

Shaping our Future

How Wales can lead the world with
a sustainable development law

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Organisations supporting the bill that we're proposing include:



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What kind of Wales and world do you want to live in and pass on to the next generation?

We are an alliance of organisations with a shared commitment to shaping a sustainable future for Wales. We've come together at a crucial time – the Welsh Government is making a new law that will decide how Wales develops for decades to come.

If you support our proposals, or have ideas of your own to contribute, please join the conversation – visit the websites listed below or join in on Twitter using the hashtag #sdbillwales

For further information on the campaign, go to:

www.cymdeithas.org/cymunedau

www.foe.co.uk/sustainable-development-wales

www.hubcymru.org/hub/campaignsdbill

www.stopclimatechaoscymru.org/sustainable-development

www.wcva.org.uk/what-we-do/policy-and-influence/climate-change

www.wwf.org.uk/sustainablewales



Can a small country make a real difference in the world?

Yes we can!

Decisions that our politicians and public authorities face are tough and getting tougher in the worsening financial climate. But decisions taken now can have long term consequences for people and the environment in Wales and across the world.

Sustainable development means making the right choices now and for the long term.

What we buy in Wales affects people and wildlife at home and overseas. As the world's first Fair Trade nation we know we can make positive choices. We want to build a better future, a more secure future for future generations. To do that we need to create jobs in ways that help tackle climate change; provide high quality, accessible public transport; make planning decisions to support our Welsh speaking communities; ensure local people help design services to meet their needs; educate our children to be global citizens; build houses that use less energy and save money and make healthy, local food affordable to all.

Sustainable development means making decisions in a joined-up way; fighting for social justice and a good quality of life for people in Wales and around the world. And doing all this within the environmental limits of our one planet, using only our fair share of its resources.

So why do we need a law to do this?

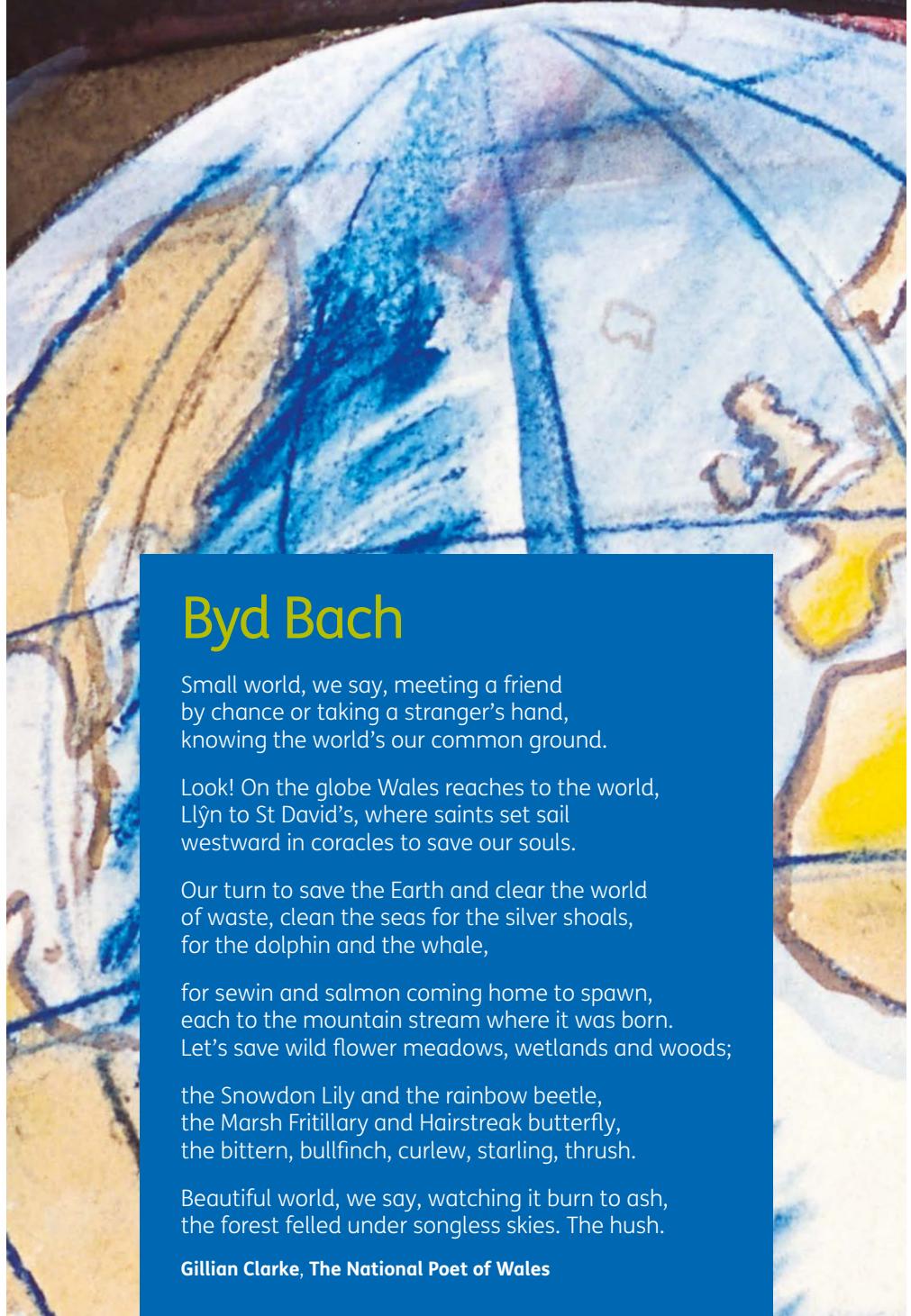
We're one of the few countries with a Government that has a legal duty to promote sustainable development. We've heard our Ministers speak about it on the world stage. And it has achieved things – from supporting communities in Africa to tackling fuel poverty and creating green jobs in the valleys.

Yet, despite the good intentions, we are far from being a sustainable nation. We need strong legislation to make sure that we actually deliver what we say we want.

We want a law which means government and public bodies, like local councils, schools and hospitals, have a duty to meet the needs of future generations, as well as those of us alive today.

This would bring real benefits for people and the planet. And its effects would not just be felt in Wales. A ground breaking law would inspire and influence other countries too. We've already seen that happen with other Welsh policies such as the smoking ban, free bus travel for the over-60s and of course the plastic bag charge.

Here, we show what a sustainable future looks like, and how we can deliver real change.



Byd Bach

Small world, we say, meeting a friend
by chance or taking a stranger's hand,
knowing the world's our common ground.

Look! On the globe Wales reaches to the world,
Llŷn to St David's, where saints set sail
westward in coracles to save our souls.

Our turn to save the Earth and clear the world
of waste, clean the seas for the silver shoals,
for the dolphin and the whale,
for sewin and salmon coming home to spawn,

each to the mountain stream where it was born.
Let's save wild flower meadows, wetlands and woods;

the Snowdon Lily and the rainbow beetle,
the Marsh Fritillary and Hairstreak butterfly,
the bittern, bullfinch, curlew, starling, thrush.

Beautiful world, we say, watching it burn to ash,
the forest felled under songless skies. The hush.

Gillian Clarke, The National Poet of Wales

What this Bill would mean for us

Jonathon Porritt – Former Chair of the UK's Sustainable Development Commission

"The Sustainable Development Bill offers hope to everyone in the UK who cares about ensuring a healthy planet for future generations. Done properly, it will cement Wales' position as a global leader in respecting environmental limits – helping to tackle climate change and safeguard the natural world. I fully support the campaign for Welsh Government to pass a strong bill that really delivers on its bold promises."



Victoria Winckler – Director, Bevan Foundation

"The Bevan Foundation wants to see a Sustainable Development Bill which promotes social justice and equality on the ground as well as in principle. This means giving strong leadership and taking positive action to make Wales a fair and just nation. We recognise the need to tackling social justice and equality within the limits of our planet's resources and therefore the need to look for solutions for Wales that integrate all aspects of sustainable development."



Ann Jones – Chair, National Federation of Women's Institutes-Wales

"Sustainable Development has been at the heart of the WI since its inception and is a cross-cutting theme that underpins all our work. Women have a unique role in leading the way to achieving sustainable development as guardians of natural resources, primary decision-makers in household consumption, educators of the next generation and key voices within communities. The Sustainable Development Bill provides a major opportunity for Wales to become a world leader in sustainable development. It's crucial that the Welsh Government gets this right - engaging with civil society and delivering a strong bill that will truly make a difference in achieving a sustainable future."

Sir Stuart Rose – Business leader

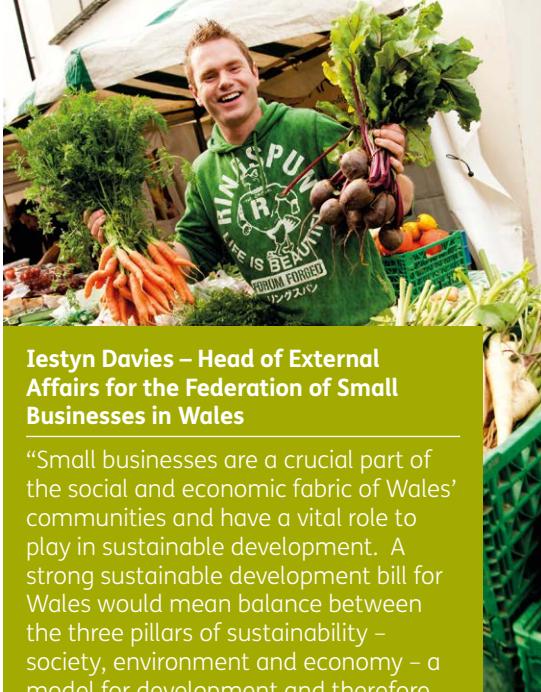
"The Sustainable Development Bill offers the exciting prospect of Wales leading on creating a sustainable economy which is low carbon, resource efficient and socially responsible. I support this campaign for a strong law which helps deliver a sustainable economy. If the Welsh Government gets this law right, it will send a powerful and positive message to the business world that Wales is serious about this agenda."

Andy O'Callaghan – Co Chair of Sustainable Development Steering Group, Funky Dragon

“Sustainable development is critical for a future for the world and without it the planet will be doomed. To me it means reusing what we have and making sure schemes and projects can sustain themselves. I want to see the Bill make sustainable development a core feature of any public bodies’ decision and ensure that everything is scrutinised to make sure it has been taken into consideration and acted upon.”

Denise Lord – Valleys Kids

“At its heart, Valley Kids is about sustainable development of its own community. We build and channel international relationships into the creative arts, reversing the lack of aspiration our young people feel. The need for a strong, healthy and just society forms the heartbeat of their self-created drama. This gives them not only a belief in themselves and their future, but a very real understanding of how they connect with the rest of the world.”

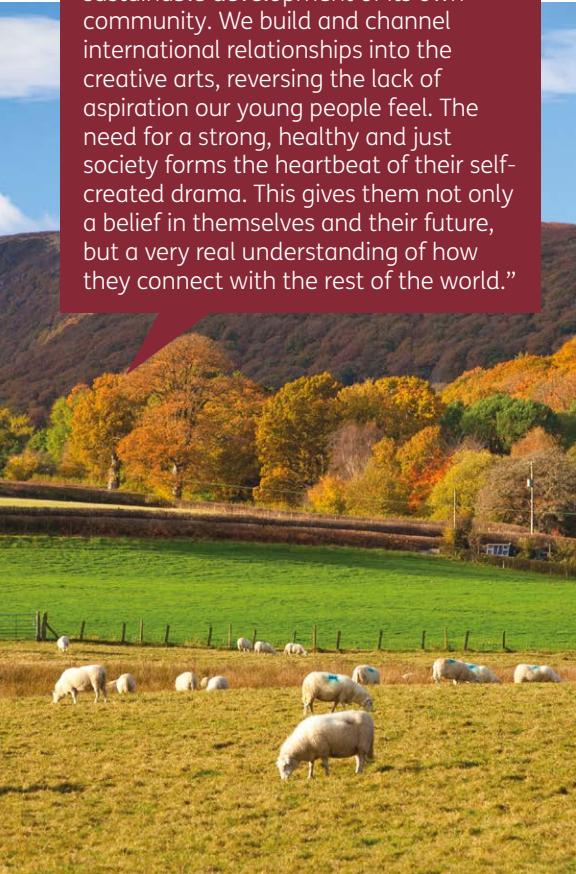


Iestyn Davies – Head of External Affairs for the Federation of Small Businesses in Wales

“Small businesses are a crucial part of the social and economic fabric of Wales’ communities and have a vital role to play in sustainable development. A strong sustainable development bill for Wales would mean balance between the three pillars of sustainability – society, environment and economy – a model for development and therefore change which will support opportunities for growth for small businesses and the generation of jobs in Wales.”

Revd Dr John Weaver – Chair of the John Ray Initiative: connecting Environment, Science and Christianity and Moderator of the South Wales Baptist Association

“I believe that members of faith communities should welcome and actively support the 2013 Sustainable Development Bill. We are called to be radical: looking outwards at the needs of the world and adopting a radical agenda of wise stewardship, which questions the use and exhaustion of natural resources; and calls us to recognise our accountability for the ways in which we share creation’s bounty and care for creation.”



A Sustainable Development Bill for Wales

Preamble

Recognising that sustainable development means achieving social justice and eliminating poverty in a way which is capable of being continued indefinitely by all of earth's people by respecting environmental limits.

Recognising that, in Wales, sustainable development includes sustaining and promoting the Welsh language, culture and heritage while protecting and enhancing the Welsh natural environment and using only our fair share of the world's resources.

1 Duty to achieve sustainable development

- (1) Every public authority must exercise their functions in order to achieve sustainable development.

2 Definition of sustainable development

(1) Sustainable development means meeting the economic, social, cultural and environmental needs of people and communities without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs and includes the application of the following principles:

- (a) ensuring a strong, healthy and just society;
- (b) living within environmental limits;
- (c) using natural resources prudently;
- (d) achieving a sustainable economy;
- (e) promoting good governance;
- (f) using sound science responsibly;
- (g) applying the precautionary and polluter pays principles;

- (h) avoiding adverse international impacts;
- (i) ensuring that the people of Wales use only their fair share of the world's resources;
- (j) promoting and facilitating the use of the Welsh language and strengthening Welsh-speaking communities;
- (k) protecting and enhancing Wales' natural environment.

3 Sustainable Development Commissioner for Wales

- (1) The National Assembly for Wales shall appoint a Sustainable Development Commissioner for Wales ("The Commissioner").
- (2) The Commissioner shall have the function of promoting and facilitating the achievement of sustainable development as defined in section 2 of this Act.
- (3) Any person may make complaints to the Commissioner in relation to any matter concerning the discharge of the Sustainable Development Duty by public authorities.