



Natur a Ni
Nature and Us

The Nature and Us Vision for Wales 2050: Society and nature thriving together

Your input will
become our

**NORTH
STAR!**



Guiding
our work!



Everyone's
VOICE
counts!



**YOUR
VIEWS**
are
IMPORTANT...

... **THEY HELP US
FACE THE
CHALLENGES!**



Noddir gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
Sponsored by
Welsh Government

 **Cyfoeth
Naturiol
Cymru**
Natural
Resources
Wales

Contents

What does the
FUTURE
look like...
...when SOCIETY and NATURE
THRIVE TOGETHER?

HOW HAS YOUR RELATIONSHIP
WITH NATURE BEEN SHAPED?

I took the
mountains
for granted
when I was
younger...

I was always
outside!

All illustrations by: **LAURA SORVALA**

“ Where you see this graphic, the text is a quote from a participant in the Nature and Us citizens' assembly

Introduction

Nature and Us was set up to create a shared vision for the future of the natural environment in Wales for 2050.

At the centre of the programme was a promise to listen to people from across Wales in order to create the vision, which could then be taken forward by the people, organisations and Government in Wales together.

Natural Resources Wales, with the help of Welsh Government, made it possible for people to share their views about the future of the natural environment in Wales.

In 2022, the first step of the Nature and Us programme was launched and over 3,000 people were talking about it.

People shared their views, stories, and hopes through surveys, focus groups, workshops and webinars.

This has shown that people across Wales care enough about the future of the natural environment to want to make a difference.

With a wealth of information collected, a citizens' assembly was set up to complete the process of creating a shared vision. A citizens' assembly is a group of people who are brought together to learn about and discuss an issue, and reach conclusions about what they think should happen. This is the result of that process.



**CREATING
LIVING STREETS**

Julie James MS

Minister for Climate Change

“ I welcome this hugely valuable and timely report created and inspired through conversations with the people of Wales, capturing their vision for a future with nature and us.

Professor Steve Ormerod

Chair of the Nature and Us Advisory Group

“ All of us are touched by the nature and climate emergencies, yet often we're unsure about how best to make a meaningful contribution - especially to help the generations yet to come. I am delighted, therefore, to share this vision for Wales' natural environment in 2050.



The Nature and Us Vision for 2050

The following statements make up the Nature and Us vision for protecting the future of the natural environment for everyone across Wales for 2050.

Imagine 2050...

Key elements of the vision

1

People and Government have a shared commitment to protecting the natural environment.

To make this happen the government needs to communicate their plan to protect and restore the natural environment. This will explain how people and government can help protect endangered animals and plants and restore where they live.

2

Clear leadership from the Welsh Government helps the public to be more involved in decisions about nature.

To make this happen, all levels of government need to involve people and make decisions based on clear information and evidence rather than party political and other vested interests. This will give the public more power and make sure government takes the best approach to nature.

3

Sharing knowledge helps people understand how nature impacts their lives, and the actions they can take to help protect and restore the natural environment.

To make this happen, clear and accessible information will highlight the different ways citizens can act. This will help citizens know what steps they can take to help nature and society thrive.

CLEAR COMMUNICATION

RENEWABLE ENERGY

CONSERVATION
REWILDING

PROTECTED

OCEANS & WATERWAYS

LAND USE

CIRCULAR WASTE ECONOMY

4

Widespread access to nature helps people across Wales live happy and healthy lives.

To make this happen, Welsh society needs more equal access to nature and to make its environment less polluted so that everyone is able to benefit from nature. This will improve the mental and physical health of people in Wales.



5

Greener transport and energy options enable more people to make environmentally friendly choices in their day-to-day lives.

To make this happen, the Welsh Government needs to invest in public transport, renewable energy technologies and waste management as well as reducing the impact of inequalities between people and their communities. This will give more equal access to greener lifestyle choices to people across Wales.



6

Sustainable land management helps communities buy local food and feel connected to the Welsh land.

To make this happen, all levels of government need to help make farming more sustainable and local food affordable. This will help people buy more local, sustainable food and restore nature.

Imagine it is 2050, where nature and society thrive together...

These are the most important points identified by the citizens' assembly in creating the vision.

What things need to be different from today and why?



The natural environment...

A shared commitment to protect and restore nature.

The future is built around a common belief that nature should be protected and restored in everything we do.



Policy and decision making...

Government-led and more citizen involvement.

Welsh Government shares a clear plan for nature that is based on facts and unites political views.

People are more involved in making decisions, and governments and businesses to be held account for their actions.



“ Land management that considers nature, wildlife, etc.

“ Less inequality or at least not more inequality.

“ The Welsh Government, Westminster (and hopefully EU!) with a strategy that enables people to live life without a negative impact on the environment.

“ Deregulation is a modern curse. We need regulation...

Information and action...

Sharing knowledge and growing awareness.

People know more about the natural environment and how it affects our lives.

People are aware of what they can do to help nature.



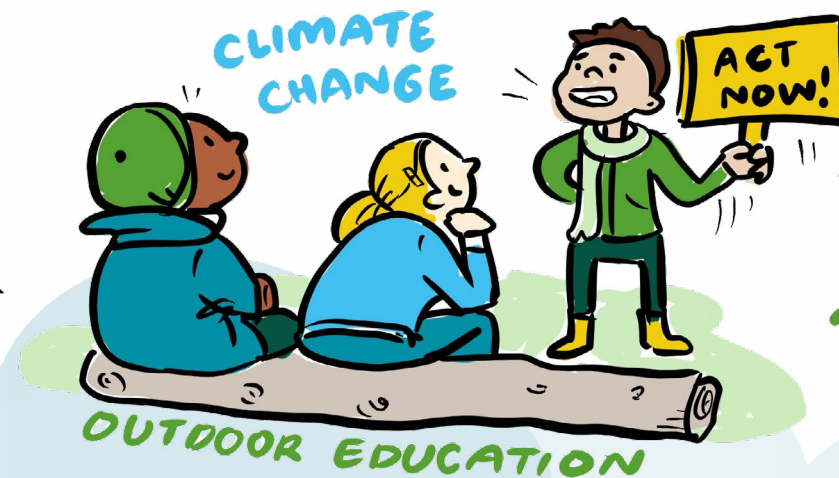
“ Education - what we can do and what we should be doing, but also skills, learning from each other. Being able to pass down information from generation to generation - educating each other.

Health...

Access to nature for all.

Everyone has better access to nature.

Everyone thinks about how they can do more to reduce pollution.



“ We need to be aware of what we have and what is available around us.



“ Available greenspace and outdoor space for everyone supports mental health.

Systems and Infrastructure...

Greener systems and infrastructure.

Public transport is better.

Renewable energy has replaced fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas.

Everyone is kinder to nature by designing out waste, reusing resources.



- FREE PUBLIC TRANSPORT
- ELECTRIC CARS

“ If fewer cars, there needs to be cheaper, more convenient public transport.

“ Green usable public transport: including re-fuelling and recharging distributed locally, invest in green transport solutions.

Land Management...

Sustainable farming and food production.

There is a friendlier way of farming that supports the environment.

Affordable, nutritious, healthy food is available for all.

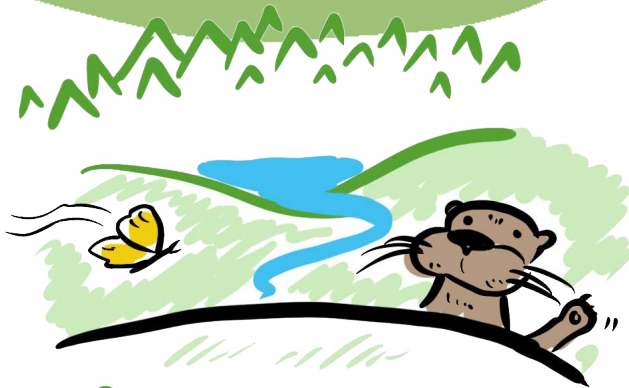
WE NEED TO MOVE TO MORE
SUSTAINABLE
FORMS OF FARMING
AND LAND MANAGEMENT!



“ Farming should be a trade that people can get into without having been born into farming...

“ Why are home grown/sustainably grown foods more expensive than shipping in from another country?

What are the benefits of the future described, and for who?



CONSERVATION

“ Nature (biodiversity, atmosphere, etc.) and us (physical and mental health and economy).

The natural environment...

Saving wildlife and improving health.

Animals, plants and the places where they live and grow would be protected and restored.

More areas like woodlands, gardens, wetlands and parks would be created where people can experience and enjoy nature.

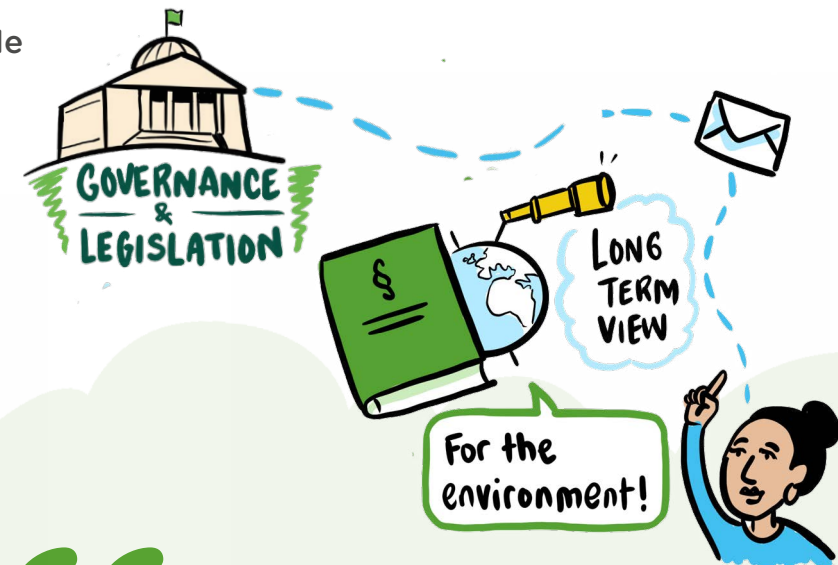


Policy and decision making...

Government strategy influenced by people.

A plan for the long-term where decisions made would be based on facts.

People would be more involved because they would feel they know more about how they can have an effect on government and to hold it responsible for its actions.



“ It's a great benefit for people generally to come together for a common purpose. Social fabric has changed.

Information and action...

Informed and active citizens.

People would know more and feel empowered to act.

More people would become involved in taking action.

It's great to bring people together in their communities!



EVERYONE BENEFITS...

... IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE!

CONNECTION

Health...

Improved health.

People would feel better - mentally and physically.



WELL BEING

- MENTAL HEALTH
- INSPIRATION + CULTURE!

“ Education: people’s choice, reduce ‘throw-away’ society, circular economy, reduce demand, reduce supply, reduce consumption, reduce waste.

“ Safe air to breathe. Safe healthy environment.

“ Improve mental health by connection with others and nature.

“ Healthier public, reduced pressure on health systems.

Systems and Infrastructure...

Reduced emissions.

The quality of the air we breathe would be better due to fewer vehicles giving off harmful gases.

Where we live and work would be more effective at saving energy.

Everyone would have the opportunity to live a lower impact lifestyle.

Land Management...

Connection to land and more self-sufficiency.

People would be encouraged to grow or source food in a way that looks after the environment.

People would be able to make use of land near their homes and have access to food they can afford.



COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE



“ Energy efficient sustainable housing across the board.

“ Affordable public transport that reaches far and wide allowing workers to commute without the use of a car.

“ Positive land use - sustainable and great for communities.

What can people and society as a whole do?

The natural environment...

Strategy that sets out government and citizen roles.

A plan that shows who does what for the environment across Government and the role people can play.

Making every effort to protect the natural environment will lead to new job opportunities.

Policy and decision making...

Funding, legislation and shared action.

Political parties sharing more plans and ideas.

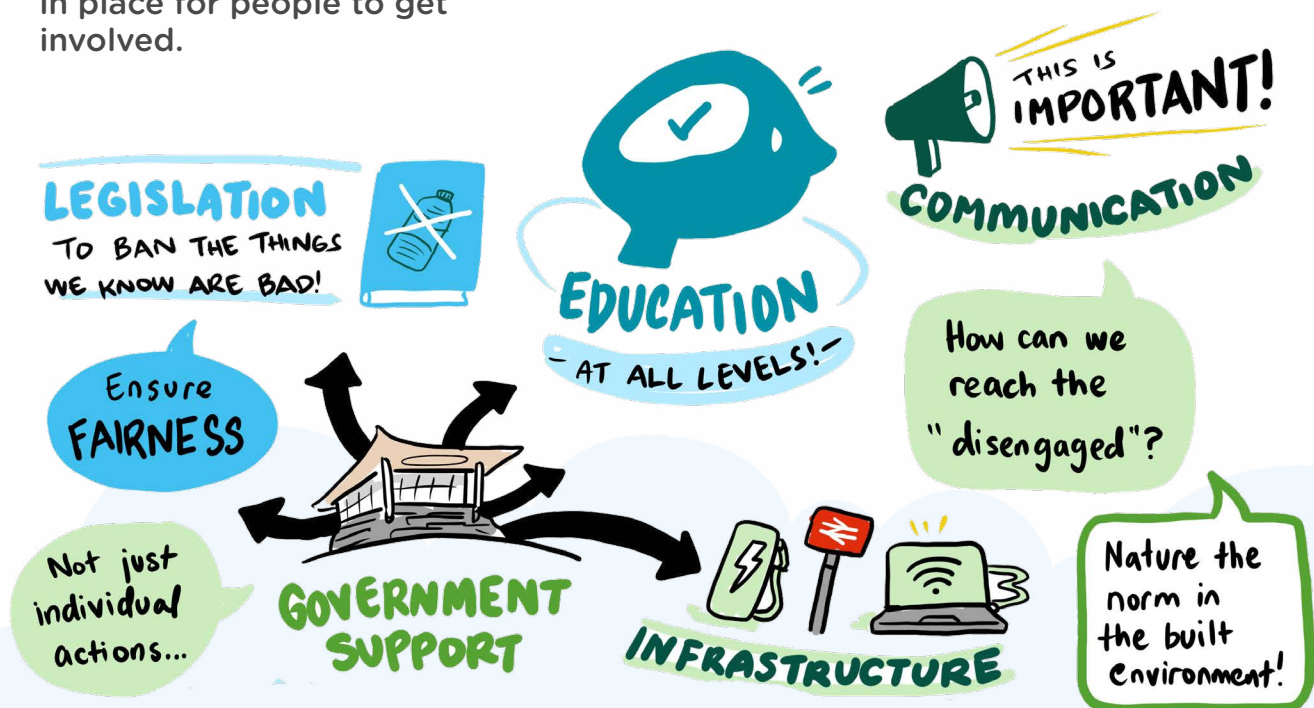
More opportunities and support in place for people to get involved.

Information and action...

Government led strategy.

Government to lead on a plan on how to get everyone involved and educated about our environment.

Clearer information on what can be done in daily lives to be made available to everyone.



Developing a multi-level education strategy, from 4 years to 80 years old, multi-faceted and dynamic - how can Welsh Government reach out on a regular basis to achieve a well-educated population that will continually make best decisions for the environment?

Health...

Focus on equal access and community initiatives.

Communities help themselves, become resourceful and have opportunities to lead on local changes.

Less traffic on residential roads and stop using fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas.

Systems and Infrastructure...

Government action to support individual sustainable choices.

Welsh Government to invest in transport that is kinder to the environment.

Using renewable technology for buildings and make them more energy efficient.

Making it more possible to reuse and repair products, supplies and materials.

Land Management...

Set limits and support community action.

Welsh Government to set targets that support using land in a way that cares for the environment.

Make use of new farming techniques along with changes in how and what food we grow and eat.

BRINGING COMMUNITIES
back together!



INTERGENERATIONAL
CONNECTIONS



EFFICIENT
TRANSPORT

- CHEAPER
- FREQUENT
- CAPACITY

“ We need to regenerate the growing of local produce to reduce pollution.



The first tomato I grew tasted amazing!



GROW YOUR
OWN FOOD

The Nature and Us Citizens' Assembly:

Getting to the heart of the matter; ensuring people's views from across Welsh communities are heard on the future of the natural environment in Wales.

What were the aims of the assembly?

- To think about the climate and nature emergencies and the Nature and Us conversation
- To agree a shared vision for the natural environment for Wales
- To suggest how the public can take action now, and how organisations can support this.

Who was involved?

40 people completed the assembly

13 hours of deliberation across **2.5 days**, spread over **3 weekends**

What was discussed at the assembly?

4 core questions...

- What does the future look like when society and nature thrive together?
- What needs to be different from today?
- What benefits would we see if this happened?
- What steps do we in Wales need to take to reach a thriving future?

What was achieved by the assembly?

6 key themes were identified to form the basis of

6 vision statements

Vision tested with assembly members before final release.

The Citizens' Assembly was facilitated by the Centre for Deliberative Research, at the National Centre for Social Research. Recruitment was undertaken by the Sortition Foundation.

NatCen
Social Research



SORTITION
FOUNDATION

For the full findings and process reports, visit www.natureandus.wales