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Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

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# One Wales: One Planet

## Sustainable Development Charter

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# Sustainable Development Charter

Sustainable development is about improving the long-term economic, social and environmental wellbeing of people and communities in Wales. To be truly sustainable, this needs to be done in ways which promote social justice and equality of opportunity, and which enhance the natural and cultural environment and respect its limits.


## Welsh Assembly Government's vision of a sustainable Wales

Enhancing the long-term wellbeing of people and communities is central to our approach to sustainable development. To promote this we are committed to a sustainable future for Wales where we:

- **live within our environmental limits**, using only our fair share of the earth's resources, for example by radically reducing our use of carbon-based energy and greenhouse gas emissions, moving towards becoming a zero-waste nation;
- **support healthy, biologically diverse and productive ecosystems**, by actively recognising and supporting our environmental assets including land, water and biodiversity;
- **build a resilient and sustainable economy**, including by fostering local economies and suppliers, supporting innovation, achieving the transition to a low carbon, low waste economy, and ensuring that Wales is the best location for business to locate, start up, grow and prosper;
- **enjoy communities which are safe, sustainable, and attractive**, where people enjoy good health, by having a much stronger connection with our local environment, economies and each other;
- **are a fair, just and bilingual nation** in which citizens determine their own lives, shape their communities and achieve their full potential, by ensuring equality for all is a core value to all our work.

## Sustainable Development Charter

To make Wales a sustainable nation, we need all organisations to work with us to deliver these objectives. Sustainable development should be a real organising principle, relevant to all sectors of society. In the public sector, it demands joined-up government with a focus on the long-term and serving the citizen, directly supporting the aims we have already set in the Wales Spatial Plan and for Local Service Boards across Wales.



By signing up to this Charter, and making sustainable development your central organising principle, you will be committing to promoting and delivering wellbeing through your decisions and operations, by:

- ensuring that all decisions promote long term, sustainable wellbeing of people (including employees) and communities, and do not promote short term fixes that will continue to lock us into unsustainable patterns and lifestyles;
- ensuring that all decisions take full account of, and where possible fully integrate, the various social, economic and environmental outcomes that are being sought;
- engaging with, and involving, the people and communities that will be affected by these decisions, so that working in partnership for sustainable development becomes part and parcel of the way we work.

This Charter commits organisations to this and sets out the approaches required to make this happen.

## **Sustainable development - the benefits to organisations**

The benefits of adopting sustainable development as the central organising principle are that it will:

- Allow decisions to be future-proofed, protecting your organisation by meeting the needs of current and future generations;
- Help promote innovation and new thinking in the development of sustainable goods and services, to set your organisation apart as a leader and allow you to take advantage of future opportunities;
- Promote resource saving, energy efficiency, and waste reduction, generating bottom-line cost savings that can be used to fund other services;
- Safeguard and enhance the reputation of your organisation - locally, nationally and internationally;
- Aid the consistency of decision making across the board, so that all decisions are based on a comprehensive view of economic, social and environmental considerations;
- Promote joined-up working within (and between) organisations, moving away from working in silos, generating cost-savings and efficiencies, and having more effective joined-up delivery to communities, citizens and customers.

## The commitment

We commit to making sustainable development the central organising principle in how we make decisions and carry out our work. This means we will:

- Be clear about our role, responsibilities and commitments in relation to sustainable development;
- Provide clear leadership for sustainable development, within our organisations and with those we work with;
- Promote continuous improvement so that we continue to reduce the environmental impact of all our activities;
- Embed sustainable development into all our decision-making, including financial decision-making;
- Strive to be an exemplar organisation, to lead and inspire others to act.

To demonstrate our commitment to sustainable development, we will:

- Share examples of how we are considering economic, social and environmental issues, and the promotion of wellbeing, in our decision-making;
- Show how we are promoting the wellbeing of our staff and employees;
- Demonstrate our thinking and vision for the future, and the role that we as an organisation play in that;
- Report our progress against sustainable development indicators; and
- Provide examples of the work that we have done to promote sustainability within Wales.

## How to sign up

If your organisation would like to sign up to the Charter, then visit our website to register.

## Next steps

The Welsh Assembly Government will support the development of this Charter and will promote further commitment from other organisations to it. We will provide additional support modules and other advice for organisations to take these commitments further in particular areas. We will also include examples of how organisations have contributed to sustainable development in Wales within the statutory Welsh Assembly Government Annual Report. We will invite Charter members to an annual 'Reporting back' event to share learning and experiences with others, and to showcase best practice examples of their work.

### **WAG Sustainable Development website**

### **WAG Sustainable Development Scheme One Wales: One Planet**

[www.wales.gov.uk/sustainabledevelopment](http://www.wales.gov.uk/sustainabledevelopment)