become overwhelming.” (Individual: M-SParc; 61)

Rural and isolated communities were also seen to be disproportionately affected, suffering acutely from food supply disruptions. It was suggested they also suffer increased disruption from storms and floods because of delays in emergency response and a heightened impact of disruption to critical infrastructure like power lines. Another risk discussed was poor mobile signal, which could prevent residents from receiving timely warnings about extreme events, thereby increasing their vulnerability to the events' impacts.

Rural communities were also described as experiencing disruptions to transport and education during climate-related events such as flooding. For example, in the M-Sparc workshop, participants noted that people often needed to make alternative arrangements to reach work or school. They also reported problems with food supply, as supply chains in rural and remote areas are more easily disrupted. With regard to receiving institutional support from climate change impacts generally, some participants voiced concerns about regional inequities, suggesting that rural or coastal areas are deprioritised compared to more urbanised regions. They cited examples such as the perceived slower response to storm damage in Holyhead, compared to what they saw as more politically prominent areas such as Dover.

The specific impacts on children and young people were also frequently discussed – this may in part be a reflection of events with school children. Relevant impacts that appeared to be of particular importance to young people and children included missing out on education, as well as health and wellbeing because of reduced access to sports fields and green spaces. For example, in the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority workshop, cancellation of football and rugby matches over long periods due to poor conditions and lack of inside training facilities was highlighted as a key wellbeing issue for the young audience.

Ethnic minorities were also mentioned to be disproportionately affected, due to language barriers, potential isolation from communities, lack of awareness of where to access information. The conversations considered impacts on other disproportionately impacted groups, too. For example, impacts on differently abled people – whose needs largely excluded from consideration, for example accessibility to support services and isolation from communication. In addition, the homeless population were mentioned as to suffer from increased vulnerability during extreme weather events, and from a lack of support services. Another group mentioned was the elderly, as they disproportionately impacted by climate risks and impacts exacerbating existing health conditions. Moreover, the elderly population are impacted by isolation, and reduced awareness of an extreme event or safety information because of more limited communication channels.

“The elderly or those without phones or access to the internet or social media may be excluded from the latest safety information. (Individual: Global Gardens Project; 19)

3.3 Measures for climate adaptation

The following sections present key themes about measures for climate adaptation which were discussed in the conversations. The key themes presented below in terms of measures adhere to a common perception of climate change as something bringing about very significant and large-scale disruptive change in the future, and as a long-lasting emergency. These are: protecting the home; reducing disruptions to energy and food supply; the use of community space; provision of adaptation infrastructure; emergency planning; and reducing impact on different groups in society.

The analysis distinguished between climate adaptation (involving adjusting to current or expected climate impacts to reduce harm or exploit opportunities) and climate mitigation (involving reducing or preventing greenhouse gas emissions to slow or stop future climate change, when coding responses). Whilst the organiser pack questions focused on climate adaptation, as opposed to climate mitigation, organisers indicated that participants struggled to engage with the concept of climate adaptation, as separated from mitigation or resilience, with some participants discussing mitigation measures in response to an adaptation question. However, despite these challenges, climate adaptation, as this report has defined it, nonetheless emerged as the most prominently discussed theme.

3.3.1 Level of preparedness

This first sub-section under measures for climate adaptation introduces the theme with a discussion about the current level of preparedness to climate change. There was a widespread reporting across the workshops of participants and their communities not being prepared for the impacts of climate change. A lack of preparedness with respect to flooding emerged as a particularly strong theme, despite some participants reporting that their region had extensive experience of it. Many expressed an opinion that they have taken little or no action to prepare for extreme weather events, with some saying that they have “no idea what to do”.

“Though various views were shared, there was a general consensus that individuals, households and communities were realistically not at all prepared for the negative consequences of climate change or knew how to take effective action to protect themselves.” (Organisation: Longwood Community; 40)

There were also discussions about the lack of preparedness amongst public services and institutions. Participants recognised that if an extreme weather event resulting from climate change were to occur, essential services would not be able to cope with the demand caused by negative impacts. The level of preparedness of essential services - the NHS, public transport and social care systems – was identified as a risk for community welfare. In particular, participants noted that essential services are already under pressure with current levels of demand, not in the context of a climate disaster event, with a few participants suggesting “enormous capital investment would be needed before even considering adapting for the future” (Organisation and Individual: Down to Earth; 14). Recent events - such as Storm Daragh, or heatwaves - had also shown the degree to which the general public rely on such services to support them in response and recovery phases and the

unpreparedness that people exhibited when these services were disrupted. This was a focus of discussion in the M-Sparc workshop, for example.

Despite this, specific factors emerged as indicators of higher levels of preparedness. For one, communities that were more rural and isolated were suggested to be more self-sufficient and resilient – perhaps due to necessity of distance from essential services - in the face of climate related impacts and disasters. Notably, this finding is interesting within the context of the finding discussed previously that rural communities faced greater risks from climate change. The quotes below from three such communities in different workshops summarise perceptions of higher resilience amongst rural communities.

“Again it was felt that as a local community they were reasonably well adapted due to living in remote and isolated areas.” (Organisation: Cellan and Llanfair Clydogau; 39)

“Living on a farm, I feel more prepared than if I lived in a city. We are lucky to have generators, though of course that is a short term solution” (Individual: Mind on Music; 26)

“There was feeling that some rural members of the audience felt that they had to be more prepared for the impacts” (Organisation: Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority; 4)

Some reports described specific measures that were suggestive of a higher degree of preparedness for climate impacts, like floods. These suggest a higher level of preparedness for emergencies in these communities, relaying examples of stockpiling resources, having emergency bags prepared, and having sandbag depots.

“Some have taken proactive measures, such as installing flood defences or creating emergency kits and creating sandbag depots” (Organisation: Wrexham County Borough Council; 59)

3.3.2 Protecting the home

In terms of action taken to protect the home from the impacts of climate change, discussion centred around limiting the effects of flooding. The deployment of sandbags as a protective measure was discussed, with some advocating for better distribution through community schemes, while others questioned their effectiveness. There was a strong sentiment that such measures were often too little, too late, especially in flood-prone areas. The quotes below illustrate this:

“Pontypridd is always hit and is always late to prevent it. Where are the sandbags given to people’s houses?” (Individual: Omidaze Productions Ltd; 29)

“Yeh. Sandbags don’t work. If that water’s coming in, it’s coming in.” (Individual: Coop and HZ Consulting; 12)

Home adaptations that increase resilience once water has entered the home, such as raising electrical sockets were mentioned more often than Property Flood Resilience (PFR) measures for keeping the water out.⁷ There were some criticism of governmental building

⁷ As defined in the Environment Agency’s Property Flood Resilience overview ([Link](#)) Property Flood Resilience (PFR) is a framework of building-level interventions aimed at managing flood risk by reducing the entry of water into

policies in relation to continuing to build on floodplains and weak building standards for social housing, was also expressed (for example in the F.A.N Community Alliance, PMP Partnership and TEEMA workshops). Participants called for more support in the form of grants to help implement protective home measures and emphasised the need for household emergency kits and evacuation plans. It was suggested that more financial support could be made available to support flood resilience measures, although government sponsored schemes that are or have been made available to some individuals, such as the PFR Grant Scheme, or the Build Back Better initiative launched by Flood Re, were not mentioned. One participant explained the perceived need for funding thus:

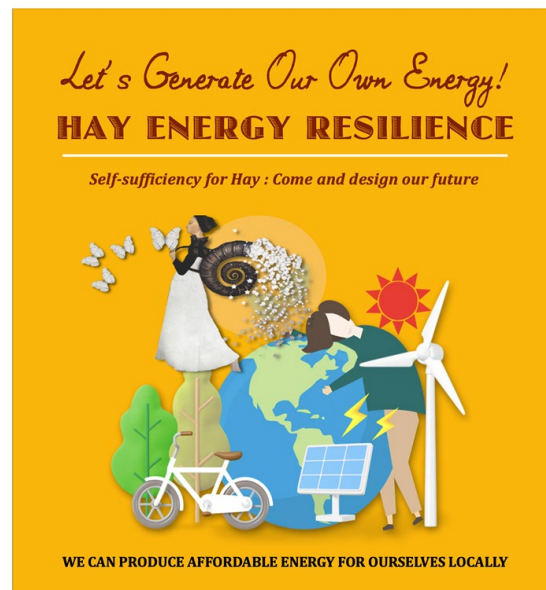
“Little grants or something to improve your house, so if you're in a flood area, maybe they can put these little things in place for them” (Individual: TEEMA; 50)

3.3.3 Improving self-sufficiency and resilience to energy and food disruption

Disruption to energy supply and the national grid was described as a potential impact of the effects of climate change. Therefore, local energy production, particularly through solar panels on private properties and housing, was discussed not just as a mitigation strategy, but also as an adaptation tool in emergency scenarios. Participants supported grants, mandatory installations for new builds, and community energy initiatives (such as Zero Carbon Llanidloes Futures, a community owned solar scheme that supplies locally). The below quote exemplifies such an opinion.

*“Support to create localised energy would be good. So not big solar farms where the electric goes elsewhere, but support for every farm building/ vehicle to be powered by solar”
(Individual: Mind on Music CIC; 26)*

Figure 16: Community initiative advocating for local energy generation



Description of Figure 16: Shows a Hay Energy Resilience Initiative poster promoting a system for localised community energy to address climate change and resilience with the slogan “Let’s Generate Our Own Energy!”. It highlights renewable energy solutions such as wind turbines and solar panels, symbolising community energy production. It draws attention to the initiative’s goals of affordability, community empowerment and sustainability. It emphasises fostering community resilience through renewable energy production, lifestyle choices and connection to nature. (Organisation: Hay Community Resilience Initiative; 21)

Barriers for installation of solar power were also noted in conversations, such as housing type, renting, and home ownership disparities. With some conversations amongst ethnic minority groups, it was suggested that these challenges could be especially prevalent, with such groups with lower home ownership rates having a reduced ability to make such modifications. There were also suggestions to reintroduce traditional backup systems, such as burning firewood, to improve self-sufficiency during power outages, even if these hinder climate mitigation, as discussed in the GWRP Resilience workshop.

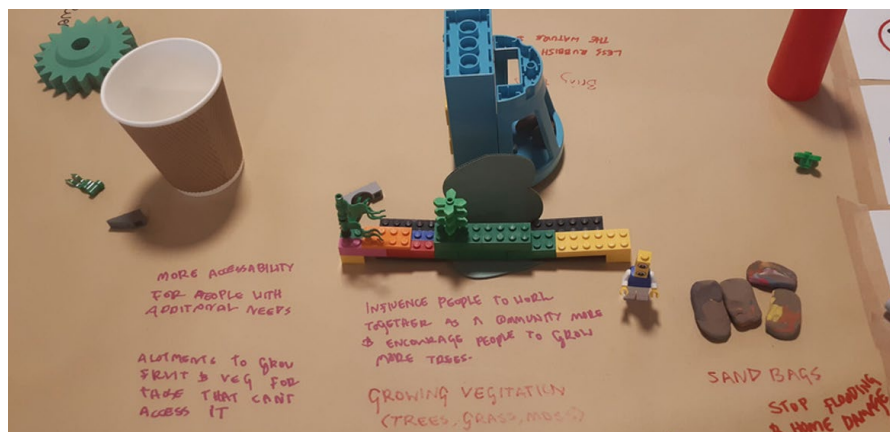
Attendees also discussed how climate change disrupts the food supply and affects farmers, and they suggested possible ways to adapt to these challenges. Efforts to decentralise food systems and encourage community or individual food production were emphasised particularly for rural communities. Some suggestions included training and education around growing skills, as well as providing more spaces and grants for allotments and community gardens, for example. The quotes below illustrate such views.

“Encourage people to grow their own... provide free compost, provide spaces for more allotments.” (Individual: National Botanic Garden of Wales; 27)

“More community gardening are spaces needed – both for teaching and food supply.” (Individual: F.A.N Community Alliance; 17)

“Opportunities included...establishing community green spaces or fruit gardens...practical ideas such as climate change recipe books were also discussed” (Organisation: M-Sparc; 61)

Figure 17: Creative activity using blocks, rocks, figurines and coloured pencils to depict resilience and self-sufficiency



Description of Figure 17: This creative element captures a tabletop creative activity using “loose parts in the form of LEGO, DUPLO, blocks and plasticine to help answer the questions from the resource pack”. Figurines shown are growing vegetation (trees, grass, moss) and setting up sandbags in response to flooding. Accompanying handwritten notes highlight themes such as accessibility for individuals with additional needs, establishing allotments, and community collaboration. (Organisation and Individuals: PMP Partnership; 31)

Participants also stressed the need to protect farmers’ income and reform agricultural practices to support sustainable food systems, whilst also suggesting easier means to buy direct from farmers. There were also suggestions amongst farmers and rural communities for improved financial support for farmers via grants, alongside suggestions that farmers were already facing very high challenges to make ends meet and one individual in the Eco-Dewi workshop describing them as being “on the edge of survival”. In the Coleg Sir Gâr there appeared to be a strong hesitancy for farmers being required to “pay for it themselves”.

The themes of localised energy production and food supply resonated strongly with some participants, particularly those in rural communities, evoking ideas of self-sufficiency and ‘homesteading’. This suggests that some envision a future shaped by a climate scenario that has severely disrupted modern models of service provision and institutional support, highlighting a perceived need to rely more on personal or community resources. However, it is unclear from the reporting what timeframes these participants thought such a need might occur.

3.3.4 Community spaces and community groups

Participants highlighted the importance of creating designated community spaces to support people during climate-related events such as floods, heatwaves, and power outages. It was

suggested these emergency-ready hubs should be well-publicised, accessible, and equipped with essentials like food, water, warmth, and power. Warm hubs for winter and cool spaces for summer were seen as especially vital for vulnerable groups. One participant described the need as:

“[There should be] designated places of safety in the event of a climate event, with where to go being widely publicised and accessible. These would have generators, food, water and warmth. A ‘climate bomb shelter’” (Individual: Global Gardens Project; 19)

Beyond emergencies, participants also emphasised the broader value of community hubs in strengthening social ties, fostering inclusion, and indirectly supporting climate resilience by building local networks and a stronger sense of community.

Figure 18: Creative element depicting importance of community spaces

prepare
community hubs
places of safety
generators, food, clothing, water and warmth
a ‘climate bomb shelter’

Description of Figure 18: The image presents an extract from a larger creative element. It presents several elements to prepare for adaptation. It emphasises the need for community hubs that serve as places of safety, equipped with resources like generators, food, clothing, water and warmth. The concept reflects a proactive approach to safeguarding community and ensuring support. (Global Gardens Project; 19).

3.3.5 Provision of public adaptation infrastructure for communities

In addition to actions taken to protect the home, participants also suggested what they thought government should be doing in terms of improving infrastructure that protects entire communities to the impacts of climate change. Specifically, participants discussed a need for more and improved community level flood defence assets, reflecting a concern that much is outdated or insufficient to handle the increased flood risks of the future. Beyond flooding, participants also suggested that the national grid is “out of date” or “antiquated” (as expressed in the Sustainable Wales & Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations) and needs redeveloping with improvements in resilience to deal with the risks of climate change. In terms of green infrastructure, participants also discussed the need for more tree planting, delivered at scale, with some additionally advocating for community stewardship to as part of forestry management.

“Restoring community stewardship of forest management to improve water retention. Also, the planting of more trees.” (Organisation: Geospatial Environmental Solutions; 48)

3.3.6 Improving emergency planning and preparedness

Participants raised strong concerns about the adequacy of current climate resilience and adaptation planning, particularly in relation to flood response and wider emergency preparedness. Society was said to be underprepared for the growing impacts of climate change, with a lack of knowledge of what to do in the event of a flood event, for example.

“We have had floods in our street over the years. Many barriers have been out in place. We are not very prepared at home for these events.” (Individual: Resource Denbighshire; 34)

“I have no idea what to do!” (Individual: Big Wave; 5)

Suggestions for improvement included creating identifying safe areas, and developing comprehensive emergency response plans covering food, fuel, communication alternatives, as well as support for vulnerable individuals.

There was support for localised, community-led approaches, such as neighbourhood-based resilience systems and local steering groups made up of residents, key services, and stakeholders. These groups would share knowledge, coordinate resources, and respond to local needs more effectively. Participants also suggested just communication and WhatsApp groups could form means of sharing information and supporting each other. Some reflected on the examples of local groups set up during the Covid-19 lockdowns.

“Each area needs its own team, hub, knowledge network and coordinator. To know who can offer what, and where the needs are including vulnerable people” (Individual: Grwp Resilience; 20)

3.3.7 Taking an inclusive approach

The discussion in workshops highlighted the differing impacts on various population segments, along with a range of suggestions for improvement. In workshops including at Hay Community Library, Youth Cymru, Wrexham Country Borough Council, and Razbio, there were suggestions for improvements in participatory decision-making via greater inclusion of marginalised individuals, including those with disabilities, lower income households as well as ethnic minorities who may struggle with language barriers, for example.

There were also suggestions for community-owned energy projects to deliver tangible local benefits and jobs, as well as calls for improved community outreach to reduce isolation and normalise support. Amongst some, there was also demand for more local support workers and tailored engagement with minority communities. Within this context, a need for appropriate communication, culturally sensitive outreach, and climate resilience plans that recognise and address the specific needs of different groups with equitable access were discussed. The below quotes illustrate this:

“Councils tend to provide “one size fits all” services and advice, which isn’t always helpful or appropriate. People with disabilities will require different solutions according to their needs.” (Individual: XR Wrexham; 55)

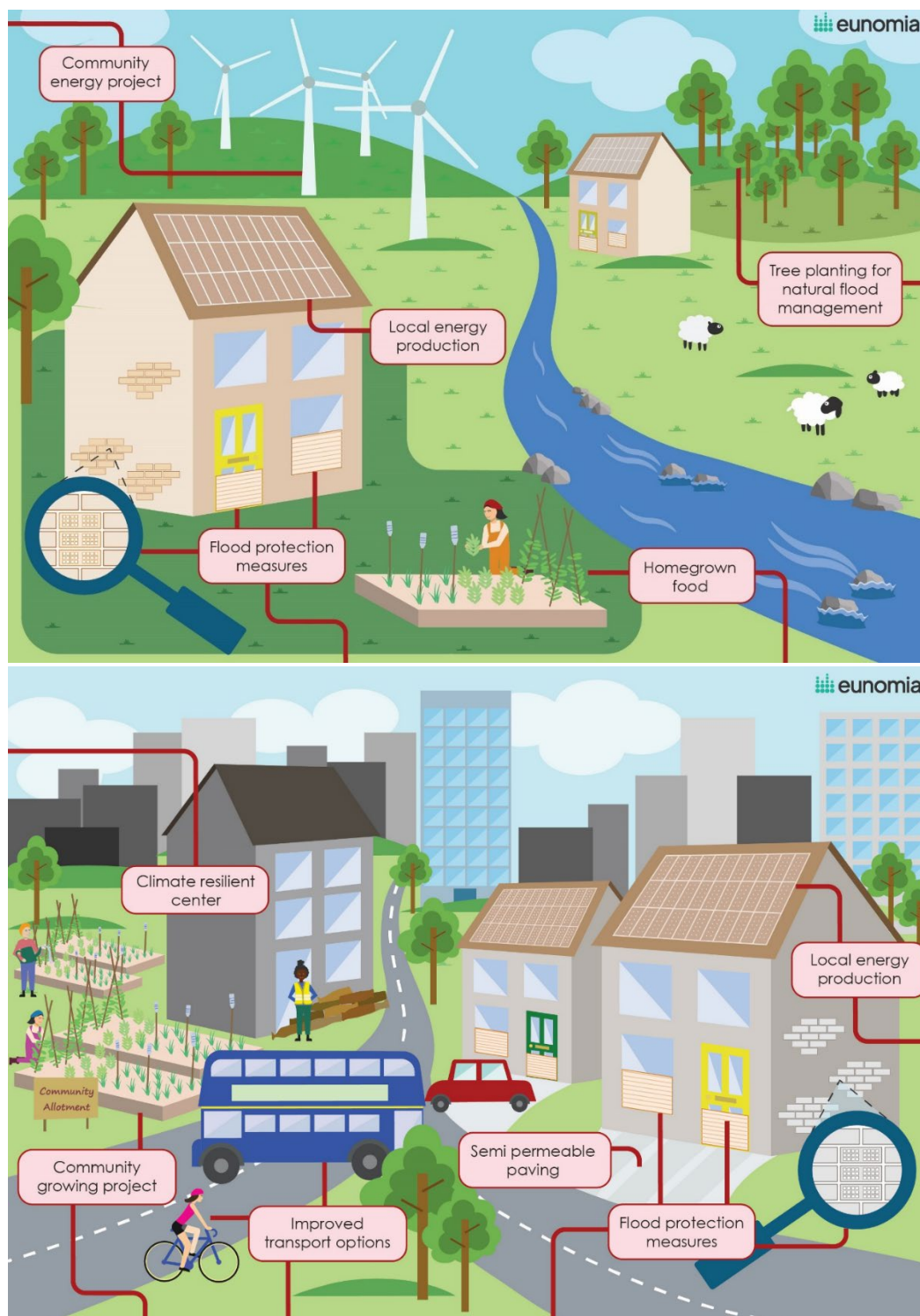
“[We should be] Changing our society to adapt to what people need, making sure everyone has equitable access to support and services if they need them” (Individual: Omidaze Productions Ltd; 29)

3.3.8 Measures for climate adaptation – summary conclusion

In conclusion, climate change was seen as a long-lasting emergency demanding practical adaptation now. Participants reported low household and institutional preparedness, with flooding a dominant risk, though some rural communities felt relatively self-reliant. There was a strong focus on improving resilience and reducing reliance on external services. Proposed measures centred on: making homes flood-resilient; decentralising energy and food through local solar, gardens and allotments; creating well-equipped community hubs; upgrading public infrastructure—flood defences, a more resilient grid, and large-scale tree planting; and strengthening emergency planning via neighbourhood teams and clear communications. Barriers for renters, low-income groups and minorities, and pressure on essential services, underscored calls for grants and inclusive, tailored support. Despite confusion with mitigation, adaptation emerged as the most urgent, community-anchored priority requiring support.

The following page includes illustrations that depict these conclusions in an illustrative format, showcasing locally-driven strategies for climate adaptation. Each image highlights key adaptation interventions such as renewable energy generation, flood protection, sustainable food production and community infrastructure which, together, foster community climate resilience.

Figure 19: A vision of an adapted and resilient community



Description of Figure 19: The two infographics depict a vision for a community that has adapted to climate change, both in a rural and an urban community perspectives. In the rural setting, the key features include community energy generation through wind turbines and solar panels, tree planting to support flood management, property flood resilience measures, and a homegrown food initiative. The urban setting depicts a climate resilient centre, serving as a hub for community engagement, solar panels for local energy production, semi-permeable paving and other property flood resilience measures, and a community growing project. (Source: Eunomia Research & Consulting Ltd.)

3.4 Climate mitigation strategies

Whilst climate mitigation strategies and action were not the focus of the events, as already discussed, many participants in practice did not distinguish it from adaptation and, therefore, suggested actions which might fit more clearly under climate mitigation.

One major topic of discussion was improved transport options and choices, with participants advocating for the use public transport, car sharing, cycling, or walking instead of driving. In relation to public transport, participants called for local and national government action to help develop low carbon public transport and make it more accessible for different groups, with financial accessibility for young people having been discussed in particular. There were also calls for a more general shift toward vehicle electrification.

“Transport options are limited for us, making it difficult to be sustainable [...] Improve public transport, making it more affordable and accessible for young people to encourage greener commuting” (Individual: Youth Cymru; 56)

“Sustainable transport provision needs to be improved – timings, routes, and accessibility.” (Individual: Cardiff Metropolitan University; 7)

Participants also suggested measures to help reduce overall energy consumption. In the KIDCARE4U, Menter Mon, and Hay Community Library events, for example, participants discussed the importance of improved home insulation and window glazing to reduce heat loss in winter.

Reducing plastic pollution was another key topic of discussion, as was an overall reduction in plastic usage. This appeared to be particularly prominent amongst school children and young people.

“Plastic in the oceans hurts the fish and it goes in our food. I don’t like eating fish now. I don’t want to eat plastic, ergh!” (Individual: Sustainability Sphere (Kids Climate); 45)

“Simply reducing the amount of plastic you use or being more mindful about water usage can make a difference. It’s small everyday changes that can add up to make an impact.” (Individual Bridgend College; 6)

Conversations also strongly emphasised the importance of improving recycling habits. Recycling education was discussed in some conversations, with individuals sharing stories of confusion on county rules or difficulties in sourcing recycling bags, whilst other participants called for better recycling infrastructure.

“Some were interested about the smaller impacts they could do around their homes, and some are already very good and clued up about recycling daily around the home.” (Organisation: PMP Partnership; 31)

“Some of the new recycling rules in Cardiff can be off putting and creates a lot of work, it is more labour intensive. It needs to be simplified as it can be off putting for people.” (Individual: WAN Cymru; 62)

Figure 20: Heart-shaped ornaments with calls to action



Description of Figure 20: Image shows two heart-shaped ornaments made in a ‘craftivism’ workshop, demonstrating the themes of circularity. The first heart displays a message to reuse and recycle, written in blue pen and surrounded by decorative accents. The second heart includes a call to action to save the Earth. The visual conveys a strong message of environmental stewardship and the importance of mitigation actions through creative design. (Individual: WAN Cymru; 62).

Figure 21: Drawing of a recycling superhero



Description of Figure 21: Shows a drawing from a participant, who took part in a creative activity which involved drawing a superhero tackling issues of concern. This drawing is of a recycling superhero – one of many – emphasising the importance of recycling and/or litter picking. The superhero (named Bob) is shown recycling bottles and straws, and the accompanying description underneath saying that the superhero recycles rubbish very quickly. (Individual: Rotary Club Llanelli; 35).

Planting trees and actions to prevent deforestation were discussed by participants, presenting another overlap between adaptation and mitigation action. Tree planting was also discussed in relation to wider environmental degradation and biodiversity loss. These were a core issue for youth groups, who showed concern for animals and their welfare as impacted by deforestation .

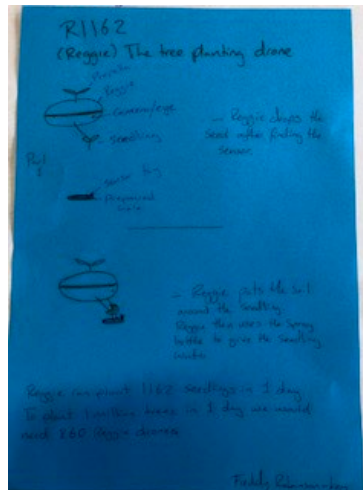
““They're cutting down the trees because they were making money for themselves, and they don't think about the animals and stuff.” This shows concern over wildlife and is particularly

poignant in the context of the current increasing rate of extinction.” (Individual and Organisation: Sustainability Sphere – Kids Climate; 45)

Community-led planting and forest initiatives were also suggested to empower communities. Suggestions included managing local forests through community ownership and organising volunteer tree planting initiatives.

*“We need to plant more trees, we could do this with money as a community project”
(Individual: Big Wave; 5)*

Figure 22: Drawing of a tree planting superhero



Description of Figure 22: The image presents a design for a tree planting drone named Reggie, illustrated with handwritten notes and diagrams. The drone is equipped with a propellor, a camera/eyes, sensor bar and a compartment for seedlings. The drawing explains that Reggie’s process involves identifying a hole to drop a seed in, which it waters. A note below emphasises Reggie’s planting capacity. The drawing reflects innovative thinking around reforestation, demonstrating the children’s understanding of nature restoration, and the intersectional relationship between technology and climate adaptation. (Individual: Rotary Club Llanelli; 35).

3.5 Barriers to climate action

While participants discussed various potential actions to support climate adaptation and mitigation, they also highlighted several barriers currently limiting their ability to act. These are grouped into key themes: being part of an ethnic minority group, financial barriers (particularly relevant for low-income households), resistance to change, and issues related to planning regulations and legal barriers. It is important to note that whilst some barriers are linked to specific demographics, this section focuses on adaptation challenges rather than the increased risk of climate impacts for such demographics, as already discussed in Section 3.2.

3.5.1 Barriers faced by ethnic minorities

Ethnic minority communities reported facing specific barriers to climate adaptation, such as lower home ownership, which limits their ability to make energy-efficient improvements. Reduced community integration also highlighted the need for more inclusive engagement by local authorities. Other obstacles included perceived discrimination in the job market, limited awareness of adaptation benefits, and religious beliefs that may restrict access to conventional support like insurance. With regard to the latter, one participant explained:

“Some people from the Muslim community ‘don’t take insurance because they think it’s against their religion’... maybe there might be an alternative... if they pay out to the mosque or something, and then if something happens, they then get compensated.” (Individual: TEEMA: 50)

3.5.2 Financial

High upfront costs for green technologies, such as solar panels, electric vehicles, and heat pumps, were seen as major obstacles, especially for low-income households and small businesses. There were also suggestions that the financial burden of climate action could lead to opposition to climate policies:

“Green practices are often expensive, alienating economically disadvantaged members of the community. Economic challenges can lead to opposition to the green agenda.” (Individual: Cow Face Coaching Ltd; 13)

A lack of government funding and overstretched local authority budgets was another recurring concern. Participants called for more infrastructure investment, private sector incentives, and improved access to green finance. Many expressed a viewpoint that government had a duty to make renewable technologies more affordable, as presented in Section 3.4. To address these issues, some supported community wealth-building models like energy cooperatives, aiming for wider, fairer participation:

“[We should be] establishing community ownership models that allow for broad participation regardless of financial means.” (Organisation: Hay Public Library; 21)

3.5.3 Mistrust in climate policy and leadership

Participants noted that resistance to change existed both within institutions and amongst the public. Some participants themselves openly suggested they were mistrustful of policies aimed at adapting to or mitigating against climate change. Some questioned the appropriateness of current energy policy. In the Coleg Cambria workshop, for example, it was suggested that an increase in power cuts could result from Net Zero policies, with the suggestion that switching to renewable sources of energy was a less reliable form of energy provision. Others took issue with the narrative around climate change in terms of how much

of a negative impact it will have on the environment and society, suggesting that rhetoric was often exaggerated, or they took issue with the extent to which human action is causing climate change. In some workshops, for example, young people in particular expressed cynicism and distrust in government messaging, which was sometimes seen as biased. Reports suggested that amongst some participants, climate change had become part of ‘culture wars’ (highly polarised public debates over a range of issues — often framed as clashes between “traditional” and “progressive” views) creating division rather than unity.

“Overall, young people displayed cynicism, distrust and hopelessness about climate change messaging coming from government and the media. Climate change has become part of ‘the culture wars’.” (Organisation: Coleg Sir Gâr; 11)

In some workshops, concern was less about climate change and more about the perceived negative impacts of climate-related policy. In Cellan and Llanfair Clydogau, for example, participants discussed concerns over upland wind farms affecting visual amenity and biodiversity.

Nonetheless, participants also expressed frustration with current political leadership, citing short-term thinking, lack of transparency, and ineffective decision-making. Some also called for stronger, more consistent leadership to deal honestly with the long-term nature of the climate crisis.

3.5.4 Planning regulations and legal barriers

Planning laws were widely seen as hindering local adaptation efforts, including restrictions on home modifications like solar panels. Participants called for more flexible planning approaches and reduced bureaucracy to enable faster climate action, particularly within the realms of applications for solar energy installation but also community growing projects.

Legal changes also raised concern for business owners, especially those worried about potential costs linked to policy shifts—such as restaurants one day needing to switch from LPG to electric cooking systems.

3.6 Opportunities from climate change

Whilst climate change clearly represents a substantial risk to society in Wales, event organisers were encouraged to include in the event a discussion on the opportunities that might arise from climate change or climate action. Across the events, facilitators noted that, on many occasions, participants had to be encouraged to discuss opportunities that might arise from climate change. Additionally, facilitators noted that participants generally struggled to engage with this aspect of the conversation. Participants tended to view the negatives of climate change in Wales as outweighing any benefits or opportunities that could arise. Moreover, some participants also raised suggestions that climate change would only be a benefit for already affluent groups and those who were already financially well off. There were perceptions that some businesses may exploit the situation for profit, driving up prices for essential goods and services such as energy, construction, and pharmaceuticals. The following quote sums up these complex feelings:

“The wealthy who profit from it cause climate change by filling their pockets with more money at the expense of the world and more people.” (Individual: Menter Mon; 24)

“[I] believe that any short-term gains for certain groups are likely to be outweighed by the long-term consequences of climate change for everyone” (Individual: Coleg Cambria; 10)

Nonetheless, the following subsections highlight the key themes related to this topic that were discussed by participants.

3.6.5 Tourism and food production

For those involved in the Welsh tourism industry, it was suggested that climate change could mean greater visitor numbers because of higher temperatures, thus benefiting the local economy. It was suggested that this could come about because of increased international visitor interest as well as higher numbers of staycations. Whilst increased tourism could be seen as a benefit, participants also noted the negative impacts it could be associated with, for example driving up house prices or excessive footfall and community disruption.

“Increased tourism = revenue stream increases, strengthening local economy, local produce opportunities and increased quality employment” (Individual: EcoDewi; 16)

Another participant suggested the potential benefit of hotter weather, brought up in the CETMA event, for longer growing seasons and the opportunity to grow different species of crop with earlier springs and longer summers. Conversely, whilst food growing projects may be a necessary adaptation to potential disruptions in food supply, adaptation through local initiatives like food growing projects – such as those in COVID-19 lockdown – could enhance community cohesion, skills, preparedness, and promote consumption of seasonal and more ‘healthy’ food.

“In some area farmers could benefit from an earlier spring and longer warm seasons.” (Organisation: CETMA; 8)

3.6.6 Energy and innovation

The fact that community level energy projects were typically innovative in nature was also cited as a benefit, tying into a wider theme discussed amongst some level innovations (systemic, practical, or technological) that have been developed as a response to climate change.

“The concept of “necessity being the mother of invention” has driven creative and resourceful responses to climate challenges in many communities.” (Individual: Cow Face Coaching; 13)

Some also suggested that there could be an increase in economic activity in some sectors with associated increases in job opportunities. It was also suggested that community ownership models and local supply chains, could result in a more equitable distribution of resources and wealth.

“The transition to renewable energy sources, such as wind, solar, and tidal energy, which creates new jobs and boost local economies” (Individual: Welsh Sports Association; 54)

“The Orkney Islands project was cited as an example where community benefits were clearly demonstrated and equitably distributed.” (Organisation: Hay Public Library; 21)

“Rebuilding of community [from the] decentralisation of energy and water supply, more local food production, and employment available in communities (not centralised in larger cities)” (Individual: Down to Earth; 14).

3.6.7 Community cohesion

Conversations suggested that, whilst climate change brings significant challenges, it may also foster greater community cohesion. Participants spoke of how shared experiences of hardship, such as during extreme weather events, can incite stronger local bonds, particularly when people turn to each other for support and develop community-led strategies and initiatives.

“Climate change has fostered a coming together of communities, creating stronger bonds in the face of shared challenges.” (Individual: Cow Face Coaching; 13).

As previously outlined, participants suggested that community projects such as for food growing, may become necessary adaptations in response to negative impacts, like disruptions across supply chains. Organisers observed that participants view community cohesion as a positive byproduct of adapting to climate change. This theme also emerged in discussions around mitigation strategies, such as localised energy production. The below quotes from different events exemplify these sentiments.

“[It could involve] a rebuilding of community...With decentralisation of energy and water supply, more local food production, and employment available in communities and not centralised in larger cities” (Individual: Down to Earth; 14)

3.7 Communication and agency

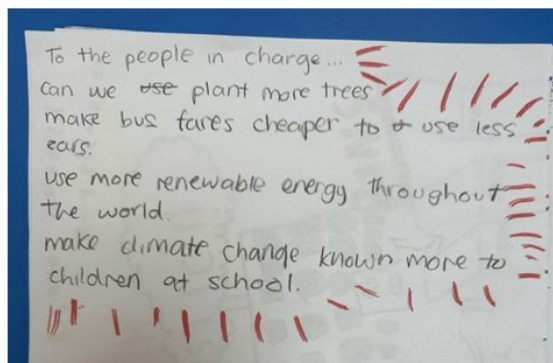
The section summarises a range of different themes identified in the reports relevant to communication strategies between institutions and local communities, including specific means to improve a sense of agency and empowerment, something frequently described as to be lacking amongst communities with relevance to climate change adaptation. It also includes some discussion of how blame for climate change has been attributed amongst certain demographics or institutions.

3.7.1 Education

Organisations frequently suggested that climate education was an important tool to improve adaptation in future. There was a particularly strong and widespread demand for climate education across all age groups, and particularly within events organised by schools and education-related organisations. However, the emphasis on education as a key solution extends beyond the education sector and was consistently highlighted in events led by local

authorities, third sector organisations, community groups, consultants, and facilitators, demonstrating its cross-cutting importance.

Figure 23: A letter to decision-makers



Description of Figure 23: The image features a handwritten message addressed to decision-makers, expressing a series of youth-driven climate action requests. The note advocates for planting more trees, reducing bus fares to encourage public transport use, expanding renewable energy adoption, and increasing climate education. These messages reflect youth concerns and a desire for change, highlighting the importance of engaging younger voices. (Individual: Sustainability Sphere (Kids Climate); 45).

In addition to formal education, there were calls for practical learning and skills sharing, such as gardening, food growing, and emergency preparedness. Many communities expressed feeling underprepared for extreme weather events and are seeking clear, accessible guidance. Overall, education and public awareness were viewed as essential tools to empower communities and support grassroots climate resilience.

3.7.2 Communication strategies – positive and hopeful messaging

Some participants expressed concern that the framing of consistent messaging about climate change was increasing anxiety and fear, without necessarily promoting positive action or building resilience. It was suggested that there should be improved promotion of solutions, success stories, and opportunities, and that campaigns should celebrate local action and normalise sustainable behaviours. As an example, participants from one event advocated for:

“Embedding optimistic and constructive messages in media... for creative and impactful marketing approaches that align cultural values with sustainable living which will help to normalise sustainable practices” (Individual: Cow Face Coaching; 13)

3.7.3 Assigning blame and responsibility

In some of the workshops with more rural communities, it was suggested that farmers were receiving unfair and disproportionate blame for climate change whilst also being seen as obstacles to climate action. For example, farmers at the Fishguard Dock workshop

suggested that agriculture was being politicised and that the narrative around food production was being distorted, at the expense of farmers' wellbeing. Similar sentiments were expressed in the Coleg Sir Gâr workshop:

“Farming gets a lot of blame for it” (Individual: Coleg Sir Gâr; 11)

Similarly, some workshops discussed how ethnic minorities had been unfairly blamed during crises more generally and drawing concern at similar unjust treatment during the climate crisis. For example, in the TEEMA and Sustainability Sphere reports, participants highlighted how minority communities were blamed during crises (e.g., during COVID-19) and excluded from support systems. There was an associated call for anti-racist planning and inclusive communication to prevent further marginalisation during climate-related emergencies.

Participants across several reports also expressed anger and blame toward institutions. This included: toward government for inaction, hypocrisy (e.g., flying while promoting climate action), and using climate change as a “scare tactic” to manipulate citizens; toward corporations, especially those involved in fast fashion and fossil fuels, for prioritising profit over sustainability; and towards the media for focusing on individual responsibility rather than wider attribution as well as propagating sentiments of fear and anxiety.

Figure 24: High-profile figures and environmental degradation

On the twelfth day of Christmas my true foe gave to me...

Twelve Donald Trumps, Eleven Elon Musks, Ten tons of carbon,

Description of Figure 24: An extract from a written creative element titled True Foe that takes inspiration from the song *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, in which they thought about twelve ways of continuing to be unkind. The written work critiques environmental inaction and the perceived roles of high-profile individuals (true foes) in climate discourse, intersecting culture, politics and agency. (Individual and Organisation: Arts Connection; 3).

3.7.4 Agency: Empowerment and Participation

Some participants discussed a sense of feeling disempowered and a lack of agency, reporting a sense of frustration and feeling powerless to effect real change. Consequently a strong desire for empowering grass roots action and increasing participatory decision making was discussed. People talked about wanting to be involved in shaping solutions, not just being the recipients of them.

“We need creative solutions not top-down instructions... We need conversations that come from the communities rather than closed questions.”
(Individual: Llanover Hall Community Arts; 23)

“We need – money; a voice, local power, knowledge and technical expertise, experience of community organising... Give local people more of a voice.”
(Individual: EcoDewi; 16)

Such sentiments appeared to be particularly resonant amongst young people, manifesting in calls for increased participation in adaptation, such as through youth advisory boards, debates, and school-based activism.

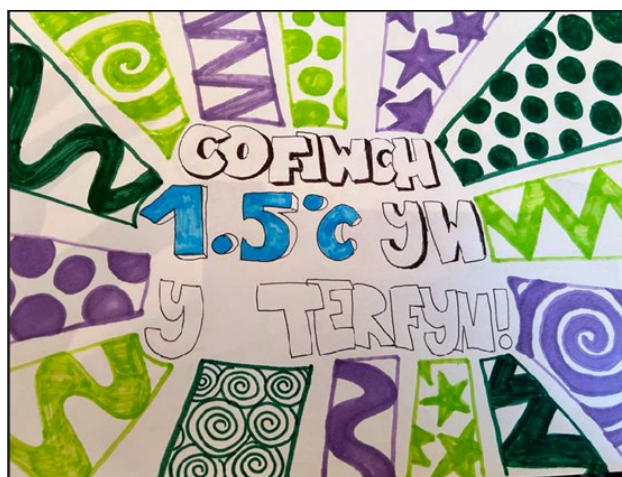
“Creating opportunities for young people to develop their sense of agency and political efficacy is crucial... Debates, community assemblies, and roundtable discussions in schools and colleges would help.”
(Individual: Coleg Sir Gâr; 11)

However, ethnic minority and low-income groups reported feeling particularly excluded from decision-making and information access. In exclusion, ethnic minority and low-income are unempowered,

“Not all members of community are going to Central Library to see these things... there’s still vulnerable groups that are not getting access to current information.”
(Individual: Sustainability Sphere - Ethnic Minorities; 44)

Participants depicted core messages for the Welsh Government through illustrating activist sentiments. Llanover Hall Community Arts argued that art is a centre of change because it shows lived experiences, calling for art as social capital to be considered and included in climate action and adaptation. Another such example came from Yr Udd (Gwersyll Pentre Ifran), in which participants urge for the viewer to remember that 1.5°C is the limit, using eye-catching colours and capitalisations:

Figure 25: Drawing featuring climate activism



Description of Figure 25: Illustration filled with abstract patterns and shapes that surround a central message calling for action towards combatting global warming. The artistic presentation underscores urgency and importance of the threshold, intersecting creative expression and advocacy. (Individual: Yr Udd (Gwersyll Pentre Ifran; 57).

4. Thematic conclusion – calls for Climate Resilience

This report reveals a complex picture of how communities across Wales perceive climate change and how they think they, their communities, and the government should respond. Since the focus of the discussions was on how communities can best adapt to climate change, this formed one of the strongest areas of discussion. Participants raised their concerns about climate-related risks, including flooding, storms, and disruptions to food supplies. Heatwaves and drought were also mentioned, but they were far less prominent. While concerns were widespread, discussions revealed that preparedness is perceived to remain limited at both personal and community levels, with many individuals feeling poorly equipped and uncertain about how to best protect themselves. This sense of vulnerability was often coupled with frustration about the adequacy of institutional planning.

A prominent theme in the conversation presents climate change as a constant (semi-catastrophic) crisis. As such, people expressed a need to protect their homes and communities from climate risks. This involved measures to safeguard their properties against flooding, whilst participants also explored how communities might reduce reliance on vulnerable centralised systems by pursuing local food and energy production. Community gardens, allotments, and small-scale growing projects were seen as ways of building food security and skills, while decentralised energy systems such as solar installations on farms and community-owned schemes were described as crucial both for resilience and empowerment. This emergent theme of self-sufficiency potentially points to an envisioned future, amongst some, of a climate scenario which has severe impacts for society in which external goods and services cannot be relied on in the same manner to which people are accustomed. Also related to this, it should be noted that the reporting did not distinguish between the emergency response to events and adaptation, which may reflect that participants see these aspects as part of adaptation.

As mentioned by a few organisers, adaptation conversations often included discussions about approaches to climate mitigation. The lack of distinction between the two was evident in the type of action suggested, which includes both climate adaptation and mitigation measures. As such, while organisations were guided to focus on climate adaptation, participants communicated a desire to find ways to achieve climate resilience by strengthening their individual and communal resilience to cope with the range of climate change risks. The findings also revealed that while many participants equated adaptation with mitigation, this convergence does potentially point to an appetite for holistic approaches that reduce both emissions and vulnerability.

A further element of measures to address climate change that were discussed concerned the creation of community spaces that could act as safe havens during extreme events. These hubs were envisioned as accessible, well-equipped, and inclusive centres offering warmth, food, water, and social support. More broadly, participants highlighted the value of strengthening social networks and community cohesion as part of climate resilience. At the same time, they identified the need for improved emergency planning at both household

and community levels, including stockpiling, evacuation plans, and localised coordination groups.

Barriers to climate action, specifically climate mitigation, were also widely discussed, with financial inequality, restrictive planning regulations, and a lack of inclusive engagement highlighted as major obstacles. These issues were felt most acutely by marginalised groups. Participants stressed the importance of culturally sensitive communication, accessible support, and more equitable provision of resources to ensure adaptation measures do not reinforce existing inequalities. Furthermore, some participants expressed scepticism or resistance to aspects of current climate policy, including concerns over the reliability of renewable energy systems, and a cynicism amongst some with regard to government messaging.

While the conversations largely focused on risks and challenges, the organiser pack did include a question on potential opportunities that might arise because of climate change. Whilst some participants struggled to identify any opportunities, others did highlight a limited range, including longer growing seasons, increased tourism, local food initiatives and the strengthening of local supply chains. Some also highlighted how, faced with adversity, there greater innovation and stronger community cohesion could emerge from shared efforts.

Education was consistently identified as essential to building resilience, alongside better communication strategies that move away from fear-based messaging and towards hopeful, solution-focused narratives. Linked to this was a strong call for greater agency and empowerment, with people expressing a desire to influence decisions that affect their lives.

Despite the discussed challenges, overall, the findings suggest a strong appetite for action - particularly for practical, community-driven initiatives that combine protection of homes and infrastructure with efforts to strengthen social ties and build future resilience to climate change.

5. Feedback on the events and suggestions for improvement

5.1 Feedback on the events

5.1.1 Positive feedback

Participants praised the events for providing a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere, where both youth and adults felt safe to share their views openly, with facilitators recognised for creating respectful spaces that encouraged dialogue and mutual understanding.

Some events also stood out for their creative and interactive formats, using activities such as nature walks, art, storytelling, model-making, and music to spark engagement. According to organisers, these approaches not only made the sessions enjoyable but also helped participants reflect on their emotions and envision a hopeful yet realistic future.

“The integration of art, storytelling, and nature crafts helped participants process their emotions and envision a hopeful yet realistic future.” (Organisation: Outside Lives Ltd; 30)

Importantly, the events were seen as empowering, equipping attendees with both the confidence and the practical tools to take action on climate issues in their own communities.

“Participants left with not just greater awareness, but concrete ideas for community action – from local food growing initiatives to protecting vulnerable neighbours during extreme weather events.” (Organisation: Rotary Club of Llanelli; 35)

5.1.2 Limitations and challenges of the climate conversations

However, there were also several limitations and challenges of the events. Low attendance was reportedly an issue for some events. It was also suggested that their being held at the start of the year limited engagement. Some activities also struggled to engage a broad audience, with different events at the organisation (outside of the CCF discussions) often attracting the same type of participants (that they were used to seeing at other events or talks) rather than new or more diverse groups.

Another concern was the complexity and accessibility of the language used, with some participants reporting they found questions overly wordy or difficult to grasp. Similarly, it was suggested that for some the questions and subject matter were quite vague or abstract. For example, what timeframe was in discussion, how to define an impact as related to climate change specifically, or what the “benefits” of climate change might be.

“Some of the questions were fairly ‘wordy’ and also asked similar questions with a slightly different slant.” (Organisation: Cardiff Metropolitan University; 7)

“A number of participants raised a feeling that some of the questions felt a bit strange or awkward or uncomfortable.” (Organisation: Global Gardens Project; 19)

Additionally, there were concerns about transparency, with participants wanting clearer information on how their feedback would be used and whether outcomes would be communicated back to them.

5.2 Recommendations for future events

Based on the above, as well as additional proposals suggested by participants and organisations, here are some suggested considerations for future events:

- Employ clear and accessible language in all questions, avoiding jargon and tailoring phrasing to suit different age groups. Ensure questions are concise and easy to understand to facilitate participant engagement.
- Allocate sufficient time and flexibility within sessions to enable creativity, in-depth discussion, and, where appropriate, the delivery of multi-session programmes.
- Provide adequate lead time between funding approval and event delivery to support effective planning and alignment with community schedules.
- Incorporate hybrid and online participation options to enhance accessibility and reach a wider audience.
- Communicate clearly how participant insights will be utilised, and ensure outcomes are shared with contributors following the event.
- Develop and implement follow-up mechanisms to sustain momentum, gather further feedback, and encourage community-led initiatives.

Annex A: List of event reports for reference

Table 1: List of events, their location(s), date(s) and number of participants for reference

Unique Reference Number	Organiser	Location	Date	Number of Participants
1	ACT training	Cynon Valley Organic Adventures	05/12/2024, 16/01/2025	40
2	All Saints' School	All Saints' Gresford School, Gresford	09/01/2025	265
3	Arts Connection - Cyswllt Celf	Mencap; Llanfyllin Youth Arts Café; Llanfyllin Christmas Market; Parents Group, Llanfyllin; Community Group, Llanfyllin	[Note 1]	81
4	Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority	Hibbert Room, Craig-y-nos Country Park	09/01/2025	11
5	Big Wave	Coleg Ceredigion; London Place Art Gallery; Zoom; Aberystwyth Arts Center	03/12/2024 , 08/12/2024, 04/01/2025, 05/01/2025	49
6	Bridgend College	Bridgend College	07/07/2025 - 10/01/2025	70
7	Cardiff Metropolitan University	Cardiff School of Management, Cardiff	27/01/2025	70
8	CETMA	Carmarthen; Llanelli; Kidwelly	11/11/2024, 15/11/2024, 22/11/2024, 23/11/2024, 25/11/2024	53

9	Clynfyw Care Farm	Seven Stars Pub, Llechryd	01/2025	50
10	Coleg Cambria	Glanrafon, Hafod, Coleg Cambria Yale, Wrexham; Reception, Coleg Cambria Deeside, Deeside, Flintshire; Yr Accre, Community Hub, Coleg Cambria Llysfas, Ruthin, Denbighshire; Learning Resource Centre, Coleg Cambria Northop, Northop; Coleg Cambria Wrexham	11/11/2024, 12/11/2024, 13/11/2024, 14/11/2024, 15/11/2024	28
11	4theRegion & Coleg Sir Gar	Coleg Sir Gâr	[Note 1]	153
12	Coop and HZ Consulting	Unknown	02/01/2025	8
13	Cow Face Coaching Ltd	Unknown	11/12/2024, 06/1/2025	36
14	Down to Earth	Little Bryn Gwyn Training Centre on North Gower	17/12/2024, 06/01/2025, 13/01/2025	21
15	Dyfi Biosphere	White Lion, Tal-y-bont	16/12/2024	26
16	EcoDewi	Ysgol Bro Dewi secondary school, St Davids Peninsula; St Davids Peninsula	16/01/2025, 19/01/2025	34
17	F.A.N Community Alliance	Friends And Neighbours Centre, Neath	04/01/2025	41
18	Geospatial Environmental Solutions	University of South Wales	[Note 1]	77
19	Global Gardens Project / Trinity Project	Waterloo Tea	11/12/2024	10

20	Grwp Resilience	Cilgwyn Barn, Cilgwyn; The Jolly Sailor, Burton	05/12/2024, 28/12/2024	32
21	Hay Community Resilience Initiative (Hay Public Library.org CIC)	Hay Public Library, Hay-on-Wye	18/01/2025	48
22	KIDCARE4U	Pill, Newport	06/12/2024, 14/12/2024	230
23	Llanover Hall Community Arts	Llanover Hall Community Arts Centre	17/01/2025	21
24	Menter Môn	[Note 1]	09/12/2024	55
25	Merthyr Tydfil Housing Association	Morlais Golf Club; Kevin Ryan Court, Georgetown; Treharris Boys and Girls Club	06/12/2024, 07/12/2024, 09/12/2024	31
26	Mind on Music CIC	Haulfre Garden, Amlwch	25/11/2025	37
27	National Botanic Garden of Wales	Theatre, National Botanic Garden of Wales	09/01/2024	170
28	North Wales Africa Society	Bangor African and Caribbean Centre, Bangor	30/11/2024	26
29	Omidaze Productions Ltd	Blackwood Talking Shop, Caerphilly	09/12/3034 - 14/12/2024; 06/01/2025 - 11/01/2025	384
30	Outside Lives Ltd	Mold Rugby Club, Mold	27/11/2024, 4/12/2024	80
31	Play Disrupt (PMP Partnership)	Llangefni Football Club, Llangefni	13/11/2024	25
32	Powys Action on the Climate Emergency	Online	07/12/2024	36
33	Razbio	Online	23/11/2024	41

34	Resource Denbighshire CIC	[Note 1]	[Note 1]	52
35	QUEST for Future Solutions (Rotary Club of Llanelli)	Canolfan Gwilli Community, Hendy, Llanelli; Foothold Cymru and Llanelli Goods Shed Trust; Rotary Brynmawr; Llama at Llanelli Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust	[Note 1]	82
36	Safe Online Space Cymru	Butetown Community Centre, Cardiff	30/11/2024	103
37	Sazani Associates	Around West Wales, including their office	27/11/2024 - 16/12/2024	100
38	Welsh Islamic Cultrual Association Swansea (Sketty Mosque & Community Centre (WICAS))	Sketty Youth Club; Sketty Tea Lounge	20/12/2024, 21/12/2024	233
39	Sophie Hadaway - Cellan and Llanfair Clydogau	Cellan Millenium Hall, Cellan, Lampeter, Ceredigion	15/01/2025	14
40	Sophie Hadaway - Longwood community	Longwood, Ceredigion	22/01/2025	7
41	Sophie Hadaway - Ysgol Y Dderi and Ysgol Bro Pedr	Ysgol Bro Pedr, Lampeter, Ceredigion; Ysgol Y Dderi, Llangubi, Ceredigion	06/11/2024 (Y Dderi) and 04/12/2024 (Bro Pedr)	129
42	Splott Community Volunteers	STAR Centre, Splott, Cardiff	22/11/2024	18
43	Stump Up For Trees	[Note 1]	07/01/2025	27

44	Sustainability Sphere - Ethnic Minorities	Grangetown, Cardiff	09/12/2024, 18/12/2024	15
45	Sustainability Sphere - Kids Climate	House in the area; Grangetown Pavilion	07/12/2024, 04/01/2025	18
46	Sustainable Wales & Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO)	SUSSED Community Coorporative, Porthcawl; Ogmore by Sea Village Hall	24/1/2025, 26/1/2025	58
47	SwanseaCAN (Climate Action Network)	Swansea.com Stadium in Swansea Building Society Lounge	[Note 1]	33
48	Swansea MAD	Swansea MAD; Pennard Community Centre	15/11/2024, 19/11/2024	33
49	Natural Products BioHUB – Swansea University	Singleton Abbey, Singleton Campus, Swansea University	27/11/2024	27
50	TEEMA	University of South Wales, Newport Campus	09/12/2024, 10/01/2025	11
51	Tenby Town Council	Augustus Place Community Hall, Tenby	15/11/2024, 22/11/2024	15
52	The Essential Expert	Kyffin Café, Bangor	17/12/2024	37
53	Twynyrodyn Community Hub	Twynyrodyn Community Hub, Twynyrodyn, Merthyr Tydfil	08/01/2025	19
54	Welsh Sports Association	Riverfront Theatre, Newport	12/11/2024	90
55	XR Wrexham	[Note 1]	[Note 1]	35
56	Youth Cymru	Online; Vindico Arena	22/01/2025, 31/01/2025	89

57	Yr Urdd (Gwersyll Pentre Ifan)	Gwersyll yr Urdd Pentre Ifan, Felindre Farchog, Crymych, Pembrokeshire	21/11/2024	28
58	Repair Café Llanelli	The Llanelli Railway Goods Shed Trust	16/11/2024	65
59	Wrexham County Borough Council - Event 1 - Businesses	Unknown	13/11/2024	17
60	Wrexham County Borough Council - Event 2	Ty Pawb, Wrexham	12/11/2025	3
61	M-SParc	Menai Science Park	7/1/2025, 14/1/2025	35
62	WAN Cymru - Women's Advocacy Network CIC	Grange Pavilion in Grangetown, Cardiff	07/12/2024, 12/12/2024, 19/12/2024	48

[Note 1]: Unknown information.

Annex B: Participants per principal area

Table 2: Number of attendees per principal area

Principal Area	Number of Attendees
Anglesey	115
Blaenau Gwent	16
Bridgend	128
Caerphilly	384
Cardiff	392
Carmarthenshire	386
Ceredigion	125
Denbighshire	52
Flintshire	84
Gwynedd	107
Neath Port Talbot	52
Newport	331
Pembrokeshire	380
Powys	129
Rhondda Cynon Taf	117
Swansea	347
Vale of Glamorgan	50
Wrexham	344
Online Event	77
Unknown	171

Annex C: Detailed Methodology

Eunomia's methodology was designed around the research questions, which ensured a robust and transparent approach to both the quantitative and qualitative analysis. The following research questions guided our approach, however, during the analysis it became evident that not all questions can be answered based on the reports, due to the limitations discussed in Methodology and quality of reporting Section.

1) About the events and the participants:

- What can be said about the demographics of participants, the locations of events, and the organisers involved? What can be said about how representative they are of the Welsh population?

2) Public Concern and Awareness:

- How concerned are participants about climate change, or areas (based on quantitative data from the pre-event questionnaire)?
- How do organisers assess and describe participants' levels of knowledge regarding the impacts of climate change (based on qualitative data)? What, if anything, is reported about how participants perceive the timeline of climate impacts in their local area?

3) Perceptions of Climate Adaptation:

- How do organisers assess and describe participants' understanding of climate adaptation, and how is it distinguished (or conflated) with mitigation? What framings of climate change action are evident in the discussions?
- Can we say anything about how these might vary across different population groups?

4) Climate Risks and Preparedness:

- What specific climate risks/impacts are identified and how do the reports describe how prepared individuals, households, and communities feel for extreme weather events?
- What actions do reports mention participants are already taking, or believe they should take, to adapt?
- How are community strengths and weaknesses in adapting to climate change described?
- What kinds of resources, knowledge, or support do the reports suggest communities need to adapt are mentioned? Are there examples of local initiatives or success stories that could inform wider policy?

5) Fairness and Social Justice:

- Which can be said about which populations or communities are perceived by participants to be most affected by climate change, and why?
- What barriers are these groups considered to face in adapting to climate change?
- What suggestions do participants or organisers offer for ensuring fairness in adaptation policies and support? Are any opportunities from climate change mentioned, and who is perceived to be best positioned to benefit?

6) Engagement and Communication:

- What feedback is provided in the reports about the Climate Conversations process itself? e.g. what worked well, what worked less well?

- What suggestions are made for improving future engagement (e.g. event structure, facilitation, communication materials) and how the Welsh Government can better support and communicate with communities on climate adaptation?

7) Policy and Programme Implications:

- What themes or insights emerge from the reports that could inform the development of future climate adaptation policies? Are there specific messages or recommendations relating to policy or programme design?

8) Based on Eunomia's expertise and experience:

- How can the findings be used to shape the next round of the Climate Conversations fund and Wales Climate Week?
- How can the Welsh Government better support and communicate with communities on climate adaptation?

The process began with a review of the spreadsheet of events and reports provided by the Welsh Government. Using this information, the Eunomia team developed a centralised database to catalogue all reports. This database served as a centre for analysis, and as a tracker to monitor the team's progress throughout the project.

Eunomia's analytical approach applied both deductive (top-down) and inductive (bottom-up) analysis, supported by robust thematic analysis to identify and explore the narratives. Creative data sets, such as paintings and poems, were analysed separately using elements of discourse analysis, allowing us to capture the unique expressive qualities of these formats. For the analysis, Eunomia used Dedoose – a software to analyse mixed methods data.

To ensure consistency and research rigour, we conducted a pilot test using preliminary deductive codes closely aligned with the research questions. Multiple researchers coded the same cluster of reports, enabling the team to assess alignment in interpretation. Following the pilot, Eunomia held an internal workshop to harmonise coding styles and refine our framework. The resulting final coding structure comprised of 15 parent codes and 72 sub-codes.

The total set of 62 reports were thematically analysed using the refined framework. The table below outlines the codes used, the number of excerpts coded against each code, and the number of reports in which each code appeared. The team was also encouraged to add new codes from new emerging themes, which were discussed in internal weekly meetings prior to inclusion. In total, Eunomia applied 8,686 codes across 1,727 excerpts.

Table 3: Codes and their frequency in reports

Parent Code	Child Code	Number of Excerpts Coded	Number of Documents Coded
Adaptation Action	N/A [total number]	610	68

Adaptation Action	Financial support	110	34
Adaptation Action	Other	7	4
Adaptation Action	Planning or leadership	23	13
Adaptation Action	Protecting health and wellbeing	89	32
Adaptation Action	Protecting infrastructure	111	37
Adaptation Action	Protecting resources	189	48
Adaptation Action	Protecting the home	112	45
Adaptation Action	Reducing impact for different groups	111	43
Adaptation Action	Regulation	7	4
Agency	N/A [total number]	192	50
Agency	Empowerment	84	38
Agency	Political power	103	37
Agency	Responsibility / Accountability	47	24
Barriers	N/A [total number]	146	43
Barriers	Awareness	6	4
Barriers	Coordinating action	23	11
Barriers	Financial	69	36
Barriers	Other	13	7
Barriers	Planning / Legal	23	13
Barriers	Resistance to change	19	12
Barriers	Rurality / Isolation	23	13
Barriers	Time	2	2
Benefits	N/A [total number]	89	35
Benefits	Community cohesion	14	10
Benefits	Economy	23	16

Benefits	'Good' Weather	7	6
Benefits	Innovation	14	8
Benefits	Local supply chains and food growing	21	14
Benefits	Other	15	10
Benefits	Tourism	12	7
Climate Change Awareness	N/A [total number]	146	54
Climate Change Awareness	High	55	38
Climate Change Awareness	Low	17	13
Climate Change Awareness	Other	79	38
Communication	N/A [total number]	400	65
Communication	Blame	12	6
Communication	Connecting community	65	25
Communication	Education	188	54
Communication	Information sharing	107	31
Communication	Media	45	23
Communication	Propaganda	24	18
Emotion	N/A [total number]	55	28
Emotion	Anger	2	2
Emotion	Fear	31	17
Emotion	Happiness	3	3
Emotion	Hope	6	5
Emotion	Hopelessness	3	3
Emotion	Sadness	6	6
Emotion	Shame	1	1
Level of Preparedness	N/A [total number]	100	48
Level of Worry	N/A [total number]	31	22

Mitigation Action	N/A [total number]	276	63
Mitigation Action	GHG emissions reduction	80	39
Mitigation Action	Nature restoration	46	21
Mitigation Action	Recycling / Circular Economy	72	34
Mitigation Action	Renewable energy	97	34
Negative Impacts and Risks	Biodiversity loss	32	15
Negative Impacts and Risks	N/A [total number]	440	64
Negative Impacts and Risks	Drought	24	20
Negative Impacts and Risks	Extreme weather	113	41
Negative Impacts and Risks	Financial / Economic	61	29
Negative Impacts and Risks	Floods	124	43
Negative Impacts and Risks	Food security	68	32
Negative Impacts and Risks	Groups affected unevenly	152	50
Negative Impacts and Risks	Health and wellbeing	86	43
Negative Impacts and Risks	Heatwaves	28	20
Negative Impacts and Risks	Infrastructure / isolation	85	29
Negative Impacts and Risks	Wildfires	9	8
Policy	N/A [total number]	4	2
Subject	N/A [total number]	731	58
Subject	Community	273	47
Subject	Individual / Household	277	43
Subject	Local Government	143	38
Subject	National Government	251	46
Temporal Action	N/A [total number]	257	32

Temporal Action	Future	210	30
Temporal Action	Past / Current	55	26
Temporal Risks and Impacts	N/A [total number]	170	35
Temporal Risks and Impacts	Future	54	21
Temporal Risks and Impacts	Past / Current	137	32
Total Excerpts	N/A [total number]	1,727	95

Once coding was complete, the team carried out a deep-dive thematic analysis of each parent code, reviewing all associated excerpts to draw out key narratives. The team also examined the cross-code relationships, exploring how parent and sub-codes interacted across the dataset and between different codes. The thematic analysis revealed important narratives of interconnected themes, detailed in the main report,

It is important to re-emphasise that Eunomia's analysis does not place emphasis on numerical frequency of excerpts and codes. Due to the variation and nature of the data collection process, Eunomia do not consider quantitative counts to be a reliable indicator of significance of talking points. Instead, Eunomia's analysis above details the range, depth, nature and interconnection of themes expressed in the CCF Event Reports.

Annex D: Organisers' Pack

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1. Introduction

This information pack is intended to support organisations whose applications to hold a Climate Conversations event have been successful.

- Congratulations if you are reading this pack to learn more about the next steps following approval of your application, and thank you for your support.
- If you are reading this pack to learn more about the Climate Conversations fund and you have not yet submitted an application, [please visit our website](#) for information on the application process.

The content within this pack aims to provide a useful guide for organisers and is not intended to impose restrictions on how you may wish to run your own event.

About the Climate Conversations Fund

The Wales Climate Week Climate Conversations fund aims to support organisations with established links to community groups and the general public to host local events to encourage people to join in on conversations around the central theme for this year's Wales Climate Week, **"adapting to our changing climate"**.

The purpose of the Climate Conversations events will be to gather evidence to understand people's level of concern about climate change, the impact it is having on particular groups, and the actions needed to make any changes fairer to everyone within our communities. The evidence gathered through these events will be used to deepen the Welsh Government's

understanding of the risks posed to different groups, including whether our communities have the knowledge, resources and support needed to build on successful initiatives already being delivered within our communities. The events will also explore potential opportunities arising from climate change.

Your application has been approved on the basis that you have agreed to:

- Hold your event on a scheduled date between **Monday 4th November 2024 - Friday 10th January 2025**. Should you wish to change the date of your event, this will need to be agreed in advance with Freshwater on behalf of the Welsh Government.
- Attend a free webinar being organised for Climate Conversation hosts
- Cover a series of open and closed questions during your event ([see Section 2.2](#)).
- Capture the outcomes of the conversations held with your participants in a post-event report, which should ideally be submitted to Freshwater within 7 working days of the event, or by the final deadline of Friday **31st January 2025** ([see Section 2.4](#)).

Freshwater, as the appointed contractor acting on behalf of the Welsh Government, will manage all queries, administration, support and payments associated with the fund. If you have any questions, please email walesclimateweek@freshwater.co.uk.

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2.1 Next steps following approval of your application

Payment terms

As a successful Climate Conversations Fund applicant, Freshwater will send you clear instructions on the payment terms and process for accessing the fund. To summarise the process: an initial payment of 50% will be made in advance of the event, and 50% in arrears. You will be sent a grant agreement by Freshwater which will need to be signed, following which an invoice (inclusive of VAT) should be raised to Freshwater for the full amount of the grant. Upon receipt of the final report and confirmation from Freshwater that it meets the agreed level of detail required and you have submitted evidence against all of the questions provided, the final payment will be made. Freshwater will be able to answer any queries you may have over the payment terms and conditions.

Event management support

As the host organisation, you will be responsible for all promotional activity, event management, communications, and follow up with participants from your event. The handling of invitations and any personal data associated with the Climate Conversations events will be your responsibility, and personal data should not be shared with Freshwater or with the Welsh Government. Although there is no requirement for a representative from the Welsh Government or Freshwater to be present at your event, there is an opportunity to request a trained facilitator as part of your application.



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Freshwater will provide the following event management support:

- Hosting a webinar for all successful fund applicants to provide you with tips on how to organise, promote and facilitate your event and answer any questions you may have. Previous hosts from the 2023 events will be invited to join as an opportunity to reflect on their own experiences. Freshwater will be in contact with you soon to confirm the date/time of this virtual meeting and how to join.
- Promotion of the overall Climate Conversations events programme, including a free listing about your event on the Wales Climate Week website and a link from **Climate Action Wales** ('get involved'). To make sure that your event is included, simply email walesclimateweek@freshwater.co.uk with all the details, including information on how people can register or attend if attendance is unrestricted. If you are organising a closed event, then your listing will be marked as invitation-only, but will still be included on the website to acknowledge your involvement in the programme.
- If you would like Freshwater to source a trained facilitator to help deliver your event, then you will be able to discuss this further with them. Depending on cost and availability on the selected date,
- your request may be accommodated. If you are facilitating your own event, the webinar being organised by Freshwater will include tips and advice on how to approach the facilitation of your event, capture outcomes and report on the discussions held.
- Tips on how to organise a successful event (**see section 3**) and further guidance as required.



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2.2 IMPORTANT: Key questions to explore with your event participants

In submitting your application, you have agreed to include and compile a feedback report on a set of key questions supplied by the Welsh Government. These questions are included below.

PRE-DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: Participants' knowledge & perspectives (closed questions)

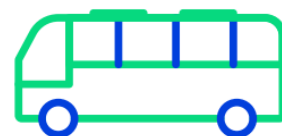
For this section which covers closed questions, it is important that you pose these at the beginning of your event to your participants to help understand their knowledge and opinions on climate change before discussions are held. It is suggested that you circulate a short questionnaire on arrival for delegates to complete, prior to the open discussion taking place. If the format of your event means that this approach cannot be accommodated, please consider other options for capturing answers to these questions from delegates prior to any group activity (eg creating an online survey to share with your participants in advance using a platform such as survey monkey <https://uk.surveymonkey.com/>)

How worried are you personally about climate change? (please tick one box only)

- ☐ Very worried
- ☐ Fairly worried
- ☐ Not very worried
- ☐ Not at all worried
- ☐ Not sure/don't know
- ☐ Prefer not to say

How much do you know about the impact of climate change? (please tick one box only)

- ☐ I know nothing
- ☐ I know a little
- ☐ I know a fair amount
- ☐ I know a lot
- ☐ Not sure/don't know
- ☐ Prefer not to say



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When, if at all, do you think people in your local council area will start feeling the effects of climate change listed below?

We are interested in your own views on the likelihood that these things that might or might not happen in Wales as a result of climate change, and if so, when. Even if you are not sure, we are interested in your opinion. (Please tick one box only in answer to each of the questions below).

	We are already feeling the effects	In the next 10 years	In the next 25 years	In the next 50 years	In the next 100 years	Never
Extreme heat waves	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drought/restrictions to water supply	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Severe storms and flooding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disruption to food supply	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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QUESTIONS TO COVER IN THE DISCUSSION (Open-ended questions)

Please explore all the following questions with participants during your event through an open discussion. Although you will be required to summarise feedback on these particular questions in your final report, it is at your discretion whether you choose to cover other discussion topics and encompass additional activities as part of your event. We have provided supporting background information in **section 2.3** below which we hope will be useful to you / the facilitator in exploring these questions further with your event participants.

Individual, household and community action

How prepared do you think you, your household and your community are for the impacts of extreme weather events (e.g. flooding, heatwaves, drought, wildfires, disruption to public services such as power cuts, transport, water supplies, telecoms/ICT connectivity and food supplies)?

- What particular risks (if any) do you think these extreme weather events will pose to your health and wellbeing, and what actions do you think you can take to protect yourself?
- What actions do you think you can take to protect your home?
- What actions do you think can be taken within your broader community?

Fairness & social justice

How are different groups or communities affected by climate change?

- If you think some groups or communities are affected more than others, how are they affected?
- What can be done to reduce the impact of climate change on different groups or communities?
- Could some groups or communities benefit from climate change?
- What can be done to help groups or communities to make the most of any opportunities arising from climate change?

Community action

What are the risks and opportunities that climate change presents to your own community?

- Do you think your community has what it needs to adapt to the changing climate (think about knowledge, resources and support)?
- What do you think is needed to support action to adapt to climate change within your community?
- Do you think your community has what it needs to make the most of any opportunities presented by climate change (think about knowledge, resources and support)?
- What do you think is needed to support action to make the most of any opportunities presented by climate change within your community?

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Individual, household and community action

There are many things we can do to help tackle climate change and minimise the risk to ourselves, our homes and communities from the impacts of climate change. Here are some examples of different actions linked to tackling and/or adapting to climate change:

Heatwaves & wildfires

- Protect yourself and others from the effects of too much heat and sun. See [Public Health Wales](#) for more information on how to stay out of the heat, cool down, and keep your environment at a comfortable temperature, and how to help the more vulnerable such as people with underlying health conditions.
- Keep animals safe in hot weather. (See [RSPCA tips for keeping animals safe and comfortable during a heatwave](#))
- Lower rainfall and drought, hotter temperatures and wind all make the perfect recipe for a wildfire. Climate change is leading to more frequent, widespread and intense wildfires in the UK. Layers of dead bracken on Welsh hillsides also act as fuel for wildfires. Read tips on how we can help to prevent wildfires, and what to do during and after a wildfire on the [British Red Cross website](#). [Get tips to prevent forest fires](#).

Homes & buildings

- Keep buildings in a good state of repair as an important first step to making them more resilient to climate change.
- During a heatwave, shut windows and keeping curtains closed during the hottest part of the day to help reduce indoor temperatures.
- Reduce the impact of heavy rain by using outdoor space for gardens with plants which are much better at absorbing excess water than hard surfaces such as concrete and installing water butts where possible.
- For properties at risk of flooding, make a plan for how to deal with a flood event. That might include flood-proof doors, tiled floors downstairs and higher electrical sockets. For more information see [Natural Resources Wales / Check your flood risk by postcode](#).
- If you are a landlord, consider the impacts of climate change on your tenants and make changes to your property if necessary.
- Keep essential supplies in the home in case of power failures.
- Consider climate change adaptation as part of any changes/ improvements to your home.
- Report ICT/telecoms issues to your service provider.



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Water quality & supply

- Manage water more efficiently and save water when you can.
- Stop disposing of items such as wet wipes through the sewage system.
- Reduce littering.
- Water companies need to be prepared to deal with water shortages, but we can all think about our water use to make sure everyone has enough during a heatwave or drought. There are simple ways we can [save water in our homes](#), such as trying a water meter and taking shorter showers.
- Saving water also saves energy, as it means less purification, pumping and processing is needed.

Floods

- Find information on how to prepare your home for a flood and what to do during and after an event at [Natural Resources Wales](#). Climate change (leading to more intense rainfall and a rise in sea levels) and human changes to the environment, e.g. from urbanisation leading to an increase in water run-off volume and rate, means the number of people and homes exposed to flood events will continue to rise. We all need to be prepared to protect ourselves, our homes and communities from flood risk.

Nature

- Get involved in nature conservation action on the ground such as community gardens or [local nature partnerships](#), and encourage areas of natural habitat within your local community, including water, grassland, scrub and trees.
- If you have your own garden, opt for grass rather than concrete or anything artificial and avoid using chemicals like pesticides that can kill butterflies, moths and pollinating insects. If you have a lawn, leave areas of long grass to increase biodiversity. [Read more here](#). Find out more about [alternatives to toxic chemicals](#) for the garden. Use peat-free soil. Healthy soil can absorb water, protecting us against drought and floods. With our soils eroding and depleting, we can all help to [restore soil health](#) by enriching our gardens with home-made compost. [Find out more ways to protect soil at home](#).
- Follow good practice for preventing the spread of plant pests and diseases. See ["Don't Risk It"](#) to learn more.
- Learn more about Welsh coasts and seas, the impact of our collective and individual actions on the oceans' health and how the oceans' health impacts our everyday lives.
- Understand more about opportunities for farmers and land owners to engage in habitat and peatland restoration and sustainable management.

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Tree planting

- Recognise the value trees in helping us adapt to climate change as well as absorbing carbon emissions.
- Plant trees in your garden (if you have one) to provide shade and help reduce temperatures in summer heatwaves.
- Engage in community tree planting to help provide shade for people and buildings and help reduce the pressure on drainage systems by absorbing water that would otherwise run off the large areas of hard surfaces we have in our towns, cities and villages.
- Report illegal tree felling to Natural Resources Wales.
- Report plant and tree pests and diseases using Tree Alert.
- Trees offer shade, acting as 'natural air conditioners', that reduce high temperatures and pollution. Find out more about **tackling air pollution with trees**.

Food choices

- Maintain a **balanced diet** and practice **healthy eating**, eating the right type and amount of food.
- Minimise food waste.
- Consider food sustainability in your weekly shop and buy sustainably produced seafood where available.
- Teach children the importance of sustainable foods.

Read more about climate change and what we can all do to play our part in tackling climate change at: www.climateaction.gov.wales.



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Fairness & social justice

The term social justice refers to a fair distribution of social, political and economic opportunities, benefits and burdens across society. In 2023 the Welsh Government consulted on a **Just Transition to Net Zero Wales** to ensure we tackle the cause of climate change by reducing our greenhouse gas emissions in a fair way.

Even as we work to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions, a significant amount of climate change is already unavoidable. It is recognised that the adverse effects of climate change could have a greater impact on certain groups or communities and that action will be needed to reduce that risk. For example:

- People with certain health conditions or occupations may be more susceptible to the impacts of high temperatures
- An elderly person who does not have access to digital communication might be less likely to have advance warning about a heatwave or storm and be ill-prepared as a result.
- The Gypsy Roma Traveller community may have particular needs to ensure their homes and culture are resilient to climate change.
- People on lower incomes might be less likely to have insurance against flood damage making it harder for them to replace household goods after a flood.
- There may also be individuals or groups impacted by multiple forms of inequality, for example an individual might be on a low income and have a disability. This could compound the issues they face and make their needs more complex.

- There will also be greater impacts on some communities due to their location (coastal areas, flood plains etc).

As well as threats from climate change, there may be some opportunities too. For example drier summers might mean that more people are willing to exercise outdoors. It is important that everyone is able to equally take advantage of any opportunities arising from our changing climate as well as having support to help them cope with any issues.

The impacts of climate change will not be felt evenly across the globe or within Wales, with the worst impacts often falling on those countries, communities and individuals least able to deal with the effects.

This is why the Welsh Government is committed to ensuring the transition to a greener future reduces or removes inequality, and towards realising a vision of improved well-being based on the guiding principle of 'leaving no-one behind'.



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Community action

The Welsh Government and the wider public sector in Wales has a key role in developing and implementing policies to address the impacts of climate change. However, we cannot do this alone and we recognise the importance of working in partnership with people and communities to develop initiatives and approaches that take into account the views and needs of local people and stakeholders. We understand that communities themselves are often best-placed to understand their own needs and the unique context of their specific location.

The Welsh Government is committed to working with communities to find what works best for them and to understand the resources they need to help make their communities well-adapted to the changing climate. This includes prioritising conversations with communities that are at the front line of experiencing the effects of climate change, to consider how we can best:

- Get the balance right between national-level policies and decision-making and community action.
- Encourage leadership from local authorities, using their local climate networks to understand regional issues, opportunities and potential impacts climate change, and linking with public service boards and others to provide the right support for communities to feel empowered to make their own decisions.

- Involve people and communities in two-way conversations about the policy decisions that could affect them, connecting with people, their values, and their lived experiences is at the heart of developing meaningful engagement strategies
- Ensure people are provided with the evidence they need to make informed decisions about climate-related risks and adaptation.
- Channel funding and support to the people and places that need adaptation support the most, empowering communities to identify and deliver the solutions that work for them.
- Ensure fairness, active participation and leadership of people and voices who might have so far been excluded from decision making because of race, gender, or class. If their voices, lived experiences, values, and identities are not reflected in policy solutions, these initiatives are unlikely to succeed.
- Share experience, positive climate adaptation success stories and case studies.

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2.4 Completing & submitting your post-event report

You are asked to submit a report summarising the outcomes of your event, **ideally within 7 working days** but ultimately by the deadline of **Friday, 31st January 2025**. Your report should be in a Word or PDF document providing the following information:

1. Your organisation name.
2. When and where was the event held?
3. How many people attended your event?
4. Any outline information you can provide on the demographic breakdown of your event participants such as estimated age range, gender split, ethnic breakdown, where they live (local authority, urban or rural location), work status (learning/studying, self-employed, employed, retired etc), type of occupation etc.
5. How well do you feel the audience understood the issues and concepts being discussed?
6. How comfortable did the audience feel in sharing their views and opinions?
7. Pre-discussion questions – An analysis of the completed questionnaire including a breakdown of the number of participants who completed it, confirmation that it was completed at the beginning of the event before the open discussions took place, and a breakdown of the responses provided against each of the questions.
8. The discussion – Your analysis of the main open-ended questions and supporting questions under each, including what would you say were the main themes and conclusions that came out of the discussion? (add all that you feel are relevant).

9. Whether there were any specific messages that participants want to share with Welsh Government in relation to the discussions held?
10. Please add any additional feedback, thoughts or suggestions that may be beneficial for anyone interested in holding similar sessions or discussions in the future.
11. Please confirm any cost or fee, including any travel expenses, for facilitating the discussion and completing the report.

Please note that lengthy, complex reports are not required as long as the key information requested above is captured and included.

You will be the data owner and data processor for your event and should not include in your final report any personal information that can be directly connected to individuals who attended your event. As the organiser, you will be responsible for holding and processing all personal data on attendees from your event and this should not be shared with the Welsh Government or Freshwater as the organiser of the overall event programme.

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2.5 How feedback from your event will be used

The Welsh Government is committed to building a deeper understanding of the characteristics of different groups and communities that might be more affected by the impacts of climate change.

The **Climate Conversations events** to be held as part of Wales Climate Week 2024 are one of a number of methods used by the Welsh Government to gather evidence and listen to the views and opinions of a diverse range of communities, groups and individuals. The evidence gathered through these events will be used to help inform Welsh Government policies and programmes, including where to prioritise support where it is needed most. The evidence will also be used to inform the Welsh Government's future climate engagement and communications activity.

The Welsh Government will collate feedback from all the Climate Conversations events and will incorporate the findings into a broader report summarising the outcomes. A summary of the feedback from the Climate Conversation events will be circulated to all event organisers, which you will be invited to share with participants involved in your event.



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3. Hints and tips for organising your event

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Your event application has been approved because it supports the goals and objectives of Wales Climate Week 2024 and the Climate Conversations fund. The style and format you choose for your event is up to you but it should be organised in a way that engages your audience and encourages them to share their thoughts and opinions. The atmosphere should be inclusive and welcoming, with everyone offered the opportunity to have their say.

Wales Climate Week promotes the sharing of opinions, generation of ideas and discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of different solutions for tackling and adapting to climate change. For this to happen, it is important to share information and knowledge about the latest climate science and the different ways human behaviour is having an impact on our climate and natural environment.

The information contained within this Pack should be used by organisers to engage with participants and encourage discussions. The format for these discussions is flexible and might be held through workshops, in small groups or in a larger theatre-style layout. Organisers are invited to record their events (video or audio) but only with permission from everyone in attendance.

In organising your event, please think about the carbon footprint. Where possible, physical events should be held close to public transport links (e.g. railway stations

and/or bus routes) and you should consider the option of inviting some attendees to join virtually if they wish to reduce the need to travel. Any display materials should be created using recycled or recyclable materials and catering should use locally sourced produce, with no single-use plastics.

There are no set timings for how long your event should last but organisers are encouraged to hold events at a time that is likely to be most convenient for their audiences. Organisers should hold events on a scheduled date between **Monday 4th November 2024 - Friday 10th January 2025**. Should you wish to change the date of your event, this will need to be agreed in advance with Freshwater on behalf of the Welsh Government.

Once you have chosen a suitable venue, date and considered your audience, you will need to start promoting your event. Some organisers will want to know how many people will be present, so will opt for invitation-only events, while others may favour an open public event where people can drop in at various times during the day. As the organiser, you will be responsible for deciding whether people should register to attend the event, how guest lists are created and kept and how participants are managed on the day.

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3.2 Promoting your event

There are many ways in which you may wish to promote your event but here are some tips to get you started:

- Give your event a catchy name that describes what is going to be taking place – put an emphasis on people being able to have their say on future climate change priorities and policies and what they think is fair
- Post about your event on social media (this is the cheapest and most environmentally friendly way to promote your event, so make it a priority).
- Posts with images or video content tend to be shared more, so be creative.
- Create an 'Event' on Facebook and set up an Eventbrite page – you can set up a page and get going promoting it for free.

- Create simple posters or flyers (using recycled paper) to display around the local community.
- Write a simple press release or a description of your event and send it to your local newspaper/radio station.
- Contact prominent local businesses (e.g. major employers) and organisations and encourage them to promote the event through their networks.
- Download the '**Promotional Toolkit**' from the Wales Climate Week website. Here you can access a range of promotional materials from official logos and promotional graphics to suggested wording to promote your event as part of the Wales Climate Week programme.

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4. Background information on climate change and the topic of climate adaptation

Why are temperatures rising?

- Climate is the average weather in a place over many years. Climate change is a shift in those average conditions.
- Some changes in the climate are natural and happen over very long periods of time. However, human activity and associated greenhouse gas emissions are causing levels of global warming that would not be seen naturally.
- World temperatures are rising and climate change now threatens every aspect of human life. The rapid climate change we are now seeing is caused by humans using oil, gas and coal for their homes, factories and transport.
- When these fossil fuels burn, they release greenhouse gases - mostly carbon dioxide (CO₂). These gases trap the sun's heat and cause the planet's temperature to rise.
- The world is already about 1.2C warmer than it was in the 19th Century - and the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere has risen by 50%. Temperature rises must be limited to 1.5C if we want to avoid the worst consequences of climate change.

Impacts of Climate Change

- Record-breaking temperatures are causing impacts on health, productivity and infrastructure. There is an increasing risk of wildfires impacting forests, properties and wildlife. Droughts are threatening our water supplies, wildlife and the viability of agriculture to produce the food we eat.
- Increasing risks of severe storms can impact on property, power supplies, transport networks and public services.
- Floods are damaging homes, livelihoods and habitats. Sea levels are rising around 400 million people across the world could be living in areas in constant danger of flooding.
- Scientists now agree that humans are responsible for these changes. Although climate change is a global issue, it is also a threat to Wales, with the rapidly changing weather patterns already having an impact on our homes, communities and environment.
- As well as climate change, human activities are impacting upon the natural world, leading to the extinction of animal and plant species at an alarming rate. According to the United Nations, in the next 20 years, one million of the eight million species on the planet will be extinct.

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- Climate change is driving nature's decline further, and the loss of wildlife and wild places leaves us ill-equipped to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to change. One cannot be solved without the other.
- When healthy, our natural habitats can reduce the risk of flooding, help prevent coastal erosion, improve people's health and wellbeing, as well as maintain healthy soils, clean water and the pollinators needed for our crops – and therefore sustain us.
- Government, industry and business need to act on climate change but we need to make sure that actions are taken in a fair way.
- The Climate Change Committee (which is a UK wide group of independent experts with a statutory role in advising the four governments across the UK on climate change) states that over 60% of the changes needed to tackle climate change will require some element of behaviour change from the public.

What is Climate Adaptation?

- Climate change 'adaptation' is a term used to describe actions taken to address climate risks and prepare ourselves for the changes ahead, whereas climate change 'mitigation' refers to actions taken to limit further global warming through reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Both are essential elements of a comprehensive response to tackling the climate and nature emergencies.

Why is public involvement important?

- There is a need for greater public awareness and action to adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change that we are already seeing. Urgent action is also needed across all areas of society to reduce our emissions of greenhouse gases and minimise further levels of climate change.
- Many people are not fully aware of the risks associated with climate change to their health, wellbeing and productivity from increased exposure to heat.
- People also need to be aware of opportunities to protect their homes and communities from the impacts of climate change, including extreme heat, drought, storms and flooding.

