



Helpu Cymru i leihau
ei Hôl Troed Carbon
Help Wales reduce
its Carbon Footprint



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

One Wales: One Planet

The Sustainable Development Scheme
of the Welsh Assembly Government

May 2009





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This is the Welsh Assembly Government's Sustainable Development Scheme, made under section 79 of the Government of Wales Act 2006. It sets out how the Welsh Assembly Government intends to promote sustainable development in the exercise of the Welsh Ministers' functions.

Ministerial Foreword



I am delighted to present the Welsh Assembly Government's Sustainable Development Scheme, One Wales; One Planet. I am proud that the Government of Wales Act 2006 places the promotion of sustainable development at the heart of the Welsh Assembly Government's work. We remain one of the few administrations in the world to have such a statutory duty, and it gives us an opportunity to develop Wales, as a small, smart nation, in ways which contribute sustainably to people's economic, social and environmental wellbeing.

We received over 90 responses to our consultation on the draft Scheme for Sustainable Development. In addition, people also provided detailed comments at the consultation events we held, in Swansea, Llandudno and Aberystwyth. I would like to thank everyone who responded. Your comments have strongly influenced the final Scheme. In particular, there was very strong support for:

- Our new vision of a sustainable Wales, based on using only our fair share of the earth's resources, and becoming a fairer and more just nation;
- Sustainable development as the overarching strategic aim of all our policies and programmes, across all Ministerial portfolios;
- Sustainable development as the central organising principle of the Welsh Assembly Government and of the public sector in Wales.

This Scheme, therefore, provides an opportunity for us to confirm that these three elements are central to our approach to sustainable development. Embedding sustainable development into everything that we do, through making sustainable development our central organising principle, is the only way in which we can develop Wales as a sustainable nation.

This Scheme is for the Welsh Assembly Government. It sets out 18 Actions, across Ministerial Portfolios, to confirm our intent. The Actions are not separate to the strategic approach that this Scheme describes, nor are they the only actions we are taking in support of sustainable development - they represent a limited number of high level actions that exemplify our commitment to sustainable development.

We know that we are very far from living sustainably. Our Ecological Footprint, which is one of our headline indicators of sustainable development, shows us that, if everyone on the earth lived as we do, we would use 2.7 planets worth of resources. Unchecked, this could increase to 3.3 planets worth by 2020. Climate change is the clearest example that our current lifestyles are unsustainable, but wherever we look - the amount of waste we generate, the amount we travel - we know that we are living beyond the environment's means to sustain us.

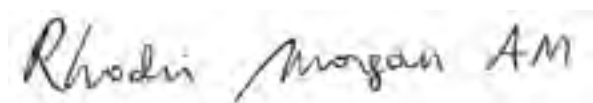
There is a clear parallel with the difficult economic circumstances that we face: that of living beyond the economy's means to sustain us. Sustainable development provides us with the route to developing a sustainable and strong economy that operates within environmental and financial limits, which meets the needs of all our citizens now and in the future, and is resilient to future change.

Continued unsustainable development, globally and locally, will have a profoundly negative impact on our economic, social and environmental wellbeing. Those who are the least well able to cope are likely to be hit the hardest. Sustainable development, as the process by which we must become a sustainable nation, is therefore as much about social justice as it is about securing economic resilience and living within environmental limits.

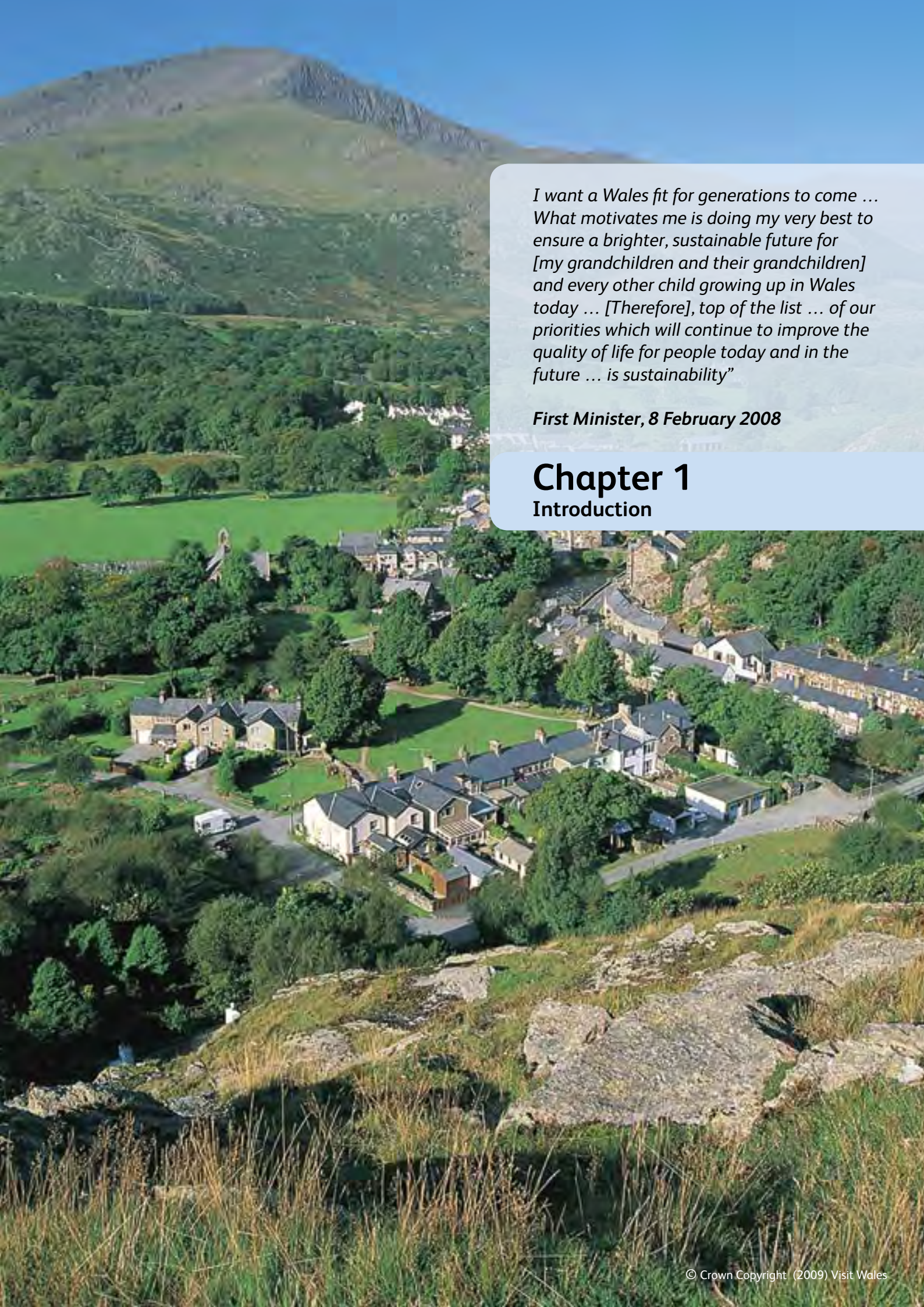
Our Scheme for Sustainable Development gives Wales an opportunity to show leadership and ambition, and to learn from the past. It gives us the opportunity to show how we are playing our full role as a global citizen, within the context set by the UN Millennium Development Goals.

The goal of sustainability requires everyone to play a part, and we shall be setting out, in two supporting documents, guidance and advice on the role that others can play in this.

This Scheme for Sustainable Development sets out what we will be doing on the first stage on the journey to sustainability. I hope that you will be able to support and join us in this endeavour, so that together we can transform Wales into a sustainable nation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rhodri Morgan AM". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'R' and 'M'.

Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan AM
First Minister for Wales

A high-angle, wide shot of a Welsh village. In the foreground, there's a rocky, grassy hillside. Below it, a cluster of stone houses with dark roofs is nestled among green trees. A large, open green field is visible to the left of the houses. In the background, a large, rugged mountain with a prominent peak rises against a clear blue sky. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic, typical of the Welsh countryside.

*I want a Wales fit for generations to come ...
What motivates me is doing my very best to
ensure a brighter, sustainable future for
[my grandchildren and their grandchildren]
and every other child growing up in Wales
today ... [Therefore], top of the list ... of our
priorities which will continue to improve the
quality of life for people today and in the
future ... is sustainability"*

First Minister, 8 February 2008

Chapter 1

Introduction

What is sustainable development?

The goal of sustainable development is to “enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations”.¹

Sustainable Development in Wales

In Wales, sustainable development means enhancing the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of people and communities, achieving a better quality of life for our own and future generations:

- In ways which promote social justice and equality of opportunity; and
- In ways which enhance the natural and cultural environment and respect its limits - using only our fair share of the earth’s resources and sustaining our cultural legacy.

Sustainable development is the process by which we reach the goal of sustainability.

Our Duty

In Wales, the Welsh Assembly Government is proud that sustainable development is a core principle within its founding statute. We were, and indeed remain, one of the few administrations in the world to have a distinctive statutory duty in relation to sustainable development. This duty, under the Government of Wales Act 2006 (Section 79), requires Welsh Ministers to make a scheme setting out how they propose, in the exercise of their functions, to promote sustainable development.

The purpose of the Scheme for Sustainable Development

This Scheme for Sustainable Development has the following purposes:

- It sets out the Assembly Government’s vision of a sustainable Wales. The vision of a sustainable Wales, and the supporting definition of sustainable development (the process of development to achieve the vision), will be the overarching strategic aim of all our policies and programmes, across all Ministerial portfolios.
- It confirms that sustainable development will be the central organising principle of the Welsh Assembly Government, and the steps we will take to embed this approach. Sustainable development should be a real organising principle, relevant to all sectors of society. It demands joined-up government with a focus on the long-term and serving

¹ UK’s shared framework for sustainable development

the citizen, directly supporting the aims we have already set in the Wales Spatial Plan and for Local Service Boards across Wales.

- It confirms the 2 core principles and 6 supporting principles of sustainable development that we will use to inform all our policy and programme development and delivery.
- It sets out an indicative route map of the journey we will need to take to use only our fair share of the earth's resources.
- It sets out our strategic approach to delivering sustainable development across the Welsh Assembly Government, through setting out how our policies and commitments will move closer to delivering sustainable development over this Assembly term.

The commitments in this Scheme for Sustainable Development apply to the Welsh Assembly Government, and the actions within it are for us.

This Scheme is not separate from our *One Wales* agenda. It provides a unifying vision and set of operational principles that will thread through, support and drive all our policies and programmes in a joined up way to deliver sustainable development. We recognise there will be more to do, and that the required momentum of change must be faster. Whilst the vision, the definition of sustainable development, and the underpinning principles of sustainable development will remain constant, there will be a need to update this Scheme in the future, to reflect new policies required to take us further down the road to achieve the Vision.

Achieving the vision of a sustainable Wales will require radical change in all sectors of society. We recognise that the timescale for this transformation will be the lifetime of a generation, and that it will require understanding, support and action from all organisations, communities and individuals in Wales. We are, therefore, publishing our Scheme for Sustainable Development together with two linked documents, as shown in the box.

The Scheme for Sustainable Development and its two supporting documents

This Scheme for Sustainable Development confirms:

- our vision of a sustainable Wales (chapter 2), and the way in which we will ensure that sustainable development is the central organising principle of WAG (chapter 3); and

- the strategy for delivering sustainable development, which comprises:
 - the actions we will take within this administration (chapters 4-8).
 - the role we encourage other organisations to play, and how we will use sustainable development as our central organising principle to support them in this. This is set out in two supporting documents (which do not form part of the Scheme): firstly,
 - a document for the wider public sector in Wales; and secondly,
 - a document for businesses, the third sector, the voluntary sector, communities, individuals and other organisations in Wales.

We hope that the overarching context provided by the Scheme, together with its two supporting documents, will allow organisations in Wales to align their activities to the vision of a sustainable Wales, and be clear about their role in its achievement. We want the two supporting documents to be used actively by all organisations in Wales to help them plan and deliver their work and activities.

International context

The Welsh Assembly Government has a role to play at an international level, both learning from others and in sharing our best practice. As a member of the network of regional governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD) we can learn much from other regional governments facing identical or similar challenges. The work of nrg4SD presents an opportunity for regional governments to make a positive contribution, at events associated with the United Nations (UN) Framework Convention on Climate Change and the UN Commission on Sustainable Development.

European Union context

At the European Union (EU) level, the renewal of the EU Sustainable Development strategy² in 2006 confirmed the long standing commitment to sustainable development, and the support and promotion of actions to enable the EU to achieve continuous improvement of quality of life for both current and future generations. While environmental protection remains at the heart of the strategy, other guiding principles include social equity and cohesion, economic prosperity, and ensuring policies are coherent with international responsibilities. The EU Sustainable Development Strategy priorities are reflected in our Sustainable Development Scheme. These linkages will ensure there is coherence between EU policies and coherence between regional, national and global actions, in order to enhance their contribution to sustainable development.

² EU Sustainable Development Strategy, available at <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eussd/>

UK context

The UK's shared framework, One Future - different paths states that the goal for sustainable development will be: *"pursued in an integrated way through a sustainable, innovative and productive economy that delivers high levels of employment, and a just society that promotes social inclusion, sustainable communities and personal well-being. This will be done in ways that protect and enhance the physical and natural environment, and use resources and energy as efficiently as possible"*³.

Our Scheme for Sustainable Development is consistent with the overarching principles of the UK shared framework:

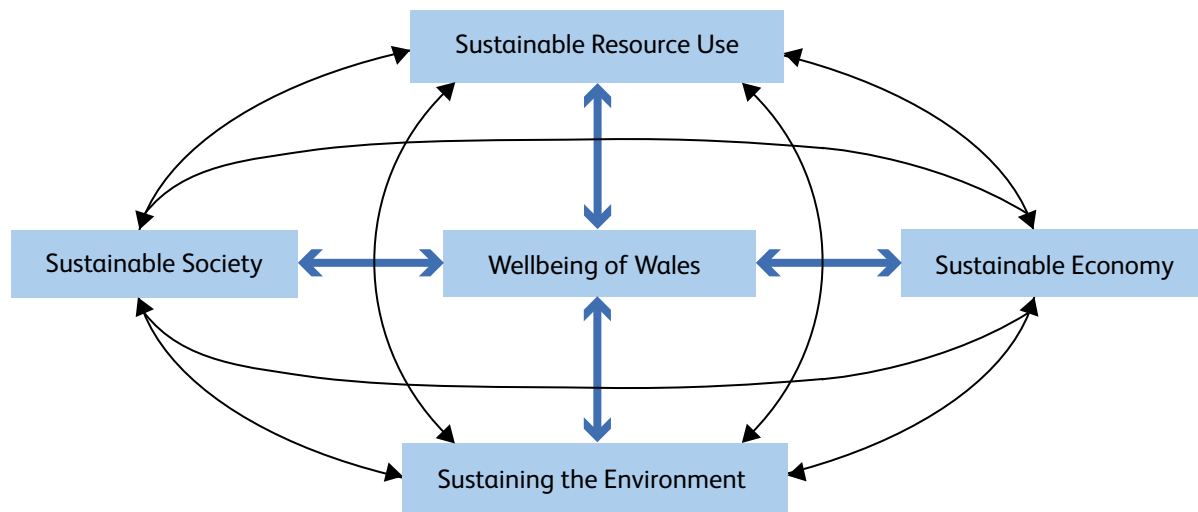
- **living within environmental limits:** by setting out a pathway to using only our fair share of the earth's resources, and becoming a One Planet nation within the lifetime of a generation;
- **ensuring a strong, healthy and just society:** our focus on how a sustainable approach will improve the quality of life and wellbeing of the people of Wales, and especially those in our less well off communities;
- **achieve a sustainable economy:** by setting out how we want to transform our economy so that it is low carbon, low waste;
- **promoting good governance:** through confirming sustainable development as the central organising principle of the Welsh Assembly Government, and through encouraging and enabling others to embrace sustainable development as the central organising principle;
- **using sound science responsibly:** through the use of our SD principles, as part of our evidenced-based approach to policy making.

Our strategy for delivering sustainable development

Our strategy for delivering sustainable development is organised according to our 5 headline indicators of sustainable development. This means that our strategy is fully aligned with our reporting of progress. However, it means that actions appear compartmentalised within particular chapters. The joined-up nature in which we will deliver our strategy, and the way in which actions contribute to economic, social and environment outcomes, cannot always be shown: for example, the importance of a sustainably managed natural environment to our health and wellbeing, and in underpinning our economy. The interrelationships between the chapters can be shown in Figure 1:

³ UK's shared framework for sustainable development.

Figure 1: Relationship between the chapters in the Sustainable Development Scheme



The Table opposite explains this structure showing that part of the vision of a sustainable Wales is relevant to each chapter, the main associated outcomes, and the headline and relevant supporting indicators of SD.

Chapter	Vision	Main Outcomes	SD Indicators (summary)
Sustainable	Sustainable development will be the central organising principle of the Welsh Assembly Government	<p>The Welsh Assembly Government as an exemplar organisation demonstrates leadership on sustainable development, and encourages and enables others to embrace sustainable development as the central organising principle.</p> <p>Sustainable development considerations are at the core of the evaluation and development of our policies and our new and existing investment proposals.</p> <p>There are effective and participative systems of governance in all levels of society.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable development is mainstreamed • A leader within the Sustainable Development Commission's Sustainable Development in Government assessment • Stabilise the public sector's ecological footprint by 2020, then reduce
Sustainable resource use	Within the lifetime of a generation we want to see Wales using only its fair share of the earth's resources	<p>We use less energy and are more energy efficient. More of our energy is produced at a community level close to where it is used and we are self-sustaining in renewable energy.</p> <p>Every community enjoys better local environments which contribute to health and wellbeing, and local people are involved to promote low carbon, low waste living as part of a One Planet nation.</p> <p>We have a low carbon transport network which promotes access rather than mobility, so that we can enjoy facilities with much less need for single occupancy car travel.</p> <p>An NHS that leads on low carbon and sustainable development best practice and health services that focus on successful outcomes.</p>	<p>Headline indicator of sustainable development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wales' Ecological Footprint <p>Supporting indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Resource Use • Greenhouse gas emissions • Waste arisings • Household waste recycled or composted • Mobility

Chapter	Vision	Main Outcomes	SD Indicators (summary)
Sustaining the Environment	Wales has healthy, functioning ecosystems that are biologically diverse and productive and managed sustainably	Our land, freshwater and marine environment is best managed to provide the services of food, wood, water, soil, habitats and recreation.	<p>Headline indicator of sustainable development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and species recorded as stable or increasing <p>Supporting indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends in bird populations • Ecological impacts of air pollution • Air quality • River quality • Soil quality • Sustainable water resource management
A Sustainable economy	A resilient and sustainable economy for Wales that is able to develop whilst stabilising, then reducing, its use of natural resources and reducing its contribution to climate change	<p>A sustainable economy for Wales that is resilient to changes in the global economy.</p> <p>Our long term economic future secured by achieving the transition to a low carbon, low waste economy.</p> <p>Wales is the best place for business to locate, start up, grow and prosper.</p> <p>Regeneration involves and engages with local communities and is firmly based on sustainability principles, creating an infrastructure for the future that favours sustainable ways of living and working.</p>	<p>Headline indicator of sustainable development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gross Value Added (GVA) and GVA per head <p>Supporting indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment • Resource efficiency • Electricity from renewable resources

Chapter	Vision	Main Outcomes	SD Indicators (summary)
A Sustainable Society	Safe, sustainable, attractive communities in which people live and work, have access to services, and enjoy good health and can play their full roles as citizens	<p>A nation that values and promotes healthy living and improves the quality of life for all.</p> <p>All have access to better homes so that we reduce greenhouse gas emissions and tackle fuel poverty, and new homes and community facilities are sited in sustainable locations, free from the risk of flooding.</p> <p>Improved global impact by ensuring that Wales is an international exemplar of sustainable development, leading the world in promoting Fair Trade, and delivering strong community partnerships with sub-Saharan Africa.</p>	<p>Headline indicator of sustainable development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of the population in low-income households <p>Supporting indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health inequality • Benefit dependency • Housing • Accessibility • Crime
The Wellbeing of Wales	A fair, just and bilingual Wales, in which citizens of all ages and backgrounds are empowered to determine their own lives, shape their communities and achieve their full potential	<p>Equality for all is a core value to all our work, and the six equality themes of age, gender, race, disability, sexual orientation and religion are actively promoted.</p> <p>Every educational institution is embedding sustainable development and global citizenship within its education programmes and way of working; and this in practice is underpinning all our work including Human Rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.</p> <p>Active citizenship is encouraged, with everyone meeting their personal and community responsibilities, both as a national and global citizen.</p> <p>Child poverty is eradicated and, more broadly, a real translation of wealth and power in our poorest communities has been achieved.</p> <p>Wales' rich culture, values and traditions are celebrated, particularly through encouraging diversity, distinctiveness and promoting the Welsh language; regeneration informed by heritage, fostering local character, a sense of place and a potent heritage and cultural tourism offer.</p>	<p>Headline indicator of sustainable development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellbeing in Wales <p>Supporting indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Childhood poverty • Pensioner poverty • Workless households • Active community participation • Welsh language



Chapter 2

Our Vision of a Sustainable Wales

Our Vision of a Sustainable Wales is one where Wales:

- lives within its environmental limits, using only its fair share of the earth's resources so that our ecological footprint is reduced to the global average availability of resources, and we are resilient to the impacts of climate change;
- has healthy, biologically diverse and productive ecosystems that are managed sustainably;
- has a resilient and sustainable economy that is able to develop whilst stabilising, then reducing, its use of natural resources and reducing its contribution to climate change;
- has communities which are safe, sustainable, and attractive places for people to live and work, where people have access to services, and enjoy good health;
- is a fair, just and bilingual nation, in which citizens of all ages and backgrounds are empowered to determine their own lives, shape their communities and achieve their full potential.

To achieve this, sustainable development (the process that leads to Wales becoming a sustainable nation) will be the central organising principle of the Welsh Assembly Government, and we will encourage and enable others to embrace sustainable development as their central organising principle.

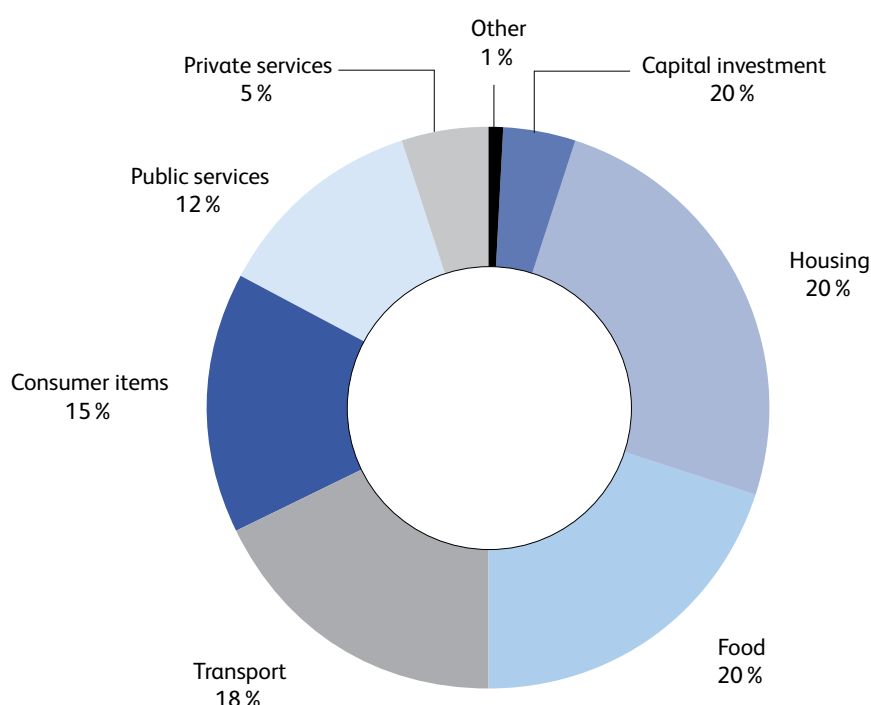
Within the lifetime of a generation, we want to see Wales using only its fair share of the earth's resources, and where our ecological footprint is reduced to the global average availability of resources - 1.88 global hectares per person, with each Spatial Plan Area making its full contribution (see Figure 2 for Wales' ecological footprint by theme for 2003). By the lifetime of a generation, we mean that we wish to see these changes brought about by the time our children are grown up. Figure 3 shows an indicative timeline to this.

To achieve this goal over a generation, we will need to reduce by at least two thirds the total resources we currently use to sustain our lifestyles. To reduce this we must:

- radically reduce by 80-90% our use of carbon-based energy, resulting in a similar reduction in our greenhouse gas emissions. This reflects the latest estimates for action needed to address damaging climate change. It would support our commitment to make annual 3% reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in areas of devolved competence; and our ambitions to make all new buildings zero carbon buildings; and to move to producing as much electricity from renewable sources by 2025 as we consume.

- have a radically different approach to waste management, moving towards becoming a zero waste nation. By this, we mean a society where we focus on eliminating waste, and waste that can't be eliminated must be recycled in "closed loop" systems that achieve the best reduction in ecological and carbon footprints. This will build on our stated goal of achieving 70% recycling across all sectors, and diverting waste from landfill by 2025.
- organise the way we live and work so we can travel less by car wherever possible, and can live and work in ways which have a much stronger connection with our local economies and communities.
- have a resilient and sustainable economy that is able to develop whilst stabilising, then reducing its use of natural resources, reusing sites and buildings and reducing its contribution to climate change.
- source more of our food locally and in season, within a natural environment where ecosystems are managed sustainably.
- do all of the above in ways which make us a fairer society, reducing the gap between rich and poor, building on our commitments to tackling child and fuel poverty.

Figure 2: Ecological Footprint of Wales by theme (2003)



We will measure our progress towards our Vision through the use of our 5 headline indicators of Sustainable Development.

Headline Indicators of Sustainable Development

- **Sustainable resource use** - Wales' Ecological Footprint
- **Sustaining the environment** - percentage of Biodiversity Action Plan species and habitats recorded as stable or increasing
- **A sustainable economy** - Gross Value Added (GVA) and GVA per head
- **A sustainable society** - percentage of the population in low-income households
- **Wellbeing** - the wellbeing of Wales

It is intended that these should be considered collectively, and not individually, to give a high level view of our progress towards becoming a sustainable nation.

These provide the structure for the chapters within this Scheme. In many cases, the headline indicators represent proxy measures that cannot reflect the breadth of issues within each chapter. Each chapter also notes the relevant supporting indicators of sustainable development. In many cases action referred to in one chapter will contribute to other headline or supporting indicators in other chapters. The sustainable development indicators included here were confirmed in 2006. Some of these are not now well aligned with our new approach to Sustainable Development, and following publication of this Scheme, we will review them to ensure greater consistency.

Wellbeing

Wellbeing is defined⁴ as *a positive physical, social and mental state; it is not just the absence of pain, discomfort and incapacity. It requires that basic needs are met, that individuals have a sense of purpose, that they feel able to achieve important personal goals and participate in society. It is enhanced by conditions that include supportive personal relationships, strong and inclusive communities, good health, financial and personal security, rewarding employment and a healthy and attractive environment.*

This would reflect the use of wellbeing within the suite of indicators included in the UK Framework on Sustainable Development, and would also serve to tie in the overall purpose of sustainable development to the



⁴ DEFRA (2008) Sustainable Development Indicators in Your Pocket

wellbeing of the people of Wales. We intend that the development of an overall wellbeing indicator would be one of the key actions that fall under this Scheme.

ACTION 1: We will develop a measure of wellbeing in Wales, and report it as a 5th headline indicator of sustainable development.

What a sustainable Wales would look like

Across society there is recognition of the need to live sustainably and reduce our carbon footprint. People understand how they can contribute to a low carbon, low waste society, and what other sectors are doing to help. These issues are firmly embedded in the curriculum and workplace training. People are taking action to reduce resource use, energy use and waste. They are more strongly focused on environmental, social and economic responsibility, and on local quality of life issues, and there is less emphasis on consumerism. Participation and transparency are key principles of Government at every level, and individuals have become stewards of natural resources.

We have strong, active, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others. Wales is a bi-lingual society, is fairer and more equal, and there is a reduction in the gap between rich and poor. Employment levels are high, and people enjoy a greater work-life balance, with more opportunities for volunteering. People work closer to home.

Many communities are taking action locally to reduce emissions and have developed local carbon budget programmes. Action has been taken to ensure that reducing greenhouse gas emission and the impacts of climate change do not increase social exclusion in Wales. People are active in maintaining the quality of the local environment where they live.

Economic regeneration is undertaken with sustainable development at its core, and promotes low carbon, low waste ways of working. There has been a huge growth in businesses that supply the goods and services needed to support a sustainable economy, including within the third sector. This growth has been underpinned by the development of training and qualifications in key sectors and in key skills needed for the production of low carbon, low waste goods and services. Wales is home to a number of world-leading technology development companies and manufacturing plants. The emphasis is on durable, recycled, recyclable and re-usable goods, and goods which are low carbon. These products are used locally and exported. Much more freight is moved by rail.

The energy intensity of society has decreased significantly. There has been a consistent drop in energy and water demand. There has been a major increase in renewable energy generation, offshore and onshore. All remaining fossil fuel plants have much improved energy efficiency, use their waste heat productively, and have carbon capture and storage fitted.

Heavy industry and the power generation sector have greatly improved the energy efficiency of their processes and reducing the embedded carbon in their products. Large, energy intensive sites are maximising the productive use of waste heat and supplying other businesses and homes.

Waste - whether of energy or other resources is taboo - both from a cost and societal impact. There is less light pollution. Resources are valued, and as a result there has been a huge reduction in waste production and a much greater emphasis on reuse. Composting and recycling are at very high levels, and the third sector is active in providing services to enable reuse and recycling.

Walking and cycling are much more commonplace. There is greatly enhanced provision for cyclists and pedestrians within towns and cities, with improved walking and cycling networks, as well as better street design and traffic management measures. There are fast, reliable, affordable public transport services connecting major settlements. There are frequent, reliable mass transit services within cities and more heavily urbanised regions. There is a coherent network of sustainable transport options within rural Wales. Travel Plans are part of all new developments. All employers develop and implement Travel Plans.

The 'school run' has been replaced by organised school transport or group walking/cycling. Petrol and diesel prices remain high, engine efficiency has increased with the widespread take-up of hybrid vehicles. People buy smaller, more efficient cars, and lift-sharing is a common way of travelling. The carbon content of transport fuels has reduced. The rate of growth in air travel has slowed down and it is no longer regarded as a necessity.



Good quality housing for all is the norm. Homes and businesses are far more energy efficient and sustainable - all existing buildings, at least meet Energy Performance Certificate Standard C, and many are on the way to becoming carbon neutral. All new buildings are constructed to the highest standards of energy and water efficiency and are zero carbon. New development and infrastructure is located, designed and constructed for the climate it will experience over its design life, and to minimise travel needs.

The public sector has led the way in this area, and sustainable development is the central organising principle of public service. Public buildings, schools, further and higher education institutions, hospitals and community buildings have been early, visible demonstrators of greater energy efficiency and renewable technology. They have also pioneered staff and service delivery approaches that minimise the need to travel. Many services are available locally and IT is used extensively to connect to specialist services.

Sustainable development and global citizenship is firmly embedded into all levels of educational provision and lifelong learning in Wales, and all schools are Eco and Fair Trade schools. Levels of educational attainment are high.

There is a much greater emphasis on preventative health care throughout society, and many more people are living healthy lives through eating better and getting exercise more regularly as part of their everyday lives. Increased localisation means that people are eating more seasonal fresh local produce, and this has stimulated agriculture and horticulture in Wales, and there is much greater consideration given to the provenance of food. Much more food is traded locally where possible and fairly with the developing world when not. There is a huge expansion in allotments and community gardening. The agricultural industry has adapted to a changing climate, including making provision for the impacts of warmer summers, and changes in land use and management.

Wales' historic landscapes have been preserved, and we have learnt lessons from our past which inform our future management. We are now also managing land for the wider ecosystem services it can deliver, including carbon storage, water quality, flood management, and landscape quality and connectivity for wildlife to adapt to climate change. As a result, the loss of biodiversity has been halted and there is a greater number, range and genetic diversity of wildlife. There is a greater understanding and appreciation of our inter-dependence with the other species we share the planet with.

The marine environment is managed sustainably on an ecosystem approach, and there is an ecologically coherent, representative and well managed network of marine protected areas. Many more people enjoy sustainable access to enjoy the countryside and coast. Wales' historic environment and heritage is sustainably managed and is accessible to all, sustainable transport options for visitors are more commonplace, and this underpins Wales' brand as a sustainable tourism destination.

Wales is recognised internationally as a leader in sustainable development, and learns from, and exports its learning to, other small nations and regions in Europe and wider afield.

(Ecological footprint figures are not targets, they represent the direction of travel needed to meet our visions of sustainable Wales)

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Chapter 3

Sustainable Development -
the central organising principle

Vision

The Welsh Assembly Government is an exemplar organisation in the way that it mainstreams sustainable development as its central organising principle.

Key outcomes

- The Welsh Assembly Government, as an exemplar organisation, demonstrates leadership on sustainable development, and encourages and enables others to embrace sustainable development as the central organising principle.
- Sustainable development considerations are at the core of the evaluation and development of our policies and our new and existing investment proposals.
- There are effective and participative systems of governance in all levels of society.

Indicators

- Sustainable development will be fully mainstreamed as our central organising principle within the lifetime of this Scheme.
- We will be a leader within the Sustainable Development Commission's Sustainable Development in Government assessment by 2010/11.
- Stabilise the public sector's ecological footprint by 2020.

Sustainable development will be the central organising principle for Government, and we will encourage and enable others in the wider public sector in Wales, to embrace sustainable development as the central organising principle. This will provide the strong sense of purpose and direction necessary to deliver the real and lasting changes to transform people's lives all over Wales. Sustainable development - as the process that leads to us becoming a sustainable society - is the overarching aim of Government and the public sector.

Our approach to policy-making will be underpinned by the following 2 core principles, and 6 supporting principles:

Sustainable development principles of policy making

- **Core principle 1:** Involvement - people and communities are at the heart of sustainable development, so we will be inclusive in our involvement of all our stakeholders in the development of our policies and programmes, and the identification of solutions that meet their needs, promoting innovation in the way that we deliver services.
- **Core principle 2:** Integration - only an approach that makes the connections between, and effectively integrates economic, social and environmental challenges, will achieve sustainable development.
- **Supporting principle 1:** Reducing Wales' Ecological Footprint - all of our policies will show how we will reduce Wales' Ecological Footprint to work towards our vision, initially through showing how we will reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 3 % a year, year-on-year by 2011 in those areas where we have devolved competence, and move towards a zero-waste society.
- **Supporting principle 2:** Full costs and benefits - we will identify and take account of the full range of costs and benefits, including those over the long-term, those not measured in monetary terms (such as environmental costs and benefits), and those costs that are global as well as local in our policy making. We will promote whole system thinking, taking account of risks - especially to the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of communities - and uncertainties associated with action and inaction.
- **Supporting principle 3:** Precautionary principle - we will use an evidence-based approach to decision-making but, where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.
- **Supporting principle 4:** Polluter pays principle - we will ensure that social and environmental costs of development fall on those who impose them.
- **Supporting principle 5:** Proximity principle - we will solve problems, especially in managing waste and pollution locally, rather than passing them onto other places or to future generations.
- **Supporting principle 6:** Reflecting distinctiveness - our approach to sustainable development will reflect and respond to the particular needs and issues of communities, and the differing economic, social and environmental circumstances in different parts of Wales, as outlined in the Wales Spatial Plan update.

How we will use these principles

- **Core principles:** the 2 core principles - involvement and integration - must be central to all key decisions about an organisation's policies and programmes.
- **Supporting principles:** the 6 supporting principles should be appropriately and proportionately applied according to the particular issue in question. Not all supporting principles will be relevant to each decision.

The Welsh Assembly Government aspires to become an exemplar organisation in terms of its use of sustainable development as the central organising principle of Government. The new corporate management structure will help to strengthen collective implementation of our sustainable development duty. The new Director General for Sustainable Futures, working directly to the Permanent Secretary, will take forward and champion delivery of sustainable development as our central organising principle across all departments. He will play an active role in the Climate Change Cabinet sub-committee, made up of lead officials from across the Assembly Government. Other work we are doing to meet this aspiration has 5 key themes:

Theme	Overall Aim
Training and capacity building	All our staff understand the concept of sustainable development as the central organising principle of Government and how it applies to their work.
Decision making	The way we make all our decisions actively reflects sustainable development as the central organising principle.
A sustainable way of working	To have a working culture where we become a low footprint organisation across all our operations.
Working with others	To ensure all our partners understand sustainable development as the central organising principle that governs our relationships, and can respond positively to this.
Reporting	To be transparent in the way we report on this Scheme, and on our progress towards becoming a sustainable nation.

Training and capacity building

We will provide a series of broad awareness raising sessions, about the purpose of the Scheme for Sustainable Development, for all Welsh Assembly Government staff. We will organise an ongoing series of formal training sessions, to equip staff in key decision-making roles, with the skills and behaviours required to make sustainable development the central organising principle of their work.

We will work with Forum for the Future and trial the use of the Assembly Government's Sustainability Standard (developed by Forum for the Future) as an approach to making sustainable development our central organising principle.

We will deliver training sessions on ecological footprinting techniques working with relevant experts.

Public Services Management Wales (PSMW) will incorporate sustainability as a theme within all core programmes, targeting leadership development at different levels across the public service.

To help external learning providers embed the principles of ESDGC into their management and delivery of learning, Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning & Skills (DCELLS) has developed a series of information documents to exemplify good practice. Further training and resources will be developed with relevant sector networks to provide additional support and training.

Decision-making

All of our business decision-making will support sustainable development as the central organising principle. We will measure our performance coherently against a few key outcomes, so that we are clear how our work is contributing to achieving lasting change that moves us towards being a sustainable nation.

We will ensure that we understand the carbon implications of our decisions, by building in an assessment of the carbon impact of a policy, programme or investment decision into the decision making process

We will work towards embedding Wales Spatial Plan (WSP) priorities in our business planning and project approval processes, aiming towards ensuring Assembly Government budgets are aligned with the WSP.

We will update the Policy Gateway Integration Toolkit to ensure that sustainable development is the central organising principle of policy development. We will ensure that our policies are aligned with the "direction of travel" provided by our Sustainable Development indicators as part of this. Our Equality Impact Assessment will further ensure our policies meet the needs of all people and communities in Wales.

We will ensure that scrutiny of expenditure plans (including grant applications) tests whether the expenditure supports policies effectively. We will demonstrate that sustainable development considerations have been included as part of this.

We will embed sustainable development into our new Strategic Capital Investment Framework (SCIF) agenda to change the way we plan and deliver major capital investment projects. This will help reduce the ecological footprint of our capital investment.

A sustainable way of working

Within the Welsh Assembly Government estate, we will minimise our own ecological footprint by engaging with all individuals in order to reduce energy use, resource consumption, waste and transport use for commuting, prevent pollution and comply with environmental legislation. We will continue working to extend Level 5 of the Green Dragon Standard to the entire core Assembly Government administrative estate, and achieve the “excellent” standard under BREEAM for new buildings.

We will raise our performance in sustainable procurement by benchmarking, continually improving and becoming an exemplar for the Welsh Public Sector. Through Value Wales, we will purchase goods and services which reduce energy and water use, and which minimise waste. We will develop a public sector plan to encourage - as a condition of public sector grants - waste reduction, high quality recycling, product leasing and re-use. Through our Sustainable Buildings in Wales Action Plan, at least 10% of the total value of materials used in all new buildings, funded by the Welsh Assembly Government, will be derived from recycled and reused content.

We will use our Sustainable Procurement Action Framework to benchmark our performance on sustainable procurement, aiming to achieve the highest level (5) by 2010, by demonstrating that we are building sustainability into specification design, supplier selection, contract award and management. We will apply a Sustainable Risk Assessment (SRA) to all competitively tendered contracts over £25k in support of this.

There will be more training and advice, and we will encourage the wider public sector to benchmark its performance and produce action plans for improvement, whilst encouraging the use of the SRA on all contracts over the European procurement threshold.



Welsh Assembly Government, Merthyr Tydfil Office - BREEAM 'Excellent' rating successfully awarded by the Building Research Establishment in May 2007

There will be a greater proportion of public-sector procured food sourced from within Wales through our forthcoming Local Sourcing Strategic Action Plan.

Working with others

We will use the partnerships and processes set up under the Wales Spatial Plan, to ensure the integration at a regional level of many of our strategies and programmes, with WSP Area Groups providing leadership for this. Our WSP Area Delivery Frameworks will focus on delivering strategic regional priorities.

We will issue guidance and advice on the role we encourage other organisations throughout Wales to play in delivering sustainable development, and how we will use sustainable development as our central organising principle to support them in this.

We will continue to support the work of the Sustainable Development Commission, our independent policy adviser on sustainable development, and Cynnal Cymru, the sustainable development forum in Wales.

Reporting

We will report on our greening operations in our annual Green Dragon report.

Once this scheme has been produced we will keep it under review, and publish a report each year on how its proposals have been implemented. This report will be laid before and debated by the Assembly. It will include independent commentary from the Sustainable Development Commission, and a summary of our greening operations using the Prince of Wales Accounting for Sustainability reporting framework.

We will continue to report our progress towards sustainable development annually using our Sustainable Development Indicators. An Assembly debate will be held each year following their publication on the progress they report.

We will undertake an independent report of the effectiveness of this Scheme in promoting sustainable development after each election to the National Assembly.

ACTION 2: We will benchmark our progress on sustainable development in our operations against other Government departments, using the Sustainable Development Commission's Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) reporting process, from spring 2009.

ACTION 3: Through our Policy Integration Toolkit, we will identify how each new initiative can best contribute to sustainable development, and we will use the Resources and Energy Analysis Programme (REAP) to identify the contribution of these to reducing Wales' Ecological Footprint.



Chapter 4

Sustainable Resource Use

Vision

Within the lifetime of a generation we want to see Wales using only its fair share of the earth's resources.

Key outcomes

- We use less energy and are more energy efficient. More of our energy is produced at a community level, close to where it is used, and we are self-sustaining in renewable energy.
- Every community enjoys better local environments which contribute to health and wellbeing, and local people are involved to promote low carbon, low waste living as part of a One Planet Nation.
- We have a low carbon transport network which promotes access rather than mobility so that we can enjoy facilities with much less need for single occupancy car travel.
- An NHS that leads on low carbon and sustainable development best practice and health services that focus on successful outcomes.

Headline indicator of sustainable development

- Wales' Ecological Footprint

Supporting indicators

- Total resource use
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Waste arisings
- Household waste recycled or composted
- Mobility

The strategy we are taking to meet this aspiration has 4 themes covering issues that underpin our approach to reducing our ecological footprint, and 4 themes⁵ based on the policy areas that contribute most to Wales' ecological footprint:

Theme	Overall Aim
Climate Change	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 3% a year by 2011 in those areas where we have devolved competence, and ensure we are resilient to the impacts of climate change.
Waste	70% recycling rate across all sectors by 2025.

⁵ Our approach to reducing the ecological footprint of public services (including public sector capital investment) is set out in Chapter 3, and our approach to reducing the ecological footprint of the private sector and business is set out in Chapter 6.

Theme	Overall Aim
Planning	Provide for homes, infrastructure, investment and jobs in a way that helps reduce our ecological footprint.
Wales Spatial Plan	To stabilise Wales Spatial Areas' ecological footprint by 2020, then reduce it across the range of its activities.

Footprint themes (% of Wales' ecological footprint)	Overall Aim
Housing (25%)	Stabilise housing's ecological footprint by 2020, then reduce.
Food (20%)	Stabilise the ecological footprint associated with food and drink by 2020, then reduce.
Transport (18%)	Stabilise transport's ecological footprint by 2020, then reduce.
Consumer items (15%)	Stabilise the ecological footprint associated with consumer items by 2020, then reduce.

Climate change

We will reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 3% a year by 2011 in those areas where we have devolved competence. This target will apply to all direct emissions and emissions from electricity consumption except those from heavy industry and electricity generation⁶.

The Climate Change Act places the UK target to reduce greenhouse gases by at least 80% by 2050 into statute. It also establishes a system of 5 year carbon budgets for the UK. The UK Government will set the level of the first 3 budgets (2008-12; 2013-17; and 2018-22) in 2009.

Together our target for making annual reductions in those areas that we can directly control; and the UK targets and budgets for longer term across the board reductions, will drive action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

We have already published for consultation our high level climate change policy statement. A more detailed programme of action aimed at delivering its targets and addressing the impacts of climate change will be published for consultation in June 2009. They will be brought together in our Climate Change Strategy by the end of 2009. We consulted on our climate change adaptation action plan in 2007, and we will incorporate the action plan into our proposed adaptation framework as part of our Climate Change Strategy.

⁶ Which we are broadly defining as those covered by the EU emissions trading scheme.

Key areas for action include:

- **Leadership** - the Assembly Government's role as a leader, for example in dramatically reducing our carbon footprint, adapting to the impact of climate change and supporting staff to play their part, will be critical in convincing others of the need to act.
- **Common Standards** - the development of clear guidance and reporting requirements for different sectors⁷ will help ensure efficiencies in delivery, and identify the highest impact options to support.
- **Innovation and Research** - increase in research into a low carbon economy and related technologies, which has a practical application.
- **Funding** - using existing budgets to drive action to reduce emissions and build resilience to the impacts of climate change; for example, particularly invest to save loans, and utilising opportunities for joint budgeting.
- **Communication and engagement** - supporting individuals, communities, businesses and other organisations to take action through a combination of raising awareness of the issue, providing tools and support to help people decide what they can do and providing opportunities to take action.

In addition, there will a strong focus on sector specific action in relation to transport, agriculture and land use, residential, waste, business and the public sector. The Climate Change Commission for Wales will continue to advise us on this.



⁷ For example, statutory guidance in the form of a Climate Change Measures Report to local government required by the Climate Change Act.

We are pursuing devolution of the Building Regulations to help us achieve our aspiration that new buildings constructed in Wales move rapidly towards zero carbon. We will look to understand and examine the potential for applying the principles of ‘zero carbon building’ developments into school capital investment.

The Higher Education Sector in Wales is driving key research initiatives in support of sustainable futures and carbon emissions reductions through a range of research programmes.

We will develop and implement a zero carbon hub to take forward the work of reducing carbon emissions from the built environment. It will be the focal point for the ‘coalition of the willing’ and create a route map for developments in Wales involving both the public and private sectors. The Hub will liaise with the UK Zero Carbon Hub, the Green Building Council and other organisations to ensure that compatibility exists, and best practice is utilised and shared across the construction industry to maximise the opportunities created.

We will continue to promote the BREEAM environmental assessment framework method to the public sector in Wales. All investments for new building in education funded by the Welsh Assembly Government are required to meet BREEAM excellence standards. The 21st Century School Capital Investment Programme will help deliver, in partnership with local government, necessary school reorganisation across Wales making the working practices more sustainable and all new buildings in the programme will be required to meet all the sustainability criteria.

We want all educational establishments to work towards obtaining environmental management systems for their own business premises, such as EcoSchools or Eco Campus, Green Dragon or ISO140001. We want to see energy use and carbon emissions in the NHS Estate driven down, with more NHS bodies attaining a BREEAM for Healthcare rating of “excellent” for all construction projects funded using Welsh Assembly Government monies.

Waste

Recycling alone will not get us to where we need to be by 2025 if we are to be a zero waste nation by 2050. Our new waste strategy will therefore stress that prevention of waste is our most preferred option, followed by minimisation, re-use, recycling, energy recovery and finally disposal.

We will stress the importance of designing out waste, improving the longevity of products, designing for re-use, waste separation and recycling. We will support the concept of Eco-design. For municipal waste, we will target reducing waste at materials with the greatest impact. We will propose the following key targets:

- On re-use, we want to see by 2025 a minimum of 1% of municipal waste re-used⁸.

⁸ Excluding goods under the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive.

- On recycling, we want to see a recycling rate of least 70% recycling across all sectors by 2025, and local authority schemes that are both easy to use and involve frequent collections.
- We want energy recovery to be an option for a maximum of 30% of municipal waste by 2025, along with a maximum level of residual household waste per inhabitant of 150kg per year, and a maximum level of municipal waste going to landfill of 5%. We also want to see waste from all other sectors phased out of landfill sites.

By 2050, we want to see zero waste, so products and services will need to be designed so that they reduce or reuse waste as far as possible.



We will develop sector plans for commercial, industrial, construction and demolition sectors, including the use of voluntary agreements and benchmarking best practice. We are planning to consult in 2009 on legislation to introduce a mandatory requirement for the production of construction site waste management plans.

We will support strategic work on Regional Waste Plans, to ensure acceptable locations for the new waste facilities required to secure the diversion of waste from landfill, and will work closely with local authorities, the waste management industry and social enterprises on this.

Our specialist business support programme (FS4B) will give advice and support to business on recycling, through Envirowise, the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), and Constructing Excellence Wales. We will run capital grant schemes to assist and support industry in developing the new infrastructure needed.

We will achieve the targets contained within the Healthcare Waste Strategy for Wales to ensure less waste in the NHS Estate.

Planning

Sustainable development principles are embedded within the Welsh Planning system. It is a central theme running through Planning Policy Wales (PPW) which sets out our commitment to ensure that new homes, infrastructure, investment and jobs are provided in a sustainable way.

We will complete the process of embedding climate change policies within PPW to complement the recently introduced sustainability standards for new buildings, including carbon reduction targets. Statutory Design and Access Statements will become the main vehicle for new developments to demonstrate their sustainability credentials. To support this, we will update Technical Advice Note 12 Design to increase the emphasis of sustainability and climate change as key design considerations.

Through our publication *Improving your home: A Climate Change Guide*, we will encourage home owners to take on board sustainable development issues when making minor changes and improvements to their homes.

We will free up planning controls over domestic and commercial micro generation projects and update the planning policy framework against which strategic proposals are assessed. We will provide a toolkit for local authorities to help them to identify opportunities to maximise the potential for renewable and low and zero carbon development. Once our overarching energy strategy has been published, we will revise *Technical Advice Note 8 Renewable Energy*, revising upwards the targets for renewable energy supplied by a range of sources.

We will continue to work with local government to ensure that our sustainable development priorities are delivered by the planning system. Local Development Plans provide the essential local framework against which the sustainability of new developments can be assessed. We will also work with local government to ensure that local politicians and planning officers have the support and skills to deliver this agenda. To help to measure progress we will initiate, in consultation with local government, a strategic monitoring framework to measure key sustainable development outcomes delivered by the planning system.

Wales Spatial Plan

We will use the Spatial Plan process to achieve longer-term changes in the spatial pattern of development and the way services are provided to improve access to housing, jobs and services and reduce demand for everyday travel. The identification of key settlements, which feeds into the Local Development Plans in each area, is an important part of this work to focus future development in the most appropriate locations. To ensure a clear link between the land use and service planning aspects and transport is made, the Spatial Plan area strategies were developed and will be implemented in close co-operation with the Regional Transport Consortia. The Spatial Plan will also help identify the strategic Information and Communication Technology (ICT) needs in each area with a view to reducing the need to travel through increased opportunities for business, home-working, as well as remote access to services.

We will use our six Spatial Plan Area Groups to formulate and help implement an integrated area response to the climate change challenge, and to translate WAG targets into actions at the regional level. A core part of this will be applying the concept of a low carbon region to each area and identifying how this can be achieved.

Housing

Our overall approach to housing policy will be set out in *Sustainable Homes: A National Housing Strategy for Wales*.

We will publish a revised Fuel Poverty Strategy in 2009 which will be based on the results of the National Energy Efficiency and Savings Plan consultation. This will confirm how we will restructure the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme. We intend to concentrate our funding on those who need our help the most and to ensure that all households are able to access support of some form from the Assembly Government or its partners.

Through our National Energy Efficiency and Savings Plan, and actions set out in the forthcoming Climate Change Strategy, we want the energy efficiency of the existing housing stock to be higher. This will help eradicate fuel poverty, and ensuring that all households have access to affordable warmth. People will have more information and support to reduce their carbon footprint and household energy bills through our communications campaigns on climate change and the support of the Energy Saving Trust and other experts.

Our aim is that the construction of new homes moves to zero carbon as soon as possible. We are working with house builders, social landlords and the construction sector, and will use the planning system to support that aim.

We have specified that all Assembly Government funded housing should meet a minimum of level 3 of the Code of Sustainable Homes, with a view to moving to higher code levels as soon as we can. We have top-sliced funding from the social housing programme to support pilot schemes at levels 4 and 5.

We will promote new design and construction methods and technologies to meet improved standards of environmental sustainability in conjunction with Design Commission for Wales and Constructing Excellence in Wales, including the use of sustainable materials in construction and maintenance of housing.

The Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) set in 2002 includes an energy efficiency target equivalent to an Energy Performance Certificate rating of D. Guidance will be developed on opportunities to improve environmental standards as part of investment to meet the Welsh Housing Quality Standard.

We will support two Registered Social Landlord pilot projects which will be used as a Best Practice Example and to inform future standards:

- to provide a base line indicator on sustainability, using environmental performance tool - EcoHomes XB.
- to assess the sustainability standards it is possible to achieve for refurbishment of housing in Wales in relation to WHQS.

We will fund a programme of 22 schemes with up to 400 homes to be built to code level 4 and 5, within the Registered Social Landlord Development programme.

We will continue to support the uptake of microgeneration as part of our Climate Change Strategy.

We are developing a community renewables scheme with European funding and increase support for small-scale renewable energy in the home. This will be especially useful in rural areas where grid access is limited.

Food

Through our Food and Drink from Wales Strategy, there will be a much lower food ecological footprint and much lower greenhouse gas emissions associated with production, processing, distribution and consumption of food in Wales, with minimum generation of food waste, and maximum composting. We want to see widespread business skills in these areas. We want people to buy only the food they need, and to reduce the amount of food waste from households, as well as from retailers and food outlets.

Through our Strategic Capital Investment Fund, we will fund better management of food waste through sponsoring the roll-out of anaerobic food digestion plants across Wales to reduce our dependency on landfill, and generate renewable energy.

Transport

We will encourage the use of low carbon forms of public transport through implementation of our Wales Transport Strategy (WTS) and the work of Regional Transport consortia. The National Transport Plan (which will deliver the WTS at the national level) will identify areas where people can be encouraged to use more sustainable modes of travel, such as through provision of park and ride.

The WTS will be delivered at the local and regional levels by the Regional Transport Plans. These plans appraise different solutions to transport issues identified across Wales. Through these solutions we wish to see on the whole, a greater frequency, reliability and suitability of public transport services, with more people using trains and buses for all types of journey.

The Sustainable Travel Towns initiative will enable a number of towns to become exemplars in terms of sustainable travel, with enhanced opportunities for walking and cycling, improved public transport and better travel planning. Our long-term vision is for all towns in Wales to be sustainable travel towns, and the National and Regional Transport Plans will help us develop this vision. We will develop a series of sustainable travel towns in each region. This approach will allow for a more targeted trial of a range of complimentary measures and interventions, allowing us to learn from experience.

We will emphasise, where appropriate, the development of solutions that encourage increased use of rail. Through the National Transport Plan we will set out where we will address additional capacity, frequency, or improvements to the rail networks on the Valleys Lines, the South Wales Main Line, the Cambrian Line in mid-Wales and the line from North to South Wales.

Similarly, the National Transport Plan will set out how the TrawsCambria long-distance coach service can be developed to provide a cohesive, high quality and sustainable network which is fully integrated with the rail network. Services will be provided by a high quality, low carbon vehicle fleet.

Through our Wales Freight Strategy, we want to see more freight moved in and out of Wales by rail and coastal shipping, and overall a more efficient and reliable use of existing infrastructure. We will develop a Safe and Fuel Efficient Driving (SAFED) training programme for HGV and van drivers.

We will ensure that major transport initiatives seeking government funding are appraised with our Welsh Transport Planning and Appraisal Guidance (WelTAG). Appraisal is centred around three main impact areas of economy, environment and society.

Through our Safe Routes in Communities programme, we will provide safe walking and cycling routes within communities, linking community facilities such as leisure centres, parks, hospitals and care centres as well as schools.

We will encourage all major employers to have Green Travel Plans, and key public sector bodies in Wales to demonstrate best practice in encouraging more employees to walk and cycle to work. NHS Trusts are required to develop and implement a sustainable travel plan for their major hospital sites. A travel plan toolkit has been developed to assist in the production of these plans.

As part of monitoring the Wales Transport Strategy, we will seek to develop measurements for the use of sustainable and recycled materials in road building and maintenance.

The countryside and coast will be much more accessible through sustainable modes of transport that fully reflect the needs of all groups in society. Through our Sustainable Tourism framework, we will actively promote and market sustainable transport options to visitors, as part and parcel of the overall quality visitor experience, so that more visitors are able to travel to and within Wales by sustainable means.



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Consumer items

Promoting individual behaviour change is a key consideration. Different groups are motivated to alter their lifestyles by different factors, and different interventions will be necessary to effect widespread change. A robust evidence base will help us evaluate and develop effective evidence based policies related to motivating pro-environmental behaviours. The Welsh Assembly Government is working with DEFRA on a series of research projects to evaluate best practice, opportunities and 'what works' to establish an inter-disciplinary evidence base. We will continue to address unsustainable consumption patterns and promote behaviour change in individuals, households, communities and organisations. Many of the ways in which we will do this - by working with different sectors and organisations on specific issues relating to the need for behaviour change - are set out in other chapters.

We will continue to promote sustainable lifestyles through our Wales-wide multimedia communications campaign on climate change, and through holding a series of community events on climate change throughout Wales. Education is critical to engender attitudes and values to encourage all to take relevant action. We actively engage learners in the SD process and support them through curricula and qualifications.



We want to see children and young people from a broad range of social backgrounds and across the ability range actively involved in the work of the Assembly and other organisations in Wales. And we want to make sure that what we are building is sustainable in the longer term and has set the foundation for a national participation framework for Wales including local participation activity. The Welsh Assembly Government is proud that Wales was

the first country in the UK to put School Councils on a statutory basis, and through the continued use of networks and initiatives such as Climate Change Champions for Wales, we will continue to engage with young people.

We set out our proposals to integrate education for sustainable development and global citizenship into educational provision in Chapter 8.

Specific Actions we will report on

ACTION 4: To promote a low footprint Wales, we will further extend the use of ecological footprinting by introducing a grant scheme from 2009/10.

ACTION 5: We will initiate, in consultation with local government, a strategic monitoring framework to measure key sustainable development outcomes delivered by the planning system.

ACTION 6: We will develop a strategy to reduce each Wales Spatial Area's ecological footprint across the range of its activities, and set this out in the Area's delivery framework. As part of this, we will define the concept of low-carbon regions and how this can be achieved in each Spatial Plan Area.

ACTION 7: We will have a National Energy Efficiency and Savings Plan that will better target our energy efficiency investments at the fuel poor, whilst promoting improvements for all households.

ACTION 8: We will work to develop a series of Sustainable Travel Towns in each region. To take this forward we will initially develop a pathfinder scheme in a large urban area. We will subsequently identify and develop a series of towns linked to other key settlement identified in the Wales Spatial Plan.



Chapter 5

Sustaining the Environment

Vision

Wales has healthy, functioning ecosystems that are biologically diverse and productive and managed sustainably.

Key outcomes

- Our land, freshwater marine environment is best managed to provide the services of food, wood, water, soil, habitats and recreation.

Headline indicator of sustainable development

- % of Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and species recorded as stable or increasing.

Supporting indicators

- Trends in bird populations
- Ecological impacts of air pollution
- Air quality
- River quality
- Soil quality
- Sustainable water resource management

The natural environment is the ultimate source of the primary resources we use to develop our economy. It is a source of enjoyment and inspiration, contributes to physical and mental wellbeing, underpins our culture, and contributes to our own sense of place and our identity. A sustainably managed natural environment is also critical to underpin Wales' tourism businesses. In addition, the variety of life on earth has its own intrinsic value and worth. We need to better manage our land and seas so they can sustain a wide variety of ecosystem services. The strategy we are taking to meet this aspiration has 5 key themes, with our Environment Strategy and its Action Plans providing the overarching strategy.

Theme	Overall Aim
Environment Strategy	By 2026, we want to see our distinctive Welsh environment thriving and contributing to the economic and social wellbeing and health of the people.

Theme	Overall Aim
Land management	To meet the needs of current and future generations without depleting the resources provided by land upon which we all depend: biodiversity, scenic beauty, cultural heritage, opportunities for access and recreation, natural resources to produce food, fibre, energy and building materials, as well as ecosystem services supplying our drinking water, controlling flooding and storing or releasing carbon.
Water Management	Water resources are managed sustainably, meeting the needs of society without causing damage to the environment.
Marine and Coastal Management	For the marine environment to be clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse; so that the natural, cultural and economic assets of the coastal zone, and the services they provide, are maintained and enhanced for the benefit of present and future generations.
Fisheries Management	The development of viable and sustainable fisheries in Wales, supported by healthy and productive ecosystems.

Environment Strategy

Through our Environment Strategy and its Action Plans there will be increased work in partnership with all sectors to achieve a better environment. We will make important progress towards achieving our 43 Environment Strategy outcomes through the partnership working and action promoted under our second Environment Strategy Action Plan 2008-11.

We will utilise EU Convergence and other sources of funding to maximise investment in the physical and natural environment of Wales.

Through our support for Environment Wales, we will support and encourage voluntary action to protect and improve the environment of Wales.

The new UK strategic biodiversity framework⁹ sets out a shared vision and approach to conserving biodiversity within our devolved structure. The emphasis for future UK-level work will be achieving effective communication, providing guidance, standard setting, research and reporting at the UK level.

Biodiversity conservation will be built in to everything that we do. Local Authorities, people and communities will have more opportunity to take action to help biodiversity. We want to see greater ecological connectivity between wildlife areas and the wider countryside to protect our rarest and most precious species for people to appreciate and enjoy.

⁹ UK Biodiversity Partnership Standing Committee (2007) *Conserving Biodiversity - The UK Approach*. Defra.

We are developing the concept of a networked environment region in south east Wales, through the work of the Wales Spatial Plan. We will improve and connect the environmental infrastructure of the city-region as a foundation for social and economic development. This will focus on connecting habitats, allowing wildlife to adapt to climate change, on making the landscape more accessible for people and on the provision of eco-system services, such as clean water, soil and air. This approach will then be adapted and applied to the other Spatial Plan areas, enabling the environmental opportunities to be fully integrated into the overall area strategy.

Under Section 40(1) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (the NERC Act), the Assembly Government and other public authorities have a duty to have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity. When we report on the achievement of actions under this Scheme, we will include a statement on how this duty has been met by the Assembly Government.

We will continue to ensure that all our plans and projects are fully compliant with the requirements of the *EU Directives on Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) and Habitats (92/43/EEC)* and contribute to the *UN Convention on Biological Diversity*. We will ensure that appropriate assessments are carried out under the Habitats Regulations (as amended 2009) for any plans or projects that may affect internationally protected sites. All plans or projects will aim to deliver biodiversity gains under the NERC biodiversity duty.

We will continue to ensure that all our plans and programmes are fully compliant with the requirements of the *EU Directive on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment (2001/42/EC)* (the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive), and we will promote best practice in the use of SEA.

Land management

Our strategy, *Farming, Food & Countryside - Building a Secure Future*, is the overarching strategy outlining how we will contribute to sustainable development in this area. It will set the agenda for a number of sub strategies, and action plans.

Through our approach under Wales' Rural Development Plan 2007-13, land will be managed in an integrated way, providing food and fibre at the same time as providing a wider range of ecosystem services. We wish to achieve a more profitable future for farming and its associated food processing industry, which will sustain farming families while safeguarding the environment, mitigating climate change and maintaining the vitality and prosperity of our rural communities. We have proposed providing support for carbon stores and the provision of renewable energy on farms. Resource use on farms will be reduced, and there will be improved management of farm level waste. The provision of good

quality advice on environmental issues will be a key priority for the Farm Advisory Service. Future agri-environment schemes will be outcome-based, delivering ecosystem services outputs as a result of changes in land management practices.

Through the implementation of our Welsh Soils Action Plan we will strive to achieve good soil management in agriculture and forestry, and the integration of soil protection into guidance on land-use planning policy and its implementation. We will work with partners to ensure that wastes and pollutants deposited on land do not impair long-term soil functions.

Through the ambitions of a revised *Woodlands for Wales* - the Wales Woodland Strategy, more Welsh woodlands will be actively and sustainably managed both for timber production and to provide a range of other goods and services, including carbon storage. We will promote the use of sustainable resources by encouraging an increased use of wood, which provides a low energy renewable alternative to energy intensive materials.

We want to see the management of all woodlands to form part of a wider integrated approach to land management. We also want to increase woodland cover in Wales. More people will have the opportunity to be involved in their local publicly owned woodlands managed by the Forestry Commission Wales on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government. This will enable them to pursue environmental, social and economic objectives that benefit themselves and the wider community.

We would like to bring more woodland into management to the UK Forestry Standard. Beyond this, we would like to see more Welsh woodlands gaining certification to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard, and more of the usable timber grown in Welsh woodlands harvested and greater value added during processing.

Through our Bioenergy Action Plan for Wales, which we are consulting on, we aim to facilitate the increased use of bioenergy to encourage the development of sustainable forestry and agriculture, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and support business development and job creation in all parts of the biomass energy supply chain.

Protected landscapes in Wales are a key component in defining Wales' sense of place. The National Park Authorities deliver the Assembly Government's Sustainable Development Fund, which we will continue to support. This operates in the three Welsh National Parks and the five Welsh Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and supports innovative community based sustainable development projects.

Water management

Through our *Strategic Policy Position Statement on Water*, we wish to see everyone has access to safe drinking water, to ensure that water and sewerage services are charged in a fair and equitable way, and that water is used wisely. We want charging for water services in Wales to be updated to include a range of tariffs and options that will drive up efficiencies while protecting vulnerable groups.

We have issued *Social and Environmental Guidance to Ofwat* (the economic regulator for the water and sewerage industry in England and Wales) setting out our social and environmental priorities. Ofwat are expected to have regard to this guidance when carrying out their duties. Such priorities require Ofwat to maximise its contribution to sustainable development; to have regard to the Welsh Assembly Government's plans for addressing climate change; to have regard to the goals set out in the Environment Strategy for Wales; and to facilitate the delivery of outcomes identified in the strategy and the Action Plan.



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We will encourage an integrated whole catchment approach to water management, and will consult on the time limiting of all abstraction licenses, and the removal of phosphates at source.

We will promote the deployment of sustainable urban drainage systems.

We will develop a Wales Water Forum to engage key organisations in planning the strategic direction for water and sewerage management and services in Wales.

We have issued guidance to the Environment Agency on how to develop River Basin Management Plans to improve water quality in these river basins in support of the aims of the Water Framework Directive. These plans are currently out for consultation. We will continue to work closely with them and a wide variety of organisations and stakeholders through the Wales Water Framework Directive Forum.

We will place much greater emphasis on flood risk management, alongside better awareness of, and protection from, flood risk. We are committed to moving to a system based on the management of all of the risks and consequences of flooding and coastal erosion. Change is being progressed via the New Approaches Programme. We are reviewing the progress made to date, and will redefine the programme taking into account the significant developments within this area in the last two years. Through funding from the Strategic Capital Investment Fund and a major new European Convergence programme, we will fund the acceleration of investment in projects that will support improved flood risk management across Wales.

More information and guidance will be given to householders in relation to flood-proofing their properties, and we will expand floodline, and enhancements will be made to our rescue and recovery arrangements.


Marine and coastal management

The Welsh Assembly Government shares in the UK vision for all our seas - for them to be clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse. The Marine Bill will give us the opportunity of better regulation, better protection for marine life, integrated planning and management of the sea, estuaries and coast. This strategic approach will benefit all who use the sea to maximise sustainable benefits including potential marine renewable energy sources, while protecting precious resources. The Marine Bill gives us the ability to plan more strategically, protect important conservation areas and update our fisheries management and licensing systems.

Through the implementation of our Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Strategy, we will ensure that the ICZM process is an integral part of delivering sustainable development, and we will ensure that effective co-ordination arrangements are in place across WAG, local government and other interests to facilitate the ICZM process.

Fisheries management

We will continue to support the development of viable and sustainable fisheries in Wales through our Wales Fisheries Strategy. The strategy will emphasise the important progress and continuing work to date to develop and manage fisheries in a sustainable way as a part of healthy and productive ecosystems.



We will involve a wide range of stakeholders from the industry, environmental interests and fisheries management in the final design of the Fisheries Strategy implementation plan. Through this, we will seek to increase our knowledge of fisheries/environment interactions in support of sustainable fisheries development, including improved stock and catch assessments, examination of fishery effects on aquatic ecosystems and of the interactions between fisheries activities and other aquatic environment uses.

Specific action we will report on

ACTION 9: Following a review of Axis II of the Rural Development Plan for Wales, we will set in place a structure of support for environmentally sustainable land management, including support for land-based carbon management through best practice management of soils, and management for water quantity and quality, biodiversity, woodland, landscape, heritage and access.

A photograph of three workers in a factory setting. In the center, an older man with a grey beard and balding head, wearing a blue work coat, is looking down at a metal part. To his left, a younger man with dark hair, also in a blue work coat, is looking at the same part. To the right, a woman with brown hair, wearing a blue work coat and safety glasses, is also looking at the part. They are all holding and inspecting a complex metal component. In the background, there is a large green industrial machine, possibly a lathe or mill. The scene is well-lit, suggesting an indoor industrial environment.

Chapter 6

A Sustainable Economy

Vision

A resilient and sustainable economy for Wales that is able to develop whilst stabilising, then reducing, its use of natural resources and reducing its contribution to climate change.

Key outcomes

- A sustainable economy for Wales that is resilient to changes in the global economy.
- Our long term economic future secured by achieving the transition to a low carbon, low waste economy.
- Wales is the best place for business to locate, start up, grow and prosper.
- Regeneration involves and engages with local communities and is firmly based on sustainability principles, creating an infrastructure for the future that favours sustainable ways of living and working.

Headline indicator of sustainable development

- Gross Value Added (GVA) and GVA per head

Supporting indicators

- Employment
- Resource efficiency
- Electricity from renewable resources

One Wales aims to create a strong economy based on full employment and high-quality jobs. The recent economic downturn has presented significant challenges for the individuals, businesses and communities across Wales. The immediate challenge for the Assembly Government has been how to help viable businesses in Wales to keep trading during the economic downturn and assist them to become more competitive and so take advantage of the opportunities as the economy recovers.

The challenge of climate change will still be with us when the recession is over, and we believe that action on climate change should be taken now. The transition towards more sustainable ways of working will be a key component of our 'Green Stimulus' in response to the Economic Downturn.

Our Green Jobs Strategy will include our vision for an economy that values sustainable business models. It will be the overarching strategy for the Welsh Assembly Government to achieve a sustainable economy for Wales and will be a critical element in Wales' transition to a sustainable nation. It will set out the role of government in pursuing a sustainable

economy, and how we will need to support businesses to equip themselves to meet these challenges and to capture the new business opportunities that will arise.

Our skills and employment strategy, *Skills That Work for Wales*, describes how we are working to integrate approaches to skills, employment and business development, and we will give particular attention to the new skills that will be required for a sustainable economy.

The approach can be considered around the following key themes:

Theme	Overall Aim
Develop the approach to a more sustainable economy	An economy that is more resilient to the negative impacts both of changes in the wider global economy and of climate change.
Support for sustainable business growth	Wales' economy to be resilient, through sustainable growth in new and existing businesses that are resource efficient and "future proofed" against the challenges of energy security and the scarcity of natural resources.
Support for R&D and the commercialisation of new sustainable technologies, products and processes	Maximise the growth opportunities for business in Wales, particularly in low carbon and resource efficient goods and services.
Infrastructure, regeneration and masterplanning	All our activity in regenerating areas and developing property and infrastructure meets sustainable development objectives by integrating economic, social and environmental objectives at the masterplan stage.
Structural Funds	Structural fund programmes contributing to the economic, social and environmental well-being of Wales.
Future skills and training	A highly-educated, highly-skilled and high-employment Wales.
Public procurement	Public procurement programmes playing a key role within sustainable regeneration programmes and economic development.

Develop the approach to a more Sustainable Economy

The effects of the recent economic downturn and of global financial change have underlined more clearly than ever before that economic development must be both economically and environmentally sustainable. Adopting changes now that will benefit businesses will make this transition smoother and more effective, thereby helping maintain a just, fair and prosperous society. We will work with all our partners as we develop this approach.

The aim to stabilise and then reduce Wales' Ecological Footprint will be a policy driver in our regeneration and economic development activity, so that we contribute to the target of Wales using only its fair share of the earth's resources.

Support for sustainable business growth

Through Flexible Support for Business (FS4B) we will encourage the start up and growth of businesses in Wales, particularly in the major growth sectors. Included in this will be a specialist service to provide advice and support on environmental and sustainability issues to all the businesses we support. This will include all aspects of resource efficiency (energy, materials and water), the principles of ecodesign and life cycle analysis of products, and where relevant the potential to diversify to meet changes in consumer demand for more sustainable products and services. We will continue to support specialist providers including the Carbon Trust, Envirowise, the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), and Constructing Excellence Wales.

Through our Single Investment Fund (SIF) we will provide financial support to help with a wide range of business requirements, including expansion, modernisation, restructuring, and in developing new products, processes or services.

We will encourage businesses to involve their work-force actively in the preparation and delivery of future-proofing plans and the drive for carbon reduction and resource efficiency. Where appropriate, this will include working to certification under an appropriate Environmental Management System.

Through the Sustainable Tourism Framework we will mainstream sustainability within the Visit Wales Grading Scheme, and this will help tourism enterprises and visitors to minimise the use of resources, and minimise pollution and waste. We will continue to support the Sustainable Tourism Forum, for stakeholders to share best practice in sustainable tourism and advise Visit Wales.

Support for R&D and the commercialisation of new sustainable technologies, products and processes

We recognise the importance of innovation and applying new ideas to all aspects of a business to make it more successful and resilient. We will help businesses in Wales to innovate through research and development, and to develop new market-led technologies, products, services and processes. This will be by providing support with new product development, manufacturing and design advice; exploring new markets and finding partners; and helping to find academic expertise within Wales and beyond, tapping into centres of research and development excellence and specialist facilities.

We want businesses in Wales to capture and benefit from the new opportunities in the specialist products and services that will be required as we move to a more sustainable

economy. Through FS4B and the specialist support provided to members of the Technium Network, we will help existing businesses explore the potential to diversify and will encourage entrepreneurship and successful business start up and growth, particularly in renewable energy, waste management and new low-carbon technologies. This will include help to consolidate their progress and to capture new opportunities, through correctly identifying and supporting growth markets.

We will give particular emphasis to research and development, particularly for the new technologies that will be needed as businesses and consumers adapt to the changes that a low carbon economy will require. A strong part of this will be to encourage more active links between businesses and the Welsh Universities in regard to cutting edge sustainable technologies in low-carbon resource-efficient design.



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The development and use of ICT-enabled technology will play a key role in improved energy and resource efficiency across all sectors, and we will work with the ICT sector to lead the way in terms of minimising its own emissions.

The Renewable Energy Routemap has a key role to play in making Wales a low footprint nation, focussing on the production side of energy generation, and is a key opportunity for new businesses. We want to see marine renewable energy and biomass energy become more common. Our aim is to generate annually more than 30TWh of electricity from renewable sources by 2025 and 3 TWh of heat, mainly from biomass. Our aim is to produce more electricity from renewables than we consume as a nation within 20 years.

Through the consultation on the Marine Energy Strategic Plan, we set out, within a timeframe of 20 years, the potential targets for each type of marine renewable energy and how we intend to help stimulate a new marine energy industrial sector in Wales.

Infrastructure, regeneration and masterplanning

The regeneration strategies and economic development infrastructure we put in place will play a key role in achieving our vision. By ensuring that sustainability principles are fully integrated at the outset we can create the right conditions for more sustainable ways of living and working into the future. Putting this infrastructure in place will in itself create new green job opportunities, particularly in the sustainable energy infrastructure, the design and

construction of new buildings to high environmental standards, and housing renewal that incorporates high standards of energy efficiency.

We will aim for an holistic approach, embracing social, economic and environmental considerations in all our work to regenerate places. We will use a sustainable masterplanning approach to set the path towards net zero carbon/zero waste, and give weight to other issues including accessibility, re-use of brownfield sites and old buildings and biodiversity. We will develop detailed guidance on mainstreaming sustainability into Area Regeneration Strategies. Masterplans for regeneration areas will recognise the need for green space provision and for access links to the surrounding environment. By pursuing the Valleys Regional Park proposal, we will put in place an improved green infrastructure for the South Wales Valleys that will encourage economic regeneration and tourism and improve quality of life.

In the Heads of the Valleys, through our Strategic Capital Investment Fund, we will fund the creation of a Low Carbon Region which involves supporting the development, manufacture, supply and installation of low carbon technologies and energy reduction measures, with the aim of creating the first Low Carbon region in Europe. The Low Carbon Zone will seek to install up to 40,000 micro generation technologies and other energy efficient measures in social housing in communities in the Heads of the Valleys.

Structural funds

The Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) manages structural fund programmes which have social, economic and environmental activities and outcomes. Through the requirement to mainstream environmental sustainability, equal opportunities and diversity across all projects WEFO also ensure that structural fund programmes contribute to sustainable development.

All projects must consider their particular impacts and opportunities with respect to equal opportunities and environmental sustainability. These cross cutting themes form an integral part of management of Structural Fund Programmes and projects. Guidance provides specific information on how project sponsors can address environmental sustainability and equal opportunities within their project plans. Specialist advisers in environmental sustainability and equal opportunities work within WEFO and will provide support to framework coordinators, project sponsors and partnerships. A key objective will be to provide the specialist input at an early stage to maximise the opportunities to promote the themes and contribute to sustainable development.

Skills and training

We will ensure that our learning and skills provision responds to the needs of the sustainable development agenda. Where demand from employers and individuals is expressed for skills relevant to the sustainable development agenda we will advise and support them. Through

the Green Jobs strategy we will identify how skills will be provided for the development, installation and manufacture of sustainable technologies. Specifically on the energy side, we have an Energy Sector Skills champion and some of the Further Education Institutions are investing in new training facilities like those at Pembroke College opening in early summer.

We are sustaining and developing apprenticeship recruitment to ensure young people leaving school or college can access quality training through new Pathways to Apprenticeship and Young Recruits programmes.

We will work closely with the relevant sector skills councils and others to ensure skill gaps are identified and the specific qualifications and skills needed by the industry are given full support.

There will be more opportunities for adults to build a basic platform of skills including the development of short, intensive basic skills courses in eight key sectors by 2010 and the full range of sectors represented by the Sector Skills Council by 2012. More people will therefore be able to gain the training and support they need to move from benefits into work. Additional support will be provided to support benefit claimants who want to find a stable job, with an improved job matching service enabling people from disadvantaged groups to access employment within a reasonable travel to work area.

Public procurement

We will ensure that businesses and third sector organisations across Wales will have the opportunity to compete for public sector contracts through the adoption by the Assembly Government of a purchasing code of practice. Public procurement will contribute to key regeneration programmes, for example, in the Heads of the Valley and Mon a Menai.

Key actions we will report on

ACTION 10: In our economic development and regeneration work we will encourage our partners to adopt similar principles to ours, integrating social, economic and environmental considerations, and seeking to maximise the benefits to the local community and economy from the way regeneration takes place.

ACTION 11: By our Green Jobs Strategy, we will set out the path to a sustainable (Low Carbon, Low Waste) economy for Wales, and will identify the roles that the Assembly Government needs to fulfil. We will put in place an embedded delivery plan that will refine and redirect our activities that will be needed to make this happen, together with a monitoring and reporting framework for the plan, integrated with the wider Welsh Assembly Government performance framework.



Chapter 7

A Sustainable Society

Vision

Safe, sustainable, attractive communities in which people live and work, have access to services, and enjoy good health and can play their full roles as citizens.

Key outcomes

- A nation that values and promotes healthy living and improves the quality of life for all.
- All have access to better homes so that we reduce carbon emissions and tackle fuel poverty, and new homes and community facilities are sited in sustainable locations, free from the risk of flooding.
- Improved global impact by ensuring that Wales is an international exemplar of sustainable development leading the world in promoting Fair Trade, and delivering strong community partnerships with sub-Saharan Africa.

Headline indicator of sustainable development

- % of the population in low-income households

Supporting indicators

- Health inequality
- Benefit dependency
- Housing
- Accessibility
- Crime

A strong, healthy, inclusive and just society, while living within environmental limits, is key to sustainable development. Poor health constrains people's lives and reduces the vitality and prosperity of the community. Decent housing for all is vital. A real commitment to good health for all is the basis for a strong, prosperous and caring community. We want to see significant improvements in the health of all of the people of Wales. The strategy we are taking to meet this aspiration has 5 themes:

Theme	Overall Aim
Tackling disadvantage	To empower people in communities through active citizenship, to engage with and find solutions for their communities.
Quality housing	To foster a housing market where there is a range of types and forms of housing to suit people at different stages of their lives and against differing local circumstances.
Healthy living	To encourage lifestyle changes that will improve health, and support communities to change a range of factors affecting health.
Local quality of life	To support the people and communities of Wales to take responsibility for the quality of their local environment so that they can contribute towards a clean, safe and tidy Wales.
Global citizenship and international engagement	Wales as a global citizen doing all it can do to help deliver the United Nations' (UN's) Millennium Development Goals to halve global poverty by 2015.

Tackling disadvantage

The Communities First programme is central to Assembly Government's policies for Wales's most deprived communities. Based in 160 areas and covering almost 20% of the population of Wales, Communities First seeks to work with communities to help them prioritise and take action to address improvements for their communities. The central principle is that Communities First Partnerships in each area work with key organisations to increase their capacity and skills for working together, to make improvements with and for those communities. This partnership working is delivering a long term sustainable change in communities that have experienced the effects of poverty for generations.

The programme now includes a greater focus on addressing child poverty, on employability and income generation. A revised Communities First Vision Framework has been developed to reflect these changes and to set the priorities for the programme. The format for the Vision Framework has also been redeveloped in order to be used as a practical tool for Communities First Partnerships in demonstrating where their activities are delivering on key national policies and programmes. The Assembly Government's policies on the environment are presented in a self contained theme within the Vision Framework, and sustainability is a principle which underpins all activities which are funded through the programme. Training on sustainability issues will be included for staff employed to work with Communities First Partnerships.

Research has shown that social disadvantage is the single biggest obstacle to achievement in education. In Wales, we have a range of innovative and effective education policies that are intended to address the link between poverty and underachievement. The challenge is to integrate these strategies to maximise their impact, and to do this we are following a twin approach to alleviate the impact and break the cycle. Initiatives like Flying Start, Integrated Children's Centres and Foundation Phase will make a major contribution to ensuring children who may live in poverty have the support and developmental opportunities they may not get at home.

Community Focused Schools' grants are allocated to authorities on a formula basis that takes account of deprivation. Authorities are able to use the fund to provide a range of services and activities to help meet the needs of its pupils, their families and the wider community.

The Welsh Assembly Government's School Effectiveness Framework is designed to bring together existing programmes of action (in schools, local government and central government) directed at improving children and young people's learning and wellbeing. It will build on existing good practice in schools through development and collaboration. It will also strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of local authorities in respect of their work to improve the performance of schools through the education improvement services.

Youth Support Services have an important role to play in assisting young people to access opportunities in training and education, employment and active citizenship. Improving outcomes in sustainable ways for all children and young people in Wales takes place through Children and Young People's Plans through which local authorities and their partners work together to agree their priorities and responsibilities for putting them into action.

Quality housing

We will publish in 2009 *Sustainable Homes: A National Housing Strategy* to provide a coherent direction for housing policy in Wales. It will guide our policy and the housing policies and practices of local government and non government organisations. We will ensure that social housing will continue to provide high quality, affordable homes that meet the needs of people on low incomes.

We will develop an Action Plan for implementation of the National Housing Strategy in 2009/10. We will work in a cross cutting way with local government, private and non-government sectors to build common purpose and deliver housing. We will use government funding from housing and other sources to provide affordable and suitably adapted housing, lever in private funds to provide affordable housing, and use a broad range of resources, help and support to maintain and improve homes.

Housing will be a key lever for stimulating private investment which will contribute to the sustainable regeneration of communities.

Healthy living

There will be stronger NHS engagement with the public and communities on planning and accessing health services, with sustainable development principles at the heart of the planning process of the restructured NHS. There will be, where it is clinically appropriate and sustainable to do so, more health services located closer to home and communities, improving access and reducing the need to travel.

We want to see fewer people smoking, especially amongst children in Communities First areas through our ASSIST initiative. Through development and implementation of a Rural Health Plan and Health Inequalities Strategy, there will be fairer access to health services for all and targeted actions to reduce health inequalities. There will be more emphasis on preventing ill health through Health Challenge Wales, and we want many more organisations achieving excellence in workplace health schemes, alongside improved access to occupational health services, particularly for those employed in smaller businesses and low paid workers.

Through our Quality Food for All in Wales Strategic Action Plan, we want to see a strong, healthy food culture in all parts of Wales so that all people's diets are safe, nutritious, balanced, and contribute actively to positive physical health and wellbeing. We want everyone to have access to affordable, diverse, locally supplied food, for a healthy balanced diet. There will be a focus on community groups in targeted areas of socio-economic deprivation to improve access to healthy food.

People and communities will have more and nearer access to green spaces in rural and urban areas, such as through the creation of the All-Wales coastal path with specific provision for different types of user, and through the Water Recreation Strategy.

Through the actions in our Walking and Cycling Action Plan for Wales we want to encourage more people to walk and cycle more safely and more often. We want to increase the percentage of children who walk to school to match the UK average; triple the percentage of children cycling to school; increase the number of people who walk to work to 20%; and triple the percentage of adults whose main mode of travel to work is cycling.

Through actions in *Climbing Higher - Creating an Active Wales*, our five year strategic action plan, we aim to encourage people to be more physically active. We will develop a physical environment that makes it easier for people to choose to be more physically active. We will put particular emphasis on increasing physical activity in the sedentary population and supporting children's lifelong participation. We will encourage more adults to be more active more often throughout life, and we will increase participation in sport by all sectors of society.

Local quality of life

Working with our partners in Local Government, there will be a strong plan-led system across Wales, reflected in adopted Local Development Plans (LDPs) to assist in delivering more sustainable communities, with local communities sharing a greater sense of ownership and influence. In the most disadvantaged areas, mechanisms will be in place to ensure Communities First Partnerships are able to inform the work of the Local Service Boards and the Community Planning process.

Social enterprises are key players in community regeneration and public service delivery. We will continue to support social enterprise development throughout Wales through our Social Enterprise Action Plan.

A successful and sustainable Welsh credit union movement across Wales will be established to provide core financial services and education about managing finances to community based organisations. We will also be establishing a Community Asset Transfer Fund to help sustain community organisations.

The role and contribution of the voluntary sector will also be enhanced. Many more people will be engaged in formal and informal volunteering.

As part of the 2007-13 Rural Development Plan for Wales, the Leader programme will trial new approaches, products and techniques that will contribute to the sustainable development of rural communities.

Through our Post Office Diversification Fund, we will provide grants to enable sub-post offices to diversify their businesses and offer new services to the communities they serve.

Through our Tidy Towns initiative, people will be engaged and involved in making their communities tidy, clean and safe. There will be greater awareness of the impact of litter and waste on community safety and wellbeing, and the use of green volunteers will raise understanding and engagement on wider environmental issues. There will be more access to green space particularly in less well-off communities. We will prepare a Local Environmental Quality Action Plan and Mission Statement to outline targets in this area and highlight the role and responsibilities of all those involved.



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Through our Sustainable Tourism Framework, we will ensure that tourism maintains and strengthens the quality of life in local communities, through engaging and empowering local communities in planning and decision-making. We will aim to maximise the contribution of tourism to the sustainable economic prosperity of the host destination, including the proportion of visitor spending that is retained locally.

Global citizenship and international engagement

Wales was a founder member of the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD) and we will continue to play an active role in this network, to share experiences and learn lessons from other parts of the world.

More people will have opportunities to be involved in work to address global poverty, environmental protection and tackling of disease, which causes so much human suffering across the world. This will engage all parts of Welsh society to actively contribute to the United Nation Millennium Development goal to halve global poverty by 2015.

Through our support for Fair Trade Wales, we want more individuals and organisations to understand the benefits of buying Fair Trade, building on our achievement of becoming the world's first Fair Trade Nation.

Through our support for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child there will be more opportunities for all children in Wales to be aware of and realise their rights and responsibilities, including through schools engaged in international school partnerships and by schools adopting the Rights Respecting Schools Awards.

The School Effectiveness Framework represents the Welsh Assembly Government's commitment, alongside local authorities and schools themselves, to provide high quality school education for all children and young people. Provision that enables them to access their entitlements so as to participate fully in learning and in the life of their communities.

Through our innovative Wales for Africa programme and our work with UNESCO Cymru Wales there will be more opportunities for communities in Wales to link with communities in sub-Saharan Africa and work on mutual development, through the Gold Star Communities project in order to meet the wider global citizenship objectives. We will continue to provide opportunities for skilled professionals and managers in Wales to undertake work placements in sub-Saharan Africa. We will work with diaspora communities in Wales to increase their positive impact on their homelands.

Key actions we will report on

ACTION 12: Our flagship programme, Communities First, will be reconfigured to ensure it will be more focussed on sustainable outcomes for local people and communities whilst tackling economic inactivity, child poverty and promoting income maximisation.

ACTION 13: We will invest £190 million in public health and health improvement through the Public Health Strategic Framework for Wales, 'Our Healthy Future' which will improve the quality and length of life and improve equity in health.

ACTION 14: We will ensure that sustainable development will be made a core objective for the restructured NHS in all it does, by giving clear duties to the new bodies to demonstrate best practice in planning and design, building, transport, waste management, and in use of energy and water.

ACTION 15: We will ensure that every community in Wales is encouraged to join the Gold Star Community scheme to link with a community in sub-Saharan Africa, and will support them in helping to develop whilst building community cohesion at home.



Chapter 8

The Wellbeing of Wales

Vision

A fair, just and bilingual Wales, in which citizens of all ages and backgrounds are empowered to determine their own lives, shape their communities and achieve their full potential.

Key outcomes

- Equality for all is a core value to all our work, and the six equality themes of age, gender, race, disability, sexual orientation and religion are actively promoted.
- Child poverty is eradicated and, more broadly, a real translation of wealth and power in our poorest communities has been achieved.
- Every educational institution is embedding sustainable development and global citizenship within its education programmes and way of working.
- Wales' rich culture, values and traditions are celebrated, particularly through encouraging diversity, distinctiveness and promoting the Welsh language, regeneration informed by heritage, fostering local character, a sense of place and a potent heritage and cultural tourism offer.

Headline indicator of sustainable development

- Wellbeing in Wales

Supporting indicators

- Education
- Childhood poverty
- Pensioner poverty
- Workless households
- Active community participation
- Welsh language

Wales' approach to sustainable development is based on the contribution of its people and rooted in its rich and diverse culture, supporting and sustaining our traditions, languages and heritage. We want to inspire and educate people to develop their knowledge, values and skills so they can participate in decisions about what affects them, and live more sustainably. The pursuit of equality of opportunity is a continuing challenge to achieve a sustainable Wales - where every individual has equal rights, respects each other, and plays a role in which they can fulfil their potential within an inclusive society

People, particularly children and young adults, have a right to understand the crucial issues facing the planet and to know how they can personally play a part in helping shape the future. We want to inspire and educate people to develop their knowledge, values and skills so they can participate in decisions about what affects them, and live more sustainably. A key opportunity and challenge is for the education system at all levels to play a full role in this.

Evidence shows that children and young people learn most effectively when they are involved in decisions about their learning. The Welsh Assembly Government is committed to ensuring that all children and young people are involved in decision-making on issues that affect them. The School Effectiveness Framework promotes the involvement of children and young people as active participants in improving school effectiveness.

We want to ensure education brings empowerment which delivers a better future for the people of Wales, in particular, where high quality lifelong learning helps people reach their goals, creates better opportunities, empowers communities and helps provide the jobs and skills that people need.

The strategy we are taking to meet these aspirations has 3 themes:

Theme	Overall Aim
A fair society	The principles of fairness, respect, equality and dignity for all embedded throughout society.
Lifelong learning	Every learner is actively involved in a variety of sustainable development and global citizenship initiatives.
A rich and diverse culture	The Welsh language can be used freely in social, leisure and business activities throughout Wales, and the historic and cultural environment of Wales is protected and sustained for all to enjoy.

A fair society

Through our *Single Equality Scheme*, the promotion of equality, diversity and human rights will continue to be central to the way we work, fully reflecting the potential of all individuals. We will identify and tackle the barriers that people may encounter in their everyday lives. Public services will be fit for purpose for all the people of Wales, taking full account of equality, and fully reflecting the needs of different groups.

Through our *Community Cohesion Strategy*, communities will be more integrated and all sectors of the community are treated with respect and tolerance and do not fear for their personal safety. By working with the police, Home Office, Community Safety Partnerships and others, we will help people feel safer in their communities, reduce crime and the fear of crime.

Through our *Child Poverty Strategy*, we will continue to play a full and active role in reaching our commitment to halve child poverty by 2010 and eradicate it by 2020. We want children and young people to be free from the fear of poverty and abuse, are treated with respect and have access to services which will help promote their development, health and well-being.



Lifelong learning

The national curriculum for schools in Wales places sustainable development and global citizenship as an integral aspect of learning. Through our Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship (ESDGC) strategy all schools, colleges and other educational settings are encouraged to become involved in a range of schemes covering issues as diverse as sustainable management and procurement, international partnerships and equality and human rights. Partnerships with voluntary and statutory sector organisations are vital in achieving this. Eco Schools, global schools partnerships, healthy schools, forest schools and fair trade schools will be developed and work will continue to ensure that links between these schemes and awards are made.

To help learning providers embed the principles of ESDGC into their management and delivery of learning, we have developed a series of information documents to exemplify good practice. Further training and resources will be developed with relevant sector networks to provide additional support and training.

Young children in the Foundation Phase will be given more opportunities to gain first hand experiences of their world through play and active involvement. They will be able to take part in activities, indoors and outdoors, where they will have first-hand experience of solving real-life problems, learning about conservation and sustainability.

Sustainable development and global citizenship are also delivered through a range of other policies and actions. The core of the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification includes a range of cross-curricular themes including sustainability. Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) standards gives increased prominence to sustainable development and global citizenship. Youth work curriculum statement now includes reference to ESDGC and training is being developed to increase skills and competencies for youth work staff.

There will be a wider range of learning experiences to encourage young people to continue in education or training beyond 16 through the Learning Pathways 14-19. Our adult community learning policy will include support for the development of skills for individuals and communities to take a more active role in society.

All higher education institutions are committed to achieving accreditation with a recognised environmental management system by early 2011.

All further education colleges have undertaken work with the Sustainable Procurement Assessment Framework and are now updating strategies and working towards further implementation. Networks for staff in FE and HE will continue to be supported and new networks for youth work, adult and community based learning and work based learning will be developed. Training and resources that are identified by these groups will be developed to intensify action in these sectors.

Through our Sustainable Development Bursary we will offer bursary funding to students who focus their research on strategically important areas of sustainability.

A tool-kit has been developed for providers that are funded by the Assembly Government to deliver work-based learning, to measure and monitor their progress in addressing the ESDGC agenda.

The Sector Skill Council Lifelong learning UK, have produced overarching professional standards for trainers, teachers and tutors in the lifelong learning sector which include reference to sustainable development and global citizenship. Further work will be developed to exemplify these standards and provide support and training to staff to undertake their own continuing professional development.

A rich and diverse culture

Iaith Pawb: A National Action Plan for a Bilingual Wales explains how we intend to achieve our goal of revitalising the Welsh language and creating a bilingual Wales. We want more people to be able to learn Welsh and to encourage it to thrive as a language of many communities all over Wales. We will seek enhanced legislative competence on the Welsh language, and expand the funding and support for Welsh-medium magazines and newspapers. We aim to place a statutory duty on local authorities to promote culture and encourage partnerships to deliver high-quality cultural experiences for their communities. Our new funding agreement with Golwg Ltd will see the development of a sustainable news company in West Wales and stabilise Welsh language journalism.

Through our arts and culture programme, we will widen access to Wales' many heritage and cultural activities so that they are available to all people, irrespective of where they live, their background or their income. Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales contributes to the sustainable development agenda through its role in education of the public - for example through its 'House of the Future' at St Fagans. We will continue to support free access to the seven Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales sites. We will also introduce free entry to Assembly Government funded heritage sites for Welsh pensioners and children.

We wish to see the historic environment well protected, enjoyed and valued by the people of Wales. We want to see fewer historic buildings and sites 'at risk', with more heritage assets in stable or improving condition. We will continue to consider heritage assets for protection and promote the historic environment as a strand of regeneration and sustainable development, by promoting best practice in urban and landscape characterisation and the reuse of redundant historic buildings. We will also expand our advice and policy guidance and target grants to promote sustainable conservation and heritage-led regeneration. Through our Strategic Capital Investment Fund, we will fund improved access and presentation of historic sites to stimulate local pride and cultural tourism, as part of our Welsh Cultural Heritage Initiative.

Our marketing of Wales as a tourism destination will be proactive in conveying key sustainability messages and in encouraging responsible visitor behaviour. We will target markets that will be attracted to Wales' environmental and cultural assets and use tourism as a justification to protect and invest in them. A key aim will be to extend the tourism season in order to improve the quality of jobs that can be supported by the industry. We will increasingly target non-seasonal markets in both our marketing and development activities.

When rolling out our plans to strengthen tourism destinations in Wales, we will work with local authorities to ensure the new destination management arrangements incorporate sustainability aims.

Key actions we will report on

ACTION 16: Working with our partners we will deliver against all priority actions in the Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship Action Plan by the end of 2009, and from this we will update and review the plan to provide a renewed focus from 2010-2014.

ACTION 17: We will implement a programme of action outlined in the Historic Environment Strategic Statement including the conservation of a range of iconic Welsh cultural heritage sites, promoting sustainable techniques and traditional skills, as well as achieving improved physical and intellectual access for the public.

ACTION 18: We will ensure that Wales is recognised internationally as a leading sustainable tourism destination as set out in the Sustainable Tourism Framework by incorporating sustainability aims into all our tourism promotion and development by 2011, followed by a review in 2014 to refresh the programme of commitments.

A Red-tailed Hawk is shown in flight against a clear blue sky. The hawk's wings are spread wide, revealing dark brown upper wings and lighter, patterned underwings. Its tail is also visible, showing a mix of brown and white feathers. The hawk's head is turned slightly to the right, showing its sharp beak and keen eyes. A small, dark band is visible on its right leg.

Annex A

Key Supporting Documents

A revised curriculum for Wales

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/curriculumassessment/arevisedcurriculumforwales/?lang=en>

Advice note on Sustainable Development for Community Strategies

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/localgovernment/partnership/commstrategies/advicenotes/sustainable/?lang=en>

Aggregates Levy Fund

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/grants/voluntary/aggregateslevy/?lang=en>

All-Wales coastal path

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/countrysidecoastalaccess/?lang=en>

Assembly's code of practice in dealing with requests for access to information

www.information.wales.gov.uk

ASSIST initiative

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/page.cfm?orgId=719&pid=24092>

Better Homes for People in Wales

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/housing/strategy/publications/betterhomes/?lang=en>

Biodiversity Action Plan

http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/the_biodiversity_action_plan-26.aspx

BREEAM for Healthcare rating of Excellence

<http://www.breeam.org/page.jsp?id=105>

BREEAM standard

<http://www.breeam.org/page.jsp?id=40>

Climate Change Community Packs

http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/climate_change/news/communitypack/?lang=en

Code for Sustainable Homes

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/sustainabledevelopment/design/code/?lang=en>

Communities First

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/regeneration/communitiesfirst/?lang=en>

Community Safety Partnerships

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/safety/partnerships/?lang=en>

Eco schools

<http://www.eco-schoolswales.org/>

Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship Action Plan

http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/policy_strategy_and_planning/sustainabledevelop/?lang=en

Environment Strategy

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/epq/envstratforwales/?lang=en>

Environment Strategy Action Plan

http://new.wales.gov.uk/docrepos/40382/epc/118554/Env_strat_rewrite/Action_Plan_e.pdf?lang=en

EU SD Strategy 2006

<http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/128117.htm>

Fair Trade

<http://www.fairtradewales.com/>

Fair Trade schools

<http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/schools/>

Floodline

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/default.aspx>

Forest schools

<http://www.forestschoools.com/>

Foundation Phase

http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/policy_strategy_and_planning/104009-wag/foundation_phase/?lang=en

Global Schools Partnerships

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/funding/globalschools.asp>

Green Dragon Standard

<http://www.greendragonems.com/>

Heads of the Valley

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandconomy/property/HofV/?lang=en>

Health Challenge Wales

www.wales.gov.uk/campaigns/more/hcw/?lang=en

Healthcare Waste Strategy for Wales

http://www.wales.nhs.uk/documents/WHC_2006_043.pdf

Integrated Coastal Zone Management

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/marinefisheries/iczm/?lang=en>

International Organisation for Standardization

http://www.iso.org/iso/management_standards.htm

Learning Pathways 14-19

http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/policy_strategy_and_planning/learning_pathways/?lang=en

Local Service Boards

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/improvingservices/localserviceboards/?lang=en>

Mon a Menai

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2008/menai/?lang=en>

National Energy Efficiency and Savings Plan

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/energy/efficiencyplan/?lang=en>

New Approaches programme

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/epq/waterflooding/flooding/newapproaches/?lang=en>

One Future - different paths

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/sustainable/government/>

One Wales Programme for Government

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/about/strategy/publications/onewales/?lang=en>

Opening doors - the charter for SME Friendly Procurement

<https://www.buy4wales.co.uk/PRP/strategy/procstrat/theopeningdoorscharter.html>

Planning Policy Wales

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/planning/policy/ppw2002/?lang=en>

Post Office Diversification Fund

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/grants/podfw/?lang=en>

Public Service Management Wales' One Planet Leadership Programme

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/psmwsubsite/psmw/?lang=en>

Quality of Food Strategy

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/health/improvement/food/foodhealth/qualityoffood/?lang=en>

Regional Transport Consortia

www.sewta.gov.uk www.tracc.gov.uk; www.taith.gov.uk

Regional Waste Plans

<http://www.walesregionalwasteplans.gov.uk/>

Renewable Energy Routemap

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2008/routemap/?lang=en>

Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-13

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/ruraldevelopment/ruraldevelopmentplan20072013/ruraldevelopmentplan4wales2007/?lang=en>

School Effectiveness Framework: building effective learning communities together

<http://wales.gov.uk/dcells/news/educationskillsnews/schooleffectivenessframework/schooleffectiveness?lang=en>

Single Equalities Scheme

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/equality/sescheme/?lang=en>

Skills that Work for Wales

http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/policy_strategy_and_planning/skillsthatforwales/?lang=en

Social Enterprise Strategy for Wales

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/regeneration/publications/socialenterprisestrategy?lang=en>

South West Wales Integrated Transport Consortium (SWITCH)

<http://www.swwitch.net/default.aspx>

Sustainable Development Commission's Sustainable Development in Government report

<http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/pages/sustainable-development-in-government-sdig.html>

Sustainable Development Framework for Local Government

<http://www.wlga.gov.uk/english/sustainable-development-framework/>

Sustainable Development Indicators

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/sustain2008/?lang=en>

Sustainable management of fisheries

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/about/strategy/publications/environmentcountryside/fisheries/?lang=en>

Sustainable Procurement Tools and Training

<http://www.buyforwales.com/PRP/strategy/procstrat/sustainableassessmentandperformancemonitoring.html>

Sustainable Tourism Framework

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/tourism/aboutvisitwales/strategypolicy/aop?lang=en>

Sustainable Tourism Strategy

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/tourism/aboutvisitwales/strategypolicy/SusTourism?lang=en>

TAN12 Design

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/planning/policy/tans/tan12?lang=e>

Tidy Towns initiative

<http://www.keepwalestidy.org/english/default.asp?Category=Default&NewsID=211&Menu=0.26.13.243>

Towards a Historic Environment Strategic Statement

<http://rcahmw.gov.uk/media/49.pdf>

United Nations Gold Star Communities

<http://goldstarcommunities.webspring.org.uk/welcome>

United Nations Millennium Development Goals

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

Visit Wales Grading Scheme

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/tourism/grading/schemes/?lang=en>

Wales' Ecological Footprint

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/sustainabledevelopment/publications/ecofootprint/?lang=en>

Wales Freight Strategy

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/transport/publications/wfs/?lang=en>

Water Recreation Strategy

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/news/87176.aspx?page=3&month=6&year=2008>

Water Resources Strategy

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/library/publications/40731.aspx>

Wales Spatial Plan

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/about/strategy/spatial/?lang=en>

Wales Spatial Plan update

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/about/strategy/spatial/wsp2008update/download/?lang=en>

Wales Transport Strategy

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/transport/publications/transportstrategy/?lang=en>

Welsh Housing Quality Standard

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/housing/social/whqs/?lang=en>