

## **Wales Appendix - Subnational Global Leadership MoU**

Wales is one of the nations that make up the United Kingdom, located in the west of Europe and covering an area of just over 8,000 square miles (20,722 km<sup>2</sup>). Climate change action in Wales sits within the wider European and UK framework and the overarching target of at least an 80% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2050 (based on a 1990 baseline). Wales has had a dedicated climate change strategy in place since 2010, encompassing ambitious climate change targets of a 40% reduction in emissions by 2020 and a 3% per annum reduction in those areas devolved to the Welsh Government.

As one of the first nations in the world to have a duty on sustainable development at the heart of its constitution, this commitment has underpinned the approach to climate change in Wales. This has meant that action on key priorities has been taken forward in a way that delivers economically, socially and environmentally. Examples include action on energy efficiency - where the retrofitting of houses has addressed fuel poverty and supported growth in the green economy - and action to reduce waste, which has delivered a significant increase in recycling along with a significant decrease in emissions and increased economic investment. This approach has been further strengthened by the recent passing of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, containing a set of statutory sustainable development goals for Wales. The goals encompass the need to act on the causes and adapt to the consequences of climate change, as well as ensuring that Wales is globally responsible in its actions. This is being followed by the Environment (Wales) Bill, which focuses on the sustainable management of Wales' resources and includes a statutory commitment to carbon budgeting to set a clear pathway for decarbonisation. This legislation will sit within the wider EU and UK framework, which includes the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS).

### The current position in Wales:

Population: 3,082,412 (2013)  
GDP: £53.1 billion (GVA 2013 /  
GHC emissions (year): 45.83 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e (2012)

### **Specific actions and commitments**

#### **Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

Wales is committed to reducing its total greenhouse gas emissions by 40% from 1990 levels by 2020 within the overall goal of reducing emissions by at least 80% by 2050 as laid down in the UK Climate Change Act 2008. In addition, the Welsh Government has committed to reducing emissions within areas of devolved competence by 3% from 2010. Reporting against both the targets and delivery of key policies is undertaken annually. As of the latest annual report (December 2014), territorial emissions in Wales had reduced by 17.9% on 1990 levels and to date the 3% per annum target has been successfully delivered. On an end-user consumption basis, this equates to a 32% reduction on 1990 levels.

The legislation currently being brought forward through the Environment (Wales) Bill aims to further accelerate action, by putting in place strengthened requirements for statutory climate change targets and committing to a carbon budgeting approach in Wales.

### **Renewable energy**

In Wales, the percentage of electricity generated from renewable sources has increased nearly three fold from 2005 to 2013 and it is estimated that in 2016 it will account for over 15% of total electricity generation which is approximately the equivalent of 30% of Wales' electricity consumption. Alongside more established technologies, innovative proposals are being developed to harness Wales' natural resources. For example, a proposal to construct a 320 MW tidal lagoon is currently under consideration in the planning system which, if consented, will be capable of powering over 155,000 homes for 120 years. In addition, in delivering on renewable energy, Wales' commitment to sustainable development has also seen an emphasis on community energy with the Welsh Government providing support to 57 community-led renewable energy schemes since 2012. The Welsh Government is also currently developing a Green Growth fund for Wales to accelerate the roll-out and encourage investment in resource efficiency, renewable energy generation and waste efficiency projects.

### **Energy and Resource efficiency**

In taking action on energy efficiency, a key priority has been to address fuel poverty in deprived areas. Schemes in Wales have improved 7900 homes in Wales in some of the most deprived areas. The energy and environmental sector has also grown in sales turnover from £1.24 billion to £2.36 billion - an increase of 90% from 2006 - with employment increasing from 22,160 to 30,100 over the same period.

This action has also been complemented by work to improve the standards of energy efficiency through investment in social housing and the increasing of standards in the Building Regulations in Wales. The funding and regulatory framework in Wales is also supported by Welsh Government funded independent advice and support for people and organisations to invest in improvements that save on energy, water and waste. This Resource Efficient Wales (REW) service provides a range of advice and fully funded energy efficiency improvements targeted in particular at individual low income households and deprived communities across Wales. Going forward, a new Energy Efficiency Strategy for Wales will be published in 2015.

Action to improve resource efficiency through the implementation of the '*Towards Zero Waste*' strategy has seen Wales achieve the highest recycling rates in the UK at 58% and the 4th highest in Europe. This has been complemented by initiatives such as the charge for single use carrier bags. The overarching aim is to recycle at least 70 per cent of waste by 2025 and to be a zero waste (100 per cent recycling) nation by 2050. Importantly, the increase in recycling in the waste sector has also significantly reduced emissions – by 20.4% in the sector – whilst also delivering investment and economic growth.

### **Clean transportation**

Action on transport in Wales includes the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013, which requires new road schemes (including road improvement schemes) to consider the needs of pedestrians and cyclists at design stage, to enable more people to walk and cycle. The act also requires local authorities to

continuously improve facilities and routes for pedestrians and cyclists and to prepare maps identifying the routes for their use. Sustainable Travel Centres have also been put in place to encourage public transport use and effective journey planning. Going forward, the delivery of the Cardiff Capital Region Metro is a key priority. This comprises multiple modes of transport brought together within an integrated network for the region. The objective is to create a region wide alternative to the car and improve accessibility to public transport within city and town centres.

### **Emissions trading**

Wales is a part of the EU Emission Trading Scheme (ETS), which covers 54% of its emissions reflecting both the heavy industry located in Wales and the fact that Wales is a net exporter of electricity. In addition, businesses and public sector bodies in Wales that are high energy users but not covered under the requirements of the EU ETS are part of the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC). This is a UK-wide scheme to improve energy efficiency and cut carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions where those organisations covered pay for the carbon they emit. The Welsh Government itself is a participant of the CRC and has decreased emissions on its administrative estate by 27% since 2010-11.

### **Adaptation**

As well as reducing emissions, Wales has a framework in place for building resilience to the impacts of climate change. The adaptation work has focussed on developing Sectoral Adaptation Plans, which take sectors through a risk assessment process to develop a planned response. In addition, the goals contained in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act include a goal in relation to a '*Resilient Wales*' which specifically makes reference to adapting to the impacts of climate change. The Environment (Wales) Bill also includes legal requirements relating to action on adaptation at both the national and local levels, together with a framework for the sustainable management of natural resources based on the principles from the Convention for Biological Diversity.

### **Global responsibility**

A key part of Wales' commitment to sustainable development has been its work in partnership internationally from being a founding signatory of the Gauteng Declaration in 2002 to most recently signing the global *Compact of States and Regions* in 2014. Wales' work internationally includes the Wales for Africa programme in Mbale, which won the UNFCCC Momentum for Change Lighthouse award in 2011 and which has seen the planting of more than one million trees and the launch of an ambitious next phase – 10 million trees. Through the Size of Wales project, an area of forest the Size of Wales has been safeguarded in Africa and in Wales, a tree is planted in both Wales and Africa for every child born. As an active member of The Climate Group and Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD), Wales is committed to working in partnership to tackle climate change and more broadly the support development in all regions to be sustainable. This is underpinned by the commitment in the Well-being of Future Generations Act to a globally responsible Wales.

