

Wales Climate

Week 2023



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Wales Climate Week 2023 –

**Climate Conversation
Organisers' Pack (Dec to Jan)**

Introduction

Following the success of fringe events held during Wales Climate Week 2022, a similar programme of outreach “Climate Conversations” will be organised before, during and after this year’s Wales Climate Week. Climate Conversations will need to take place between 4th December 2023 and 31st January 2024 and all reports of the conversations must be submitted by the deadline of 1st March 2024. The Welsh Government is offering support and funding for organisations interested in hosting Climate Conversations with members of the public, community groups, and employed and self-employed workers throughout Wales to discuss “how do we tackle climate change in a fair way?”, and the links between tackling climate change and the cost-of-living crisis.

For further detail please visit https://www.climateweek.gov.wales/EN/pages/Climate_conversations

The purpose of the Climate Conversations will be to gather as much evidence as possible to support the consultation on a new ‘Just Transition Framework’, to deepen our understanding around what fairness within a climate context means to industry and business, regions, communities and households across Wales, and to ensure that views are heard from as many people as possible. The Just Transition Framework will help to co-ordinate climate action and ensure that the solutions for the transition to net zero are fair and no-one is left behind. The key takeouts from the Climate Conversations will be summarised in a final report to be published in 2024, alongside the findings from the Welsh Government online consultation.

The events will prioritise conversations with people who are not typically actively engaged in climate conversations, and societal groups and communities who are most likely to be affected by climate change. The outcomes from these conversations will help to inform future policies for tackling and adapting to climate change and ensure that both positive and negative effects are distributed fairly.

Applications to host Climate Conversation events are welcomed from organisations with links to community and voluntary groups, sectoral and business networks, local government and community partnerships, education providers representing children and young people amongst others. Applications will be prioritised from organisations with links to:

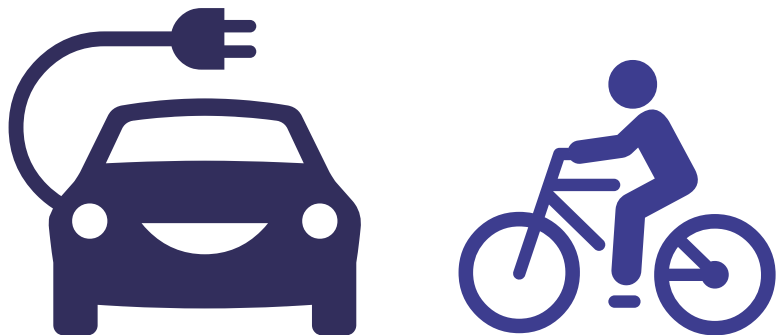
- Marginalised groups (e.g. people and groups excluded from mainstream social, economic, cultural or political life due to factors such as race, sexual orientation, physical and mental disability, religion, political or cultural beliefs, age, gender, or financial status).
- Digitally excluded people
- Children and young people
- Farmers and rural community groups
- Lower socio-economic groups and communities
- Welsh language speaking communities
- People in precarious living situations (eg those experiencing homelessness or short-term housing tenure)
- Those whose voices might otherwise go unheard



You have received this pack because your offer to host a Climate Conversation event has been confirmed as appropriate to include as part of Wales Climate Week 2023. The content within this organisers' pack is meant to provide a useful guide for organisers and is not intended to provide restrictions around how you may wish to run your own event. It contains the following sections:

1. An overview of climate change, just transition, and fairness
2. An introduction to the new draft '**Just Transition Framework**'
3. Hints and tips for organising your climate conversations
 - Format, style and timings
 - Promoting your event
 - Financial support
 - Sharing feedback from your event
 - How feedback from your event will be used

If you have any questions on reading this pack, then please feel free to contact the team at walesclimateweek@freshwater.co.uk



1. An overview on climate change

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 normally happen over very long periods of time. But human activity is speeding up the changes. Changes that would normally take many thousands of years are happening in decades.
- 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 now 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 slow down and be kept to 1.5C if we want to avoid the worst consequences of climate change.

Impact of rising temperatures

- Record-breaking temperatures are causing wildfires, destroying forests, properties and killing wildlife. This releases more carbon dioxide into the air, making climate change even worse. Droughts are threatening our water supplies, wildlife and the food we produce.
- Huge floods are damaging homes, livelihoods and habitats. Sea levels are rising and if this continues, a rise of 2.5 metres by 2100 is possible. 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.

Whose role is it to act on climate change?

- Government, industry and business need to act on climate change but we need to make sure that actions are taken in a fair way. However scientist say that changes in everyone lives will significantly impact on the climate.
- The Climate Change Committee (which is a UK wide group of independent experts) states that over 60% of the changes needed to tackle climate change will require some element of behaviour change from the public.
- There is also 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 needed across all areas of society to reduce our emissions of greenhouse gases and help us adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Why is there a need to increase the general public's understanding of the irreversible impacts of climate change?

- Most 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 build resilience in their homes and in their communities to the impact of climate change, especially through flooding.

What is the difference between the climate and nature emergencies and why are they interlinked?

- As well as climate change, human activities are destroying 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.
- Climate change is driving nature's decline, 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.

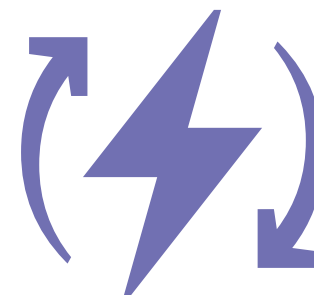
Read more about Climate Change and what we can all do to play our part in tackling climate change at: www.climateaction.gov.wales.

What is Wales' response?

- In Wales we have a legal commitment to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. Net Zero means 'Net zero emissions' - referring to achieving an overall balance between greenhouse gas emissions produced and greenhouse gas emissions taken out of the atmosphere.
- **Net Zero Wales** is our current (2nd) emissions reduction plan for the period of 2021 to 2025, setting the foundations to make Wales net zero by 2050.
- We face a huge challenge in achieving the net zero target, but there are potential solutions, and these will bring significant benefits to the way we all live our lives.

What is a just transition and what do we mean when we talk about fairness?

- The first policy in Net Zero Wales focuses on the need for a just transition to Net Zero.
- This means ensuring that we tackle climate change in a fair way, and making sure that we leave no-one behind as we move to a cleaner, stronger, fairer Wales.
- Fairness can be difficult to define, but it's essentially about doing the right thing and treating people equally.
- For example, we need to think about how the positive and negative effects of climate change can be distributed fairly, who is involved in making the decisions, and whether we can right past wrongs as we make changes.



What benefits will action on climate change and ensuring a just transition bring?

- Positive action on climate change and a just transition to net zero could bring enormous benefits to our health, wealth and overall wellbeing. If we can make the required changes then we will drive down energy bills, enjoy healthier diets, improve our health by exercising more often, breathe cleaner air and avoid polluting our seas and rivers. Access to green spaces will improve our mental wellbeing, and action on climate change will help build a greener economy that creates sustainable, well-paid jobs. All these changes will also safeguard the environment for nature and for future generations.
- Unfortunately, climate change can affect our most vulnerable citizens and communities more than others. Acting on climate change and ensuring a just transition will enable us to ensure that we avoid creating or worsening inequalities in society, and gives us the opportunity to remedy existing injustices whilst distributing the benefits and burdens of the transition equally amongst the population.

3. Hints and tips for organising your climate conversations

Prompt questions to steer conversations

The purpose of the Climate Conversations will be to gather as much evidence as possible to support the consultation on a new 'Just Transition Framework', to deepen our understanding of what fairness relating to climate action policies means to industry and business, regions, communities and households across Wales, and to ensure that views are heard from as many people as possible from across Wales.

To support this process, the Welsh Government has produced a document with [Key Questions](#) for the organisers of Climate Conversations that can be used to steer conversations and generate responses that can inform future policy decisions.

The questions will be sent to organisers of approved Climate Conversations in advance of Wales Climate Week, they will also be downloadable from the Climate Conversations page of the website: https://www.climateweek.gov.wales/EN/pages/Climate_conversations.

Style, format and timings

Your event application has been approved because it supports the goals and objectives of Wales Climate Week, which include prioritising conversations with people typically not already actively engaged in climate conversations.

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 Guide should be used by organisers to engage with participants and encourage discussions. The format for these discussions is flexible and might be held through one-to-one conversations, 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 when or 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 are invited to hold conversations between 1st November 2023 and 31st January 2024, with particular focus on Wales Climate Week (4th-8th December). The Welsh Government is due to formally consult on the new Just Transition Framework in December 2023 – the formal consultation will close on 11 March 2024.

4. Promoting your event

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.

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 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.

The Wales Climate Week team will also feature your event as a listing on the website for free – www.climateweek.gov.wales. 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 we will mark this as invitation only but can still include it on the website to acknowledge your involvement in the programme of Climate Conversations events.

5. Financial support

The Welsh Government will provide funding to cover reasonable expenses associated with the organisation and promotion of your event. This can cover costs such as venue fees, refreshments, set and audio-visual hire, as well as your advertising costs. In your application to host an event, you will have detailed the costs associated with organising your event and which will have been approved in the email from Freshwater confirming inclusion of your event within the event programme.

Freshwater will facilitate all payments associated with the events programme and will share with you the associated payment terms, which will either be agreed in arrears, or 50% in advance of the event and 50% in arrears when you have submitted feedback from discussions held at your event. If you have any questions on the associated payment terms, then please email the Freshwater team at walesclimateweek@freshwater.co.uk.

6. Sharing feedback from your event

Wales Climate Week was developed by the Welsh Government as a platform for climate stakeholders to host events, share content and facilitate a national conversation on climate change. This is in recognition that good engagement and a collaborative approach with national, regional and local delivery partners will bring forward many different perspectives. It is also key to shaping and delivering many of the solutions that will be needed in realising the vision for a greener, stronger, fairer Wales.

The Climate Conversations are an important opportunity for those working on future climate policies to deepen their understanding on the views of different groups in society on climate change, and fairness around the support provided through the transition to net zero.

You will be asked to complete feedback from discussions held during your event using the following report template, ideally within 7 working days of the event. All reports must be submitted by the final deadline of 1st March 2024.

Your report should be in a word document provide the following information:

1. When/where was the session held?
2. Approximately how many people attended your event?
3. How well do you feel the audience understood the issues and concepts being discussed?
4. How comfortable did the audience feel in sharing their views and opinions?
5. Answers to the Key Questions document that you must use during your event.
6. What would you say were the main themes that came out of the discussion? (add all that you feel are relevant)

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

Please note that lengthy, complex reports are not required as long as key information is captured on the discussions held. 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 event programme.



7. How the feedback from your event will be used

The Welsh Government will collate feedback from all Climate Conversation events and will incorporate the findings into a broader report summarising the outcomes of the consultation on the Just Transition Framework. Feedback from your event will be used to help shape future Government policies and programmes to support and enable a Just Transition and ensure fairness is embedded in solutions for tackling climate change. It will also be used to deepen the Welsh Government's understanding around the impact of climate change (and policies to support action on climate change) on marginalised groups.

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.

