With the Assembly election fast approaching we need a government which will work for a better Wales in the future.

We need a Government who can maintain a long-term vision, ensuring that the major changes needed in our infrastructure start to happen now. We need a commitment to a truly sustainable Wales. By this we mean a One Planet Wales, where the people of Wales lead happy, healthy, prosperous lives within their fair share of the Earth’s resources.

But we can’t achieve this without your help. We need you, the Welsh public, to show politicians that you care about our environment by using your vote effectively. To help you do this we have interviewed all four of the main party leaders to find out how each plans on protecting our planet. We spent the day with them asking questions on key areas including how they intend to tackle climate change, how they will ensure sustainable development is at the heart of everything they do and will they protect our precious sea and coastline with its vulnerable species and habitats. We ask that you use the information in this newsletter to make a judgement on who you think will best protect and preserve our environment. You can find out more by visiting WWF Cymru’s website at wwf.org.uk/wales.

Please use your vote and voice to ensure our planet is protected for generations to come.

Many thanks

Anne Meikle, head of WWF Cymru
Here in Wales, WWF Cymru has been working hard over the past 11 years, since devolution, to ensure that issues such as climate change, energy efficiency and protecting Welsh seas are high on the political and media agendas.

**CLIMATE CHANGE**

WWF has lobbied the Welsh Assembly Government on various issues relating to climate change, challenging the government to take advantage of Wales’ superb sources of renewable energy and to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases emitted by our industry, transport, agriculture and homes.

We have joined up with other influential organisations from civil society to form Stop Climate Chaos Cymru and, together, we have helped get commitments from all political parties in the National Assembly for Wales to work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2020, compared to emissions in 1990. In addition, our lobbying on the need for an annual reduction target for greenhouse gases has resulted in the One Wales Agreement between Welsh Labour and Plaid Cymru committing to a reduction of 3% per annum from 2011.

These targets are among the most ambitious in the world, and to help achieve these we are urging the new Welsh Assembly Government to maintain and enhance its commitments to tackling climate change. Some of the actions we are advocating are:

- Deliver a nationwide housing energy efficiency scheme to reduce carbon emissions from the housing sector by at least 40% by 2020.
- Support the establishment of a decarbonised electricity supply sector by 2025, ensuring that at least 70% of this is delivered by 2020.

**ONE PLANET WALES**

Living within environmental limits is a fundamental necessity to sustain life on Earth and is an essential requirement for sustainable development. To transform Wales’ economy towards a One Planet Nation the new Welsh Assembly Government will need to greatly increase the efficiency of energy and resource use. In October 2007, WWF published a report entitled ‘One Planet Wales – Pathways towards a sustainable future’ which concludes that Wales must reduce its overall impact on the planet by 75% by 2050, including reducing our emissions of greenhouse gases by 80%.

Subsequently, in November 2008, the Welsh Assembly Government launched its new Sustainable Development Scheme, called ‘One Wales, One Planet’ and set a goal of Wales being a one-planet nation. The plan calls for joined up decision making at all levels of government and the public sector to achieve sustainable development, which the government defines as improving people’s quality of life and wellbeing whilst using environmental resources sustainably - development that does not compromise the quality of life of future generations.

**WHAT WWF CYMRU IS ASKING FOR**

- Deliver a nationwide housing energy efficiency scheme to reduce carbon emissions from the housing sector by at least 40% by 2020.
- Support the establishment of a decarbonised electricity supply sector by 2025, ensuring that at least 70% of this is delivered by 2020.
As a result of this WWF Cymru is calling on the new government to:

- Maintain the current commitment to be a One Planet Wales by 2050 and commit to stabilise and then reduce Wales’ ecological footprint by 3% per year;
- Assess the impact of all policies, programmes and public expenditure on reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and Wales’ ecological/carbon footprint and redirect public expenditure away from where it subsidises high-carbon and resource-inefficient aspects of the economy towards areas which are crucial to Wales’ capacity to thrive, in the transition to a green world economy.
- Public sector performance management frameworks account for carbon and footprint reduction through delivery of associated mandatory targets.

### MARINE

A decade of campaigning has finally come to fruition with the introduction of the UK Marine and Coastal Access Act into the statute books on the 12th of November 2009. This is a landmark piece of legislation that could have important consequences for how our seas are managed and how marine wildlife is protected. The UK Act places a duty on Welsh Ministers, for the first time, to conserve and protect marine species and habitats and could make a real difference for the future of Welsh seas.

Although we are delighted that we now have a UK Marine Act, this is really just the first step in the process to achieve clean, healthy and biodiverse seas. The UK Act brings important new powers to Wales; but the Assembly Government must take steps to ensure the Act is delivered quickly and effectively in Wales, or our seas will continue to suffer.

WWF Cymru wants to ensure that:

- Marine plans are produced by 2015 to cover all activities and secure sustainable resource use throughout Welsh Seas, coordinated across national and administrative land-sea boundaries.
- The implementation of the Marine Act in Wales is adequately resourced and delivered quickly and effectively.
- The Welsh Assembly Government co-ordinates with other UK administrations to deliver a joined up approach to the implementation of the Act.
WWF Cymru asked each of the four party leaders in Wales, Labour leader Carwyn Jones, Plaid Cymru leader Ieuan Wyn Jones, Conservative leader Nick Bourne and Liberal Democrat leader Kirsty Williams, the following questions on our key areas of work.

**THE PARTY LEADERS HAVE THEIR SAY**

**QUESTION 1 CLIMATE CHANGE**

“How do you plan to achieve a reduction of at least 40% in the carbon emissions from the housing sector by 2020?”

**CARWYN JONES RESPONSE:**

“We want to be ambitious and of course one of the things that we’re doing is supporting projects to insulate houses and make them more energy efficient even where those houses are quite old. We know that we’ve got many houses in Wales that are pre-First World War, single skin and we wanted to make sure that through a scheme like Arbed that we were able to insulate those houses that perhaps in a way wasn’t technically possible in years gone by. Also of course we can use the Building Regulations from next year onwards to make sure that we are building zero carbon buildings and through modernising the older housing stock and making sure the new houses are zero carbon, then of course we can look to reduce our emissions through the housing sector.”

**IEUAN WYN JONES RESPONSE:**

“I think we’ve set up initiatives here and they’re primarily around two things: it’s about making existing homes energy efficient and the Arbed Scheme, which I know my colleague Jocelyn Davies has announced, I think is an excellent example there and I think there’s some initiatives in the valleys as well where a lot of the housing was built during the Industrial Revolution and therefore we need to make them a lot more energy efficient. They weren’t built with that in mind but obviously we need to ‘retrofit’ to make sure that happens. We’ve invested quite heavily in that and it’s not just about the environmental issues, although that is one of the main benefits, we’re also doing it as part of an anti-poverty strategy because clearly there are people who are paying high prices for their energy and if we can reduce their energy costs then obviously we are meeting our two targets.”

“In relation to new housing, when we have responsibility for building regulations we can make it a part of our package of measures if you like that housing have had to meet more stringent environmental standards when they are built in the first place. And I think we’ve got to make sure we are ahead of the game and need to understand the impact that will have on house building.”
**NICK BOURNE RESPONSE:**

“Cavity insulation and loft insulation will play a key part. The other thing that we’re keen on is with the devolution of building regulations is to make sure that they are environmentally friendly as they need to be to make sure that we do create new buildings that are carbon neutral; I think that has a large part to play. But also as I say making sure they are properly insulated will help ensure that older people are properly heated in the winter. So there’s a great deal that we can do there but also as I say we want to encourage micro-generation, solar panels for new houses, lots of imaginative things we need to do, I want Wales to be at the forefront of dealing with these issues, not the backward marker, and that’s what we’re pressing the Government to do so that we are there as the world leader on these things. We’ve got great talent and we need to tap into that.”

**KIRSTY WILLIAMS RESPONSE:**

“That’s a real challenge but it needs to be tackled for two reasons, one because of housing’s contribution to carbon emissions but also because of the rising cost of energy and many, many people are being pushed into fuel poverty because of it. So that’s why it’s crucial to do something about it. What we’d like to see is bringing all the different strains and strands of different organisations and policies the current government have into a one stop shop and investing that money into real action in people’s homes. So giving people the opportunity to have grants to be able to insulate their homes and install energy efficient devices and that’s why we think we can see those cuts.”

**CARWYN JONES RESPONSE:**

“Absolutely, as somebody who was Environment Minister for four years I know that we have to make sure that we embed sustainability, not just in one department of government but all across government. We can’t go on living as if we’re consuming three planet’s worth of resources - which we have been doing in Wales. We have to reduce our consumption in terms of sustainability in the future. One way of doing that of course is to continue to develop the sustainability development charter and to continue the mainstream sustainability in all areas of government, that’s something I’m very, very keen we should continue to do very strongly.”

**QUESTION 2**

“Will your party commit to transforming Wales into a country that is environmentally sustainable, using only ‘One Planet’s’ worth of resources and how will you embed this goal in the public sector?”

“Will your party commit to transforming Wales into a country that is environmentally sustainable, using only ‘One Planet’s’ worth of resources and how will you embed this goal in the public sector?”
IEUAN WYN JONES RESPONSE:

“Yes, we do want Wales to be on the leading edge of the nations that are moving towards sustainability. We have our own commitment set in legislation, I think one of very few legislations that have sustainable development at the heart of its policies. We’ve also got our Climate Change Commission and in that we are able to bring in all the parts of the government that need to meet the challenge of reducing emissions, such as agriculture, transport, economy, in health, in education. All those areas need to come together. And I think it’s by showing a commitment that the governments are willing to work together in all these areas we can achieve those targets, rather than giving each department a target, they could work in isolation. And I think that each department then needs to show to the other departments how these things can best be achieved.”

NICK BOURNE RESPONSE:

“First of all if I could compliment WWF on the fantastic campaign it ran on one planet, I think it was very imaginative and we do need to bring it down to that level so that people comprehend it - people like me comprehend it. As I say I think there’s something all of us can do towards that and I want to make sure this is at the forefront of our manifesto. When we launch our environmental policies, some of the key ones as we did a couple of weeks ago, I said this is the cutting edge of what we need to do. It isn’t dogmatic it’s not party political in a sense we all have a common interest in doing this. Yes we can ensure the public sector plays its part and we need to do that with new buildings, with setting an example. But of course it’s not limited to the public sector we need to make sure the private sector does this as well and that individuals do it in their everyday lives. Yes it’s going to be at the forefront of our manifesto, there is nothing more important than ensuring we have a continuation of the planet where we all live, we have a common cause in it.”

KIRSTY WILLIAMS RESPONSE:

“I think it’s a political imperative that we do commit ourselves for Wales living more sustainably and ensuring that all elements of the public sector contribute to that. So for instance we take the decision not to subsidise an air link from Anglesey to Cardiff because of the emissions from that particular transport link, we’d like to see that money invested into public transport instead. And it’s about testing all our spending decisions, about whether they are contributing or helping us to meet our goals in terms of sustainability and it will be. I’d like to see each minister having targets for their particular departments, being monitored on those particular targets and also a new emphasis on new government because local government deliver a whole range of services on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government, and yet there are no specific responsibilities on them to do their bit in cutting emissions.”
“Will your party commit to improving the protection of Welsh marine biodiversity, in light of the need to balance this with harnessing green energy from Welsh seas?”

CARWYN JONES RESPONSE:
“I once went with WWF on a boat out to an island out to the Celtic deep and on the way there we saw seals, we saw porpoises, we saw dolphins, we saw blue sharks, we saw minke whales and all this off the coast of Wales. So many of our people don’t realise what’s on their own doorstep almost. What we want to do is make sure we have proper safeguards in place for marine wildlife, while of course having the capacity to enforce the rules that we put in place. At the moment what we’re looking to do is to make sure that we provide the protection and the enforcement at the same time.”

IEUAN WYN JONES RESPONSE:
“Yes we do think that this is extremely important in terms of biodiversity. And we also want to make sure that some of the investment that we might need to make in harnessing wind and wave power recognises any potential impact it may have on biodiversity. There are big gains to be had by investing in wind and wave because we believe that is a realistic commercial alternative when the technology has been developed to be creating energy. But we also believe that conserving
KIRSTY WILLIAMS RESPONSE:

“Yes we would, we see from the issues around the proposals for a barrage on the Severn, the big plans that the government had were highly controversial and could have seen a great deal of loss of biodiversity. Welsh Liberal Democrats working with colleagues across the other side of the Severn, came up with a smaller, more cost effective plan for a shoots barrage that would have been less damaging to the environment. We’ve got a strong track record, for example campaigning in Ceredigion against dredging issues in Cardigan Bay. I think we’ve demonstrated in our past our concerns about marine biodiversity and we’ll be looking to use the new powers and responsibilities that Wales has got to see further improvements in our marine biodiversity.”

NICK BOURNE RESPONSE:

“Yes of course there’s a balance to be had there and we have certainly raised this with the Minister; the 2009 Act means we have a role to play and the economic exclusive zones that can be created which we need to ensure we are protecting biodiversity in the seas, that we are doing the things that we need to do to combat the pollution of the seas and at the same time I’m very keen to ensure that we do go all out and get tidal energy, get every means possible and that certainly means tidal and hydro energy, I’m very, very keen on those lagoons to make sure they contribute as well. So getting the balance right of course but making sure that Wales plays its part in doing that is very much key to what we’re about as a political party.”
WWF Cymru is a member of Stop Climate Chaos Cymru coalition and in the run up to the Welsh Assembly election have organised a series of hustings, which gives you the opportunity to ask candidates what they think.

We believe that action is needed from all political parties in Wales to cut carbon emissions and stop rising energy and fuel prices from pushing people into poverty.

Put your questions and views to the panel on how you think the next Welsh Assembly Government can make tackling climate change a top priority.

New research from Cardiff Business School says Wales can address climate change head on, with affordable policy solutions which cut carbon emissions, promote social justice and boost employment through creating 20,000 new jobs.

Put your questions and views to the panel on how you think the next Welsh Assembly Government can make tackling climate change a top priority.

Read the report at – www.stopclimatechaoscymru.org

You are also invited to send questions in advance to Stop Climate Chaos Cymru at info@stopclimatechaoscymru.org or call Ruth Bates, WWF Cymru on 02920 450 612

For further information visit www.stopclimatechaoscymru.org

Stop Climate Chaos Cymru is a coalition of 14 influential Welsh organisations which is working to mobilise public concern and necessary political action, to stop climate chaos.

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Why we are here
To stop the degradation of the planet’s natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.
wwf.org.uk

WWF Cymru in numbers

2000
WWF Cymru is established and begins operating in Wales

75%
reduction needed in Wales’ ecological footprint by 2050

10 YEARS
of our campaigning has led to a new Marine Act that will protect Welsh and UK seas

40%
emissions reduction needed by 2020