# Climate Conversations Fund 2024

## Summary Report

October 2025

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

eunomia

**The Climate Conversations Community Engagement Fund (CCF)** is a Welsh Government grant. The fund is opened annually for applications around Wales Climate Week. It exists to support the general public in holding community events to explore solutions for tackling climate change. Organisations with ties to communities can apply for funding to hold local events linked to the annual Wales Climate Week programme. The fund aims to gather evidence and insights which are then used to inform Welsh Government decision-making on climate change. Successful applicants are required to cover a series of set questions with participants and to share these insights via a post-event report. In 2024, the theme was "**Adapting to Our Changing Climate**."[1] The fund supported 69 events, of which 62 submitted reports that were analysed by Eunomia Research and Consulting.

This brief report summarises participants' perceptions of climate risks, preparedness, adaptation strategies, and opportunities, based on both qualitative and quantitative data gathered from these events as reported by the organisers. The fund focuses on promoting deliberative public engagement rather than conducting comprehensive research[2], the complete analysis of the discussions can be found here. The purpose of this report is to summarise findings from the Climate Conversations 2024 events. The evidence contained within 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. The findings from this report will also be used to inform delivery of the key actions set out in the Climate Adaptation Strategy for Wales 2024.

**Methodology:** Eunomia analysed 62 reports from CCF events, which involved 3,787 participants, using a mixed-methods approach. The quantitative data were derived from a pre-event questionnaire[3]; however, due to inconsistencies across the reports, some questions rely on a smaller number of reports and participants. The infographics below illustrate the number of reports that provided usable data for each question. Qualitative data were analysed thematically, looking at the primary narratives and perspectives shared in the discussions, as well as their depth of interconnectedness and meaning, rather than simply counting responses

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[1] Climate adaptation is a term used describe actions taken to address climate risks and prepare for the changes ahead, Source: the CCF Organisers' Pack.
[2] The CCF follow a the recommendations for engagement as set in the Review of deliberative engagement on climate policy development | GOV.WALES
[3] See CCF Organisers' Pack, Annex D in the main report.

## 2025 CCF Events:

Description: Figure 1 presents a map showing the distribution of CCF events across Wales by location. Most events occurred in Southeast and Southwest Wales, with fewer in the North and Mid regions. There were two dedicated online events, and six events for which the exact location was unmentioned in the reporting (Source: Eunomia Research & Consulting).
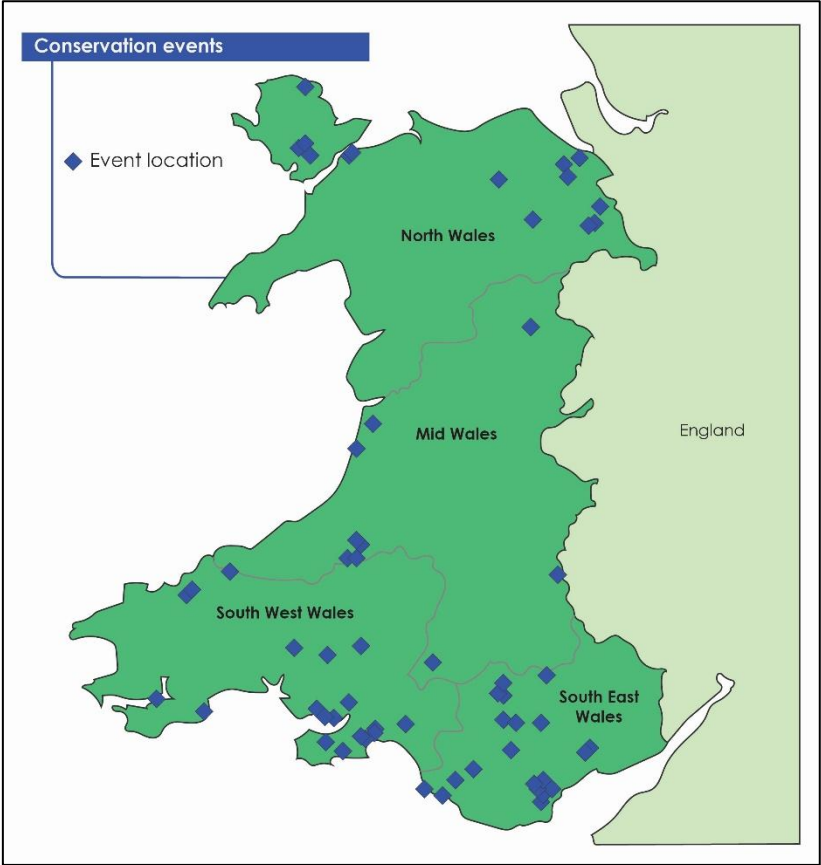
**Figure 1 - Event Locations**



Figure 1 - Event Locations

## Figure 2 - Type of organisations holding events



**Type of organisation holding events**

All reports (62) had this information

| | Education & Training Provider | Government & Public Sector | Non-Profit & Community Organisations | Environmental & Social Advocacy | Business & Industry | Consultancy & Professional Services |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Organisations | 10 | 5 | 35 | 1 | 2 | 9 |
| Percentage | 16.1% | 8.1% | 56.5% | 1.6% | 3.2% | 14.5% |

- Education & Training Provider
- Government & Public Sector
- Non-Profit & Community Organisations
- Environmental & Social Advocacy
- Business & Industry
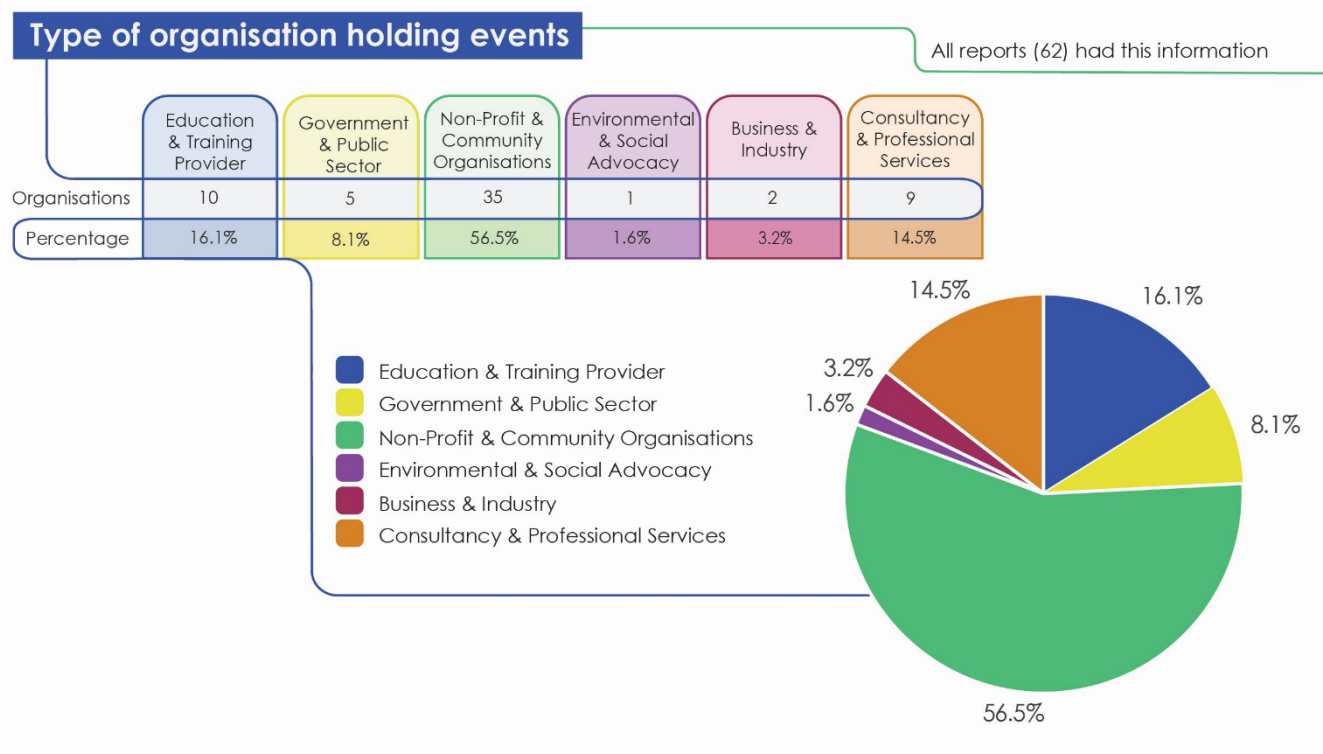- Consultancy & Professional Services

Figure 2 description: The table and pie chart show the types of organisations that held a CCF 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 large majority. (Source: Eunomia Research & Consulting).

**Event activities:** Events typically involved facilitated discussions on climate topics, sometimes with expert talks or presentations from internal or external speakers. Some events incorporated activities on practical sustainability efforts, like planting and composting, and some included creative workshops such as collage-making and poster and banner creation. Some organisers offered online participation and a few hosted excursions to explore climate impacts.

**Knowledge and Awareness**: At the beginning of the events, participants were asked about their level of knowledge and worry about climate change. Figures 3 and 4 present the responses to these questions, based on 51 and 52 reports respectively. Within the events, participants were reported as exhibiting variation in levels of awareness, or themselves suggested that different groups of people outside the events may have different levels of awareness of climate change. However, most participants said that they know "a fair amount" (42.1%) or "a lot" (18.2%) about the impacts of climate change. More than two-thirds of participants are "very worried" (37.7%) and "fairly worried" (34.9%) about climate change, whilst just 13.4% and 5.5% reported being "not very worried" and "not at all worried", respectively.
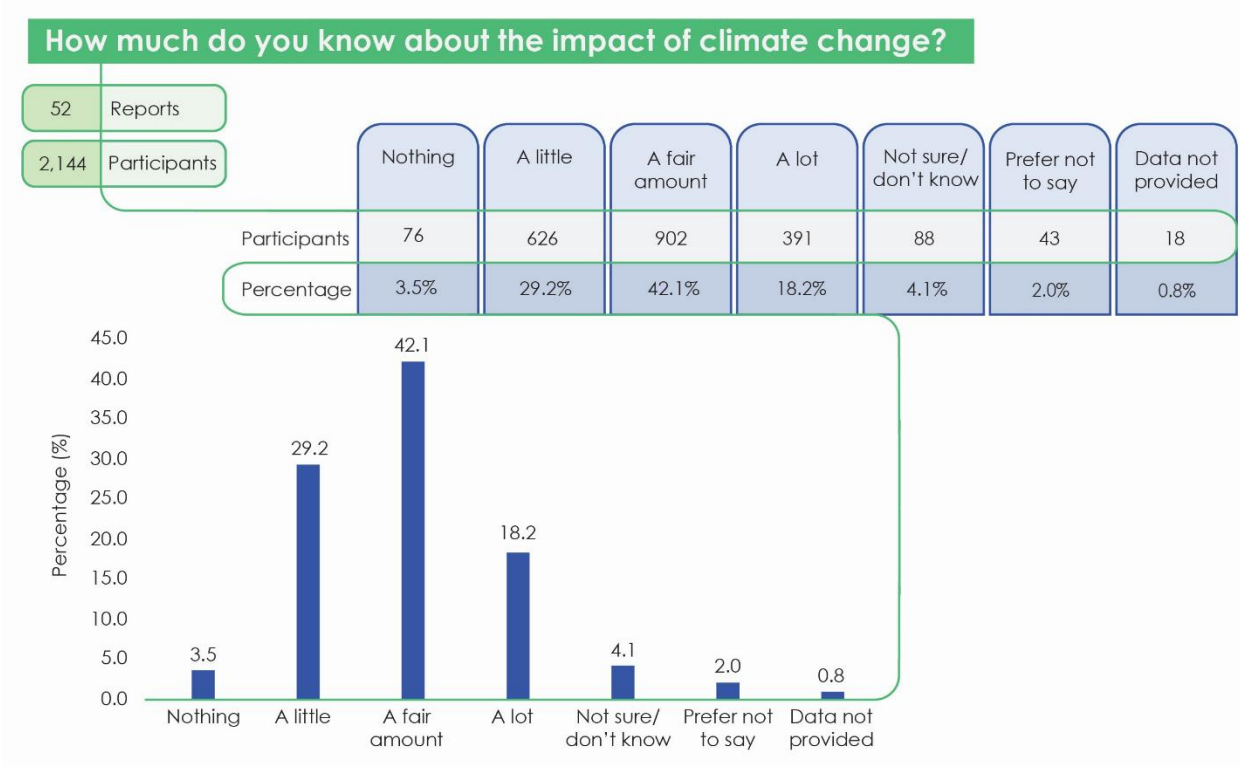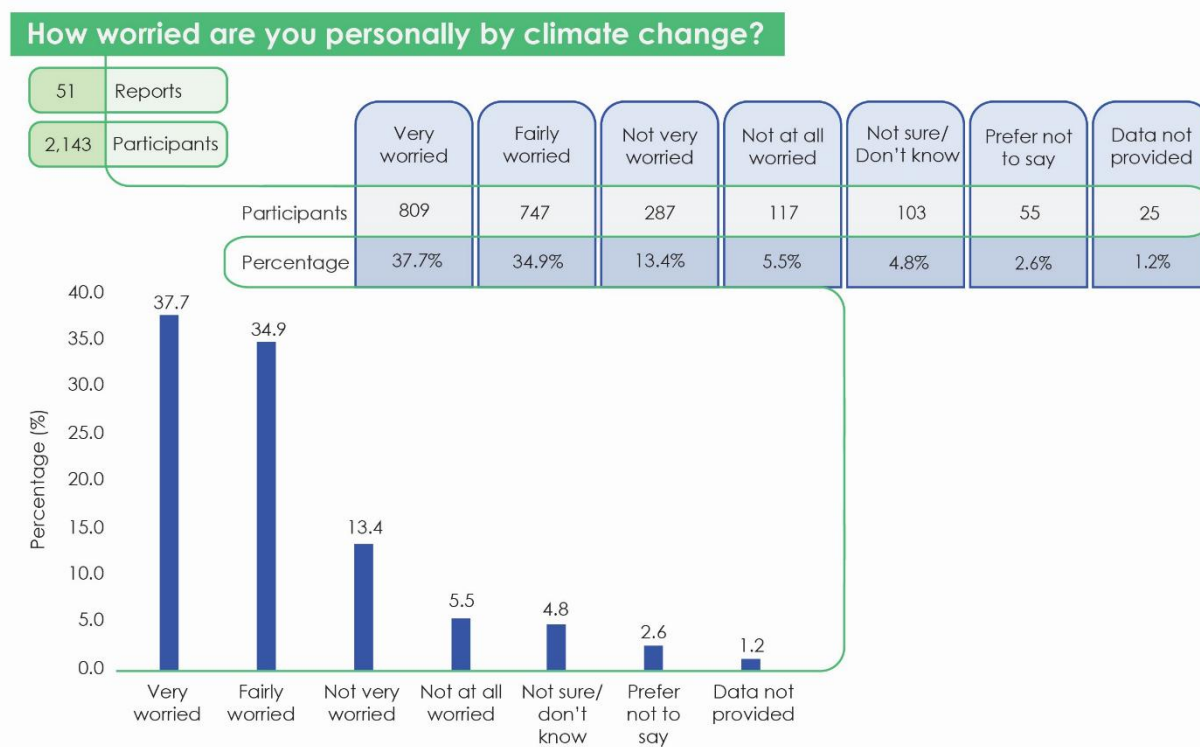
### Figure 3 - Level of Knowledge



Figure 3 description: 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.)
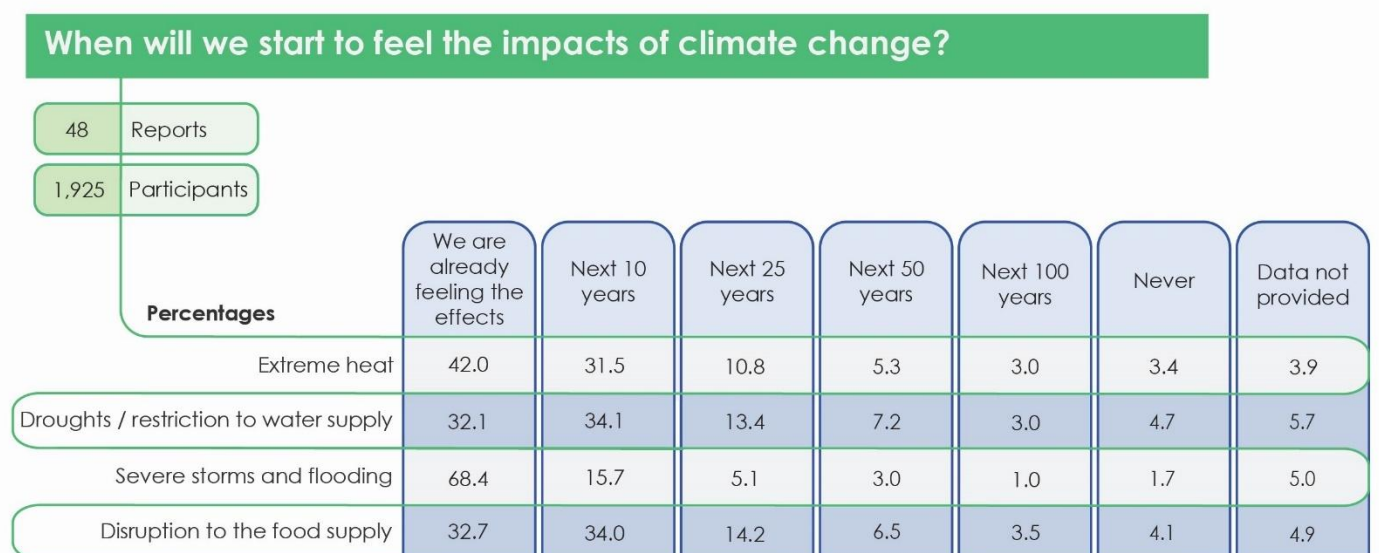
**Figure 4 - Level of Worry**



**How worried are you personally by climate change?**

| | | Very worried | Fairly worried | Not very worried | Not at all worried | Not sure/ Don't know | Prefer not to say | Data not provided |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 51 | Reports | | | | | | | |
| 2,143 | Participants | | | | | | | |
| | Participants | 809 | 747 | 287 | 117 | 103 | 55 | 25 |
| | Percentage | 37.7% | 34.9% | 13.4% | 5.5% | 4.8% | 2.6% | 1.2% |

Description of Figure 4: 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.)

**Climate adaptation, preparedness and resilience:** The conversations mainly focused on discussing climate adaptation in Wales, reflecting a shared view of climate change as a source of major, long-term disruption across multiple areas of daily living from severe weather impacts. Participants were asked "When will we start to feel the impact of extreme heat, droughts, severe storms and flooding or disruption to the food supply?". Figure 5, bellow, is presenting 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 climate change impacts?', by impact. The analysis used data from 48 reports, which included responses from 1,925 participants. (Source: Eunomia Research & Consulting Ltd.)

**Figure 5 - When will we start to feel the impacts of climate change?**

## When will we start to feel the impacts of climate change?

| 48 | Reports |
| --- | --- |
| 1,925 | Participants |

| Percentages | We are already feeling the effects | Next 10 years | Next 25 years | Next 50 years | Next 100 years | Never | Data not provided |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Extreme heat | 42.0 | 31.5 | 10.8 | 5.3 | 3.0 | 3.4 | 3.9 |
| Droughts / restriction to water supply | 32.1 | 34.1 | 13.4 | 7.2 | 3.0 | 4.7 | 5.7 |
| Severe storms and flooding | 68.4 | 15.7 | 5.1 | 3.0 | 1.0 | 1.7 | 5.0 |
| Disruption to the food supply | 32.7 | 34.0 | 14.2 | 6.5 | 3.5 | 4.1 | 4.9 |

The conversations highlighted themes such as protecting homes from flooding, securing energy and food supplies, using community spaces to support people during climate-related events, building adaptation infrastructure, emergency planning, and supporting vulnerable groups in relation to climate impacts. While the organisers' focus was on adaptation, participants often blurred the lines between adaptation, mitigation, and emergency response. Therefore, the following paragraphs refer to a mixture of these concepts. There was widespread reporting across the workshops of participants and their communities not feeling prepared for the impacts of climate change. Particularly, a lack of preparedness with respect to flooding, 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" (Big Wave).

*"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."*
(Longwood Community)

Participants expressed a strong desire for more effective, inclusive, and locally driven responses to climate change adaption and mitigation, with a strong sense of a need for self-reliance amongst some participants, seen through actions taken to protect the home from flooding, as well as localised energy production and community growing projects. While practical suggestions were made across areas, systemic barriers, such as financial inequality, exclusion of marginalised groups, regulatory constraints, resistance to change amongst some, and mistrust in leadership, were said to limit action.

*"Changing our society to adapt to what people need, making sure everyone has equitable access to support and services if they need them"*
(Omidaze Productions Ltd)

The next illustrations depict these conclusions, showcasing what locally-driven strategies for climate adaptation and mitigation might look like. Each image highlights actions that were mentioned in the reports such as renewable energy generation, flood protection, sustainable food production and community infrastructure which, together, foster community climate resilience.

# Figure 6 - A vision of an adapted and resilient community
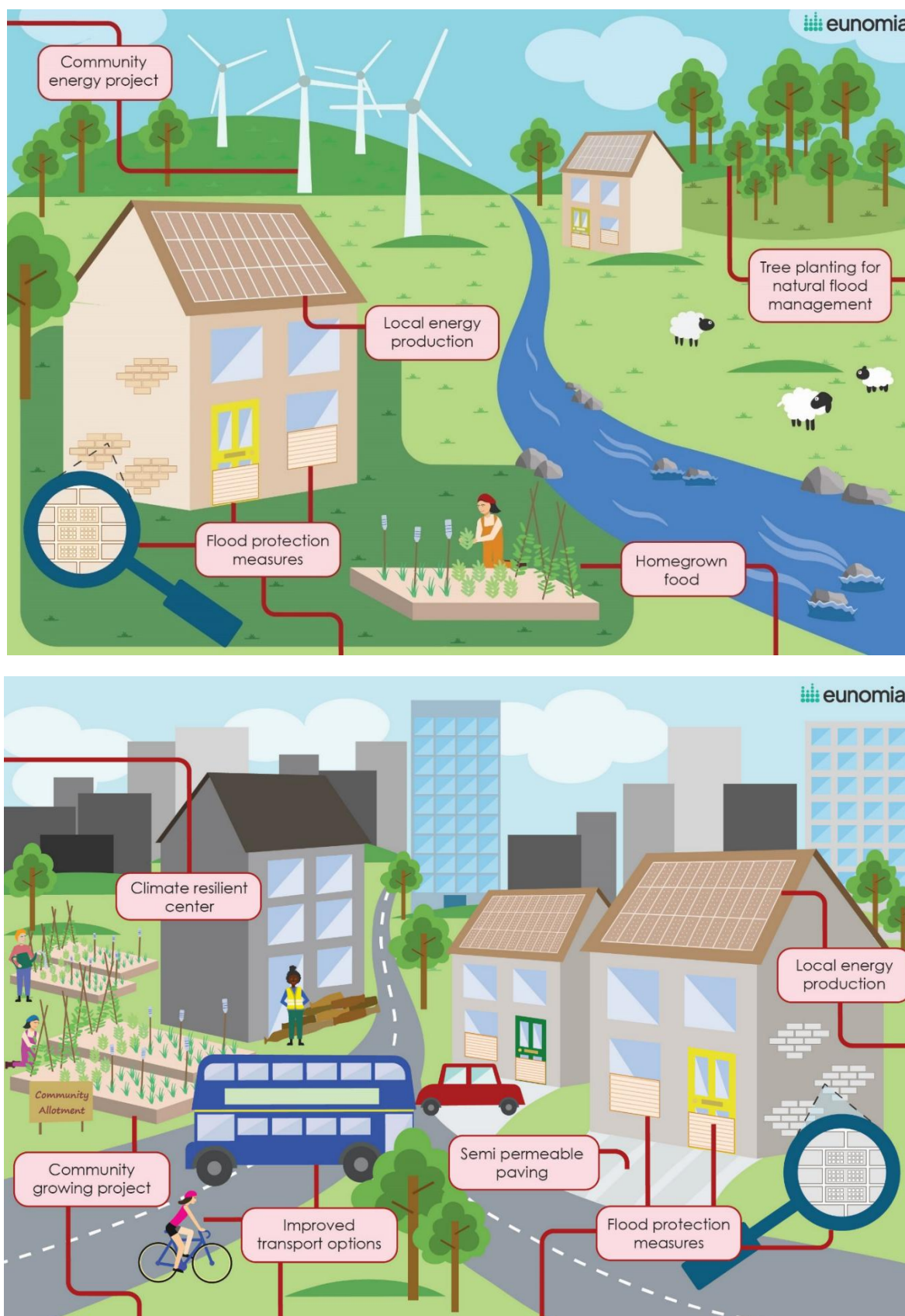


Description of Figure 6: The two infographics depict a vision for a community that has adapted to climate change, both in a rural and an urban community perspectives. In the rural setting, the key features include community energy generation through wind turbines and solar panels, tree planting to support 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.)

**Opportunities:** While climate change poses serious risks, event organisers were encouraged to explore potential opportunities arising from climate action. However, facilitators noted that participants often struggled with this idea, viewing the negative impacts as far outweighing any benefits. Some expressed concern that any gains would mostly benefit wealthy or powerful groups, with fears of exploitation and rising costs. Despite this, discussions highlighted possible positives such as increased tourism, longer growing seasons, community-led energy projects, and stronger local bonds through shared challenges. These themes reflected a cautious optimism, grounded in local resilience and innovation.

> "*Our preparedness for extreme weather events varies significantly across individuals, households, and communities. While some have taken proactive measures, such as installing flood defences or creating emergency kits and creating sandbag depots others remain vulnerable due to a lack of resources or awareness. Community-wide initiatives, such as local emergency response plans and public education campaigns, are crucial in enhancing overall preparedness for the vulnerable. Additionally, local engagement and investment in infrastructure improvements are essential to mitigate the impacts of extreme weather events*."
> (Wrexham County Borough Council)

**Communication, Education and Empowerment:** A prominent theme in the conversations was how communication between institutions and communities can support climate adaptation, with a focus on improving agency and empowerment. Education emerged as a key theme, with strong calls for climate learning across all age groups and sectors, including calls for knowledge sharing of practical skills like food growing and emergency preparedness. Participants also stressed the need for hopeful, solution-focused messaging to counter fear-based narratives. Some groups, including farmers and ethnic minorities, felt unfairly blamed for climate issues, highlighting the need for inclusive communication. Many expressed frustration at feeling powerless and excluded from decision-making, especially among young people and marginalised communities. There was a strong desire for grassroots participation, creative engagement, and community-led solutions, with art and activism seen as powerful tools for change.

**Conclusions:** The full analysis report presents a nuanced view of how Welsh communities perceive climate change and their ideas for responding to it. Discussions focused heavily on adaptation, with concerns raised about flooding, storms, and food supply disruptions. Many participants felt unprepared and frustrated by limited institutional support. A recurring theme was the need for self-sufficiency, with interest in local food and energy production, such as community gardens and solar schemes. These were seen as ways to build resilience and reduce reliance on centralised systems.

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. 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 ability to cope with the range of climate change risks. The findings also revealed that many participants equated adaptation with mitigation: this convergence does potentially point to an appetite for holistic approaches that reduce both emissions and vulnerability to climate impacts.

Participants also called for community hubs to offer shelter and support during extreme events and stressed the importance of stronger social networks and emergency planning. Barriers to climate action included financial inequality, lack of governmental funding, restrictive regulations, mistrust in policy and leadership and a lack of inclusive engagement, while raising that these are experienced more by marginalised groups. There was a strong appetite for practical, community-led action despite these challenges. Although participants found it challenging to identify opportunities in climate change change, a few examples that were mentioned include longer growing seasons, increased tourism, innovation and job creation through local initiatives. Education and empowering communication were seen as key to building resilience, with a desire for hopeful, solution-focused messaging and greater public agency in decision-making.