



## Cymru Can Newsletter: August 2025



### [Appeal from Derek – don't leave nature's future to chance](#)

Cymru is currently one of the most nature-depleted countries on Earth with one in six species in Wales at risk of extinction.

The **new Environment (Principles, Governance and Biodiversity Targets) (Wales) Bill**, currently under scrutiny in the Senedd, is a landmark opportunity to protect and restore nature in Wales.

But it currently does not include a legally binding target to drive the recovery of nature – a gap which must be addressed before it passes.

Every living being depends on thriving ecosystems. We all need clean air and water, [access to nature for our well-being](#), and food to live.

That's why **we cannot leave nature's future to chance.**

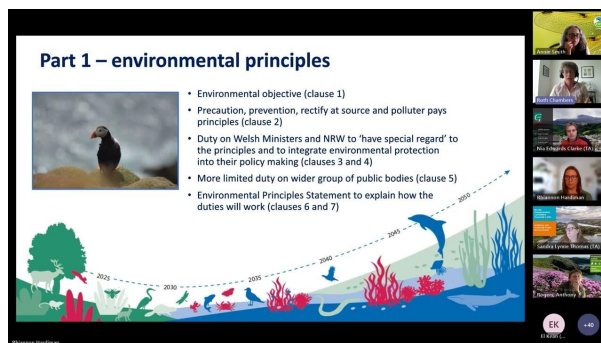


In my [Future Generations Report 2025](#), I've been calling for **the inclusion of a headline nature recovery target in the legislation to drive delivery from day one**, provide clarity of purpose, and create a long-term obligation on future governments to continue restoring biodiversity.

I spoke to the [Senedd's Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee](#) to scrutinise Stage One of the Bill, challenging Welsh Government on the urgency of our climate crisis.

If passed now without changes, the Bill potentially wouldn't create targets until 2029.

**Welsh Government must step up and lock in strong targets for nature recovery in the new Environment Bill — before it's too late.**



To support the public bodies who will need to act on this incoming legislation and mark Wales Nature Week, we hosted a webinar on the Environment Bill and what it means for public bodies in collaboration with Wales Environment Link.

Catch up on the webinar [via our YouTube channel](#).

## Should we name heatwaves like we do storms?

July's heatwaves have led to lots of cheerful articles on how to enjoy the sun.

But, if we keep treating extreme heat like good news for a beach day, we're putting our heads in the sand when we should be protecting lives.

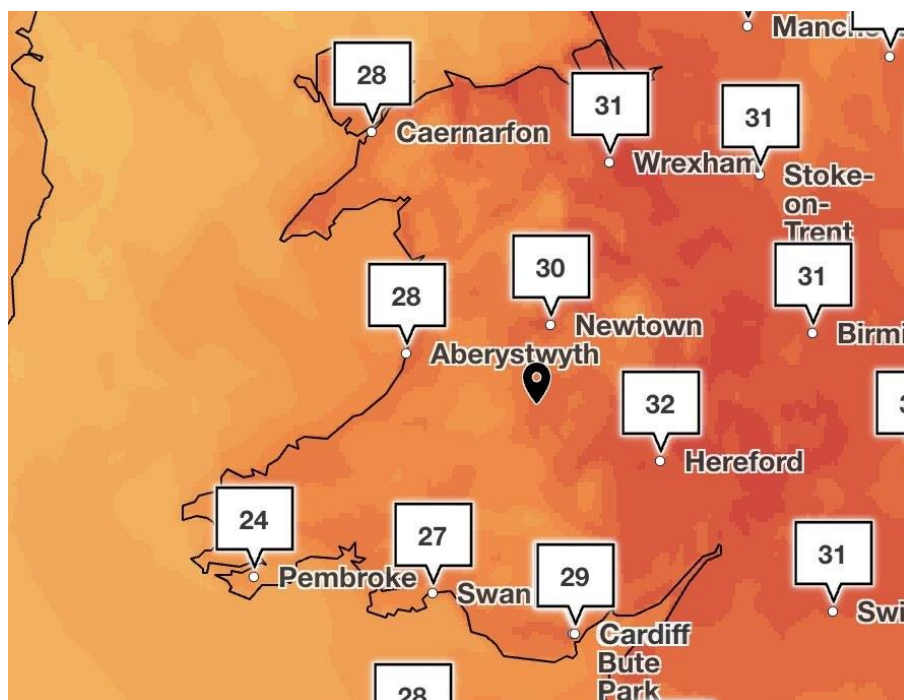
I've [echoed calls from academics](#) for heatwaves to be named like storms.

Extreme heat is becoming more common due to climate change and is more deadly than floods, earthquakes and hurricanes combined, taking about 500,000 lives a year.

Naming heatwaves could save lives by making the invisible dangers of heat visible and help people, especially those most in danger including older people, children and low-income people, to prepare for the risks.

We also need to involve people and nature to find the best solutions to mitigate the impacts of extreme weather.

In my [Future Generations Report 2025](#) I've called for climate resilience and adaptation to become a core public service priority and recommended that by the end of 2027,



public services boards should assess climate risks for their communities with public bodies integrating these findings into their corporate and strategic planning.

For example, Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board's climate change risk assessments have involved communities to understand how extreme weather events might impact on their day-to-day lives. And in Medellín, Colombia they have cut temperatures by 2°C by developing a network of green corridors.

Heatwaves are not just weather. They affect our health, economy and environment.

If giving monikers to storms has played a part in saving lives, there's every reason to believe it could do the same for heatwaves.

Because the climate crisis isn't coming — it's here. And we'd better start naming it.

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Read my opinion piece in Wales Online - ['Heatwaves should be given names like storms - they are a danger to life'](#).

## Sustainable Farming and Food

Wales is now the only [UK nation](#) without a long-term strategy on food.

Welsh Government's Community Food Strategy is a step in the right direction but with national challenges of health inequality and food insecurity from climate change, we need a



joined-up approach where policies on the food we produce and the policies on the food we eat are connected.

In my [Future Generations Report 2025](#), I've called for the Welsh Government to develop a national food resilience plan to ensure equal access to sustainable diets. Positively, since the report's launch four councils have been in touch with my team for advice on developing local food resilience strategies.

The [Sustainable Farming Scheme](#) published this month is another important part of this puzzle.

This scheme will financially support farmers in Wales to produce world class, high-quality, food while also caring for the environment and tackling and adapting to climate change.

Good quality food is essential for our health and well-being. A thriving farming industry is vital for a prosperous rural economy. And without the active involvement of farmers, we will not succeed in restoring our nature for future generations.



I attended the Royal Welsh Show in Builth Wells and was encouraged to see a positive response from farmers. While the scheme is not perfect, it offers a way forward to a more sustainable food system which supports our health, communities and environment.

But the next few years are critical, we need to see a critical mass of farmers joining the scheme and the Welsh Government must ensure farmers are incentivised to take on further actions to address the climate and nature emergency as quickly as possible.

At the Royal Welsh Show I also supported the launch of Carmarthenshire County Council's [Future Generations School Meal Menu pilot](#).

Working with [Cegin y Bobl](#), three primary schools will co-create new lunch menus with sustainability at their heart with seasonal produce from [Bremenda Isaf Farm](#).

We need more local authorities to collaborate with others to ensure local, healthy and sustainable food is accessible for all.

## Join our conference- Leading Fair Food Futures

In collaboration with Miller Research, the Food Farming and Countryside Commission, and Prof. Kevin Morgan, we are examining how Wales could lead the way in securing fairer futures in our food system.

Ahead of the Abergavenny Food Festival, we will be discussing how we can reform our food system to support our health and NHS, the role of food literacy in shaping life-long habits and what we can learn from other government approaches.

Join us on **Friday 19 September** in Abergavenny - [register your interest now](#).

With speakers including

- Thomasina Miers: Co-founder of Wahaca, and Chefs in Schools
- Derek Walker: Future Generations Commissioner for Wales
- Sue Pritchard: Chief Executive, Food, Farming and Countryside Commission
- Professor Kevin Morgan: Cardiff University, author of [Serving the Public: The good food revolution in schools, hospitals and prisons](#).
- Kim Smith: PhD Researcher at Centre for Food Policy and founder of TastEd



## Cymru Can be a nation of peace – Peace Lecture

At the [Llangollen International Eisteddfod](#), I delivered the Annual Peace Lecture for Academi Heddwch Cymru on how Wales can play a role towards championing peace.

We are in a world that feels more divided, more uncertain, and more unequal than ever, but Wales has powerful stories to tell—stories of peace, compassion, and care for future generations.

From our legacy and history of peace, to our world-leading Well-being of Future Generations Act, we're doing things differently in Wales. We're looking at what really matters to people and acting long-term to protect our future.



Because when families are healthy, communities are strong and nature is thriving, that's peace in practice.

[Read my full lecture online now.](#)



## The Health and Social Care We Want – Llais' national conversation

Too few people know their rights, what they can reasonably expect from health services, or how they can play their own part in staying well.

That's why Llais is leading the [Health and Social Care We Want: a national conversation](#) about creating clearer, fairer and more person-centred services in Wales.

Join one of their interactive online sessions or visit in person events going from July to September 2025 to share the health and social care systems you want for our future Wales.

Find the full list of 'We Want events' and their focus on [Llais' website](#).



# DO YOU KNOW YOUR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE RIGHTS?

THE HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

**WE WANT**

Share your experience and have your say to help create a better care system for all.

## Contact us

Want to catch up on previous issues of the newsletter? You can find them on our website [here](#).

For more information get in contact here:

[futuregenerations.wales](https://futuregenerations.wales)

[contactus@futuregenerations.wales](mailto:contactus@futuregenerations.wales)

@futuregencymru



Comisiynydd  
**Cenedlaethau'r  
Dyfodol**  
Cymru

**Future  
Generations**  
Commissioner  
for Wales