

Service delivery and procurement in an age of Net Zero: State of Local Government in Wales

12th July 2023



Overview

- The Welsh Government public sector route map
- Net Zero Wales commitments
- WLGA's Transition & Recovery Support Programme
- Service issues
- Procurement
- Paying for it
- Don't forget wider community + adaptation!

Welsh Govt's Public Sector Route Map to Net Zero (July 2021)



- Focus is on public bodies' own footprint
- Three phases:
 - *Moving up a Gear* (21-22) - understanding
 - *Well on our Way* (22-26) - low carbon becoming the norm
 - *Achieving our Goal* (26-30) – net zero is routine and embedded
- Priority areas for action
 - Procurement
 - Mobility and Transport
 - Buildings
 - Land
- Energy planning to support all four

Net Zero Wales - Local Govt Commitments

Carbon Budget 2 (21-25)



- **Strategic:** WLGA support prog; Council decarb plans; Annual monitoring
- **Procurement**
 - Understand emissions of purchased goods and services
 - Use of carbon reduction specifications in contracts
 - Pilot 'scale' contracts and share learning
- **Transport**
 - Fleet transition to EV
 - Grey fleet review
 - Support remote working, including use of hubs
- **Buildings**
 - Plan to decarb estate
 - Low carbon heat
 - Any new build to net zero standard (build and operation)
- **Land**
 - Map land and its sequestration potential
 - Sequestration seen as a valid core purpose for land
 - Develop peatland restoration training and apprenticeship prog

WLGA's Transition & Recovery Support Prog



- Overseen by Partnership Council for Wales (Ministers and Leaders)
- Climate Strategy Panel established to drive progress
- WLGA Support programme funded by Welsh Government (c£300K a year)
- Framework of five consultants procured
- Stage 1: Identifying knowledge gaps and commissioning research
- Stage 2: Task and Finish Groups to drive implementation – one for each ‘pillar’
- T&F groups led by Chief Executives
- Series of masterclasses to share good practice
- Leadership programme – Members and officers

Service issues



Work affects all services:

- **Generic** – energy, vehicles, buildings, land holdings, purchases
- **Social Services** – care homes; journey generation
- **Education** – Sustainable Communities for Learning; home to school journeys
- **Housing** – Optimised Retrofit; ECO; Warm Homes
- **Waste** – now the ‘circular economy’ – resource efficiency
- **Highways and Transport** – Sustainable Transport hierarchy and Roads Review; road user charging
- **Economic Development** – green investment opportunities
- **Catering** – locally grown produce; menus; energy efficiency

Procurement



- £7bn spent by public sector; Scope 3 = 60%+ of emissions
- WPPN 06/21 – Carbon Reduction Plans: £5m+ procurements
- WPPN 12/21- Actions on Scope 3 emissions (supply chain)
- WLGA commissioned report from Miller Research
 - On WLGA website
 - Toolkit (spreadsheet with guidance and suggested wording, standards, sources for specs for commonly purchased g+s)
 - Report with recommendations including CRP requirement for contracts of <£5m
- Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act 2023
 - a key element is socially responsible public procurement
 - Linked to WFG Act and well-being goals

Paying for it



- Audit Wales report – councils need to cost their plans
- Swansea example: £187m over 8 years (direct emissions only)
- Cardiff £640m buildings alone
- Multiply by 22!
- Local Partnerships tool – linear, exponential and intervention
- Can't just hand UKG / WG a shopping list
- Need innovative approaches:
 - Use of borrowing and invest to save
 - Private sector (payments for carbon abated; patient capital)
 - Example of SFS – payment for ecosystem services
 - Behaviour change – do things differently

Don't forget wider community + adaptation!



- Important that the focus on net zero internally doesn't distort
- May be bigger wins from action in wider community
- Councils are planning, transport and education authorities – key roles that can influence how communities function
- Also, need to build resilience for climate change that will happen no whatever we do
- Not just about managing increased rainfall and flood risk- also:
 - Coal tip instability
 - Dealing with overheating in buildings and droughts
 - Melting tarmac and warping of rail tracks
 - High winds and damage to overhead cables
 - New pests and diseases
 - International migrations etc etc