



Comisiynydd  
**Cenedlaethau'r  
Dyfodol**  
Cymru

**Future  
Generations**  
Commissioner  
for Wales

# **The Future Generations Report 2020**



**Let's create the future together**



Chapter 3

# Progress against the well-being goals

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# Future Generations Report 2020

## Progress against the well-being goals: A Globally Responsible Wales

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# A Globally Responsible Wales



**Prosperous**  
An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.

**Resilient**  
A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).

**Healthier**  
A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.



**LLES GENEOLAETHAU'R  
DYFODOL  
WELL-BEING OF  
FUTURE GENERATIONS**

**More Equal**  
A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).

**Globally Responsible**  
A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.

**Vibrant Culture and  
Thriving Welsh Language**  
A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.

**Cohesive  
Communities**  
Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.



# A Globally Responsible Wales

**'A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.'**

The Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015)

The daily actions and the decisions that we make in Wales have a direct impact on the World around us. And in the words of our Patron Saint David “gwnewch y pethau bychain” (do the small things), our small country has always appreciated how we can collectively make a big difference.

In 1923-24, Wales played an important role in the creation of the United Nations when 390,296 women of Wales (around 60% of the female population at the time) signed a petition asking the women of America to use their influence to ask their government to join the League of Nations, which later became the United Nations.

In 1998, Wales became one of the first countries in the World to have a constitutional duty on sustainable development, and this commitment has been central to devolution since 1999.

Wales was the first country to become a Fair Trade Nation in 2008, and was a founding signatory of the [Under2 Coalition](#), a global community of national and regional governments committed to ambitious climate action in line with the Paris Agreement. Wales was also the first country in the UK to declare a Climate Emergency.

In 2015, the National Assembly for Wales made a historic decision when it passed the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act. In the same year, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals were formally adopted, which set out an ambitious agenda for transforming the World for people, Planet and prosperity. Wales’ seven well-being goals articulate our nation’s contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Today, Wales’ relationship with the World continues to evolve. Whilst international affairs are not devolved, the establishment of the role of Minister for International Relations and Welsh Language in 2018, was an important statement about how Wales saw its place in the World.

As the first and only country in the World to legislate for well-being, we have a unique story to share with other countries.



## **Wales in the World– A poem by Rufus Mufasa, the Future Generations Poet in Residence 2019-20**



**To be, we need a centre...  
City centre, town centre, our soul centre  
Canol llawn cariad sy'n curo mewn undeb  
gyda ein cymdogion rhwyngwladol  
syniadau yn tyfu a symud  
Wales in the World global perspective  
Pro active practice - profound peer learning...  
All those centres need culture  
Placed at the top of every agenda  
& if we get that right, all our goals work together  
Make love & kindness the only formula  
Stride for a worldwide nation of happiness ministers  
We want to collaborate creatively, culturally, sincerely  
We want environmental sustainability for you & me  
We want to humanise colleagues  
Organic balance between work & families  
20 hours a week commutes isn't good for anybody...  
Let's be Art of the Possible  
Arts on Prescription  
Public Service Swops for Rent  
Coffee cups of compassion  
Time to talk cups of tea  
Mix of styles Future Leaders Academy...  
Our waterfalls produced millions of litres daily  
Magical Mills once gifted us an abundance of industry  
We were once Tin Kings & Pottery Queens  
Now love & kindness is our number one priority...  
Global Guardians embedding systemic change  
Kindness Challenges riding the waves  
Sustainable Wellbeing Culture Craze  
Pioneering Promises for the World, from Wales.**



## Vision for a globally responsible Wales by 2050

This goal can only be achieved if first and foremost, we have the knowledge and skills to identify how what we do here in Wales, impacts the rest of the World, so that we make decisions that have a positive impact. For example, engaging in ethical supply chains, using our fair share of the earth's natural resources, adapting to climate change, working to make Wales a welcoming place for everyone, making the right financial decisions and educating others on the importance of global responsibility.

There will be opportunities for everyone to learn about the World, including natural resources, trade, democracy, peace, solidarity and climate change, so we ensure we use only our fair share of the earth's resources and contribute to global peace. ([A Prosperous Wales](#), [A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language](#) and [A Resilient Wales](#))

Leadership will be a critical aspect of developing peaceful attitudes and international understanding, in our national government, public bodies, hospitals, schools and the wider community.

Through ethical consumption and procurement, Wales will ensure its supply chains are fair, ethical and sustainable. Wales' public bodies will buy, contract or procure goods and services that have a positive contribution towards local and global issues. People will be paid a fair price for goods, to help support them to send their children to school, put food on the table and plan for the future. ([A Prosperous Wales](#))

As part of our role as a Fair Trade nation, there will be continued support for our Fair Trade Communities in Wales, including our towns, cities, schools, universities, faith institutions and shops that provide opportunities for the global community to unite, learn from each other and trade fairly.

My contribution to this vision is outlined through work on my areas of focus and set out in detail in the [Chapter 6 - My Focus](#).

Our education and skills system will place creativity, problem-solving, communication and an ability to adapt to change at its centre, drawing on businesses, charities and others to support the delivery of this within schools and the wider community. ([A Prosperous Wales](#), [A More Equal Wales](#), and [A Wales of Cohesive Communities](#))

[ChangeMakers](#) – is a global citizenship project which has been delivered since 2012 which develops young people as global citizens. The programme has focused on the global topic of refugees and asylum seekers, working with 7 schools and 119 ChangeMakers. Between 2016-18, ChangeMakers have delivered peer-learning to over 4,000 people, raised awareness in their communities, and schools have started the journey to become Schools of Sanctuary; all led by ChangeMaker students. Participating schools have embedded the topic into their curriculum and increased their confidence in [teaching](#).

9 schools across Wales now have Fairtrade uniforms supplied by [Koolskools](#), including [Welshpool Church in Wales Primary School](#), [Ysgol Esgob Morgan in St Asaph](#), [St Bernadette's in Cardiff](#) and [Neyland Community School in Pembrokeshire](#). Specifying that school uniforms are made from Fairtrade cotton in ethical factories is one way that schools can make a difference. Fairtrade standards forbid child labour, pay a fair price for cotton and also provide a Fairtrade premium to be invested in communities in developing countries.



Wales will foster sustainable behaviour and citizen engagement to help mitigate against climate change and contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. We will continue to be an outward looking nation, recognised for fairness and sustainability, taking part in international development activities to demonstrate leadership and shared learning. ([A Prosperous Wales](#), [A More Equal Wales](#) and [A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Welsh Language](#)).

In playing our part to ensure Wales is welcoming, safe and fair to all, we will take action to mitigate against negative global issues, and through actions of solidarity, welcome our fair share of refugees who may have been displaced due to climate change or conflict. ([A More Equal Wales](#))

Wales' global connections and racially diverse culture and history will be celebrated and sustained by people in Wales. We will work in partnership with others from all faiths and backgrounds, creating policies and delivering strategies that provide adequate support and services, and educating on the importance of acceptance and tolerance, to create a safe and peaceful future for people in Wales and abroad. ([A Wales of Cohesive Communities](#), [A More Equal Wales](#), [A Wales of Vibrant Culture](#) and [Thriving Welsh Language](#))

Wales will understand the importance of using the Earth's resources efficiently. We will contribute to global well-being by only using our fair share of the Earth's natural resources to help us remain within global environmental limits. Wales will ensure its consumption does not drive deforestation overseas whilst also protecting and expanding its own forests. With sustainably managed natural resources, Wales will help protect and restore nature, meeting its commitments as a signatory to a wide range of global treaties for protecting and enhancing nature. ([A Prosperous Wales](#) and [A Resilient Wales](#))

[23 Code Street](#) is a coding school for women and non-binary people which puts a portion of profit towards teaching IT skills to women in India. Founded by Anisah Osman Britton, for every paying student, they teach digital skills to women in the slums of India.

[Giakonda Solar Schools](#), a Swansea based charity exists to further the education of children and adults, particularly in the field of computer science and supply and install solar power equipment and LED lighting, mainly in Zambia, but they have helped and advised groups working in other parts of Africa, the wider World, and locally too.

[Women Mediators across the Commonwealth](#) are supporting a new network of women mediators to increase the participation of women in peace process and mediation at a local, national and global level. Research suggests peace processes that involve women are 35% more likely to last, but despite this, are only involved in 3%.

[A video game](#) released by the charity Islamic Relief teaches players about international aid while tackling negative perceptions of Muslims. Based on real international development projects, the game challenges its users to build schools, shelters and boreholes to help virtual communities out of poverty.

The [city of Rotterdam](#) is striving to become a circular economy, by factoring circularity into its tendering and procurement processes, employing a firm to help steer companies to think circular, and has entrepreneurs making innovative products out of rubbish.





Wales will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, particularly in our transport and waste sectors, improving air quality, people's health and our global impact, and support equatorial communities that are most at risk of climate change. ([A Prosperous Wales](#), [A Healthier Wales](#), [A Resilient Wales](#) and [A More Equal Wales](#))

Public bodies and businesses in Wales will be resource efficient. Products and the principles of the circular economy will keep products and materials in use, designing waste out of the system and gradually decoupling local and global economic activity from the consumption of finite resources. It will also mean, for example, technologies will create communal wealth rather than concentrating wealth and ownership, helping reduce global inequalities. ([A Prosperous Wales](#))

Wales will be making the right financial decisions to enable future generations to thrive. This means we will apply long-term and preventative principles in our decision-making processes, and contribute positively to a sustainable planet, its people, and mitigate against climate change. ([A Prosperous Wales](#))

Financial commitments will take into account life cycle and the circular economy which positively contributes to our well-being through budget planning and contracts. All future dealings with financial institutions will be ethical and do not invest in things that cause harm e.g. child slavery, forced child labour, climate change, arms, military-conflict, environmental pollution, and human and animal rights violations. ([A Prosperous Wales](#) and [A More Equal Wales](#))

Wales will divest pensions and investments from sources of harm, including fossil-fuels, pollutants, human rights violations and arms, to secure a better future for all.

By making sure our energy is renewable and fossil-free, we will ensure the actions we take in Wales cause no harm to others on our planet and contribute to planetary climate change targets. ([A Prosperous Wales](#) and [A More Equal Wales](#))

By making decisions that ensure environmental, social, economic and cultural well-being, it will be normal to ensure we do not invest in fossil fuels or other harmful activity, and our infrastructure will be powered by renewable energy.

Becoming a [certified B Corp](#) requires private firms to demonstrate a commitment to people and planet, as well as profit. Applicants must show credible performance on issues such as community investment, worker rights, environmental practices and customer relations. A stand-out feature is bringing legal accountability to their commitment. Local examples of B Corp in Wales are [Iceland foods](#), [TYF](#), [Sweetman and Partners](#) and [Urban Foundry](#).

[Iceland](#), with its headquarters in Deeside, became the first major retailer globally to commit to eliminating single-use plastics in its own brand packaging (due to be complete by 2023), and the first to adopt the plastic-free Trust Mark. Since January 2018, it has seen a 29% reduction in its plastic usage.

Volunteers working for [ShareAction](#), a 'responsible investment' charity, use the company Annual General Meeting to take businesses to task on environmental, social and governance issues, taking a positive approach to engagement. One of ShareAction's biggest achievements was helping persuade Shell to stop investing in carbon-heavy Canadian tar sands.



# People's perception of progress towards this goal

**I would like to thank the following people and organisations for their contribution to my work on this goal.**

Many organisations and stakeholders provided input into the 'Journey to a Globally Responsible Wales', as well as helpful and insightful comments on drafts of this report, which has been greatly appreciated.

I would like to thank Fair Trade Wales and Hub Cymru Africa who were partners in the Art of the Possible programme. In particular, Elen Jones, who was seconded to my office to support this work and has continued to provide insight and support, including input into this chapter. I would also like to thank Susie Ventris-Field, Chief Executive of the Welsh Centre for International Affairs, for her valuable input and contribution to this chapter.

In addition to this involvement, I have also carried out my statutory duty to monitor and assess progress by public bodies in meeting their well-being objectives and requirements of the Act in general, and conducted research.

As a result of these activities, I have identified the challenges and opportunities as set out in this chapter.



Elen Jones  
Goal Convenor for A Globally Responsible Wales

**A Journey to A Globally Responsible Wales**

- 1: Ensuring that our supply chains are fair, ethical and sustainable
- 2: Supporting sustainable behaviour and making the connections
- 3: Playing our part to ensure that Wales is welcoming, safe and fair to all
- 4: Ensuring that we understand the importance of using the earth's resources efficiently and contribute to global well-being
- 5: Making the right financial decisions now, to enable future generations to thrive



Hub Cymru Africa



## People's perception of progress towards this goal

Listening to what people think and believe is an important part of involvement. That is why, in this section, I wanted to give a flavour of what people have told me, since the beginning of my term and in relation to this report.

Through all my methods of involvement, the 'Globally Responsible Wales' well-being goal has invited the fewest comments of all. However, there are clear connections to many of the other well-being goals, in particular, a prosperous Wales, a resilient Wales and a more equal Wales.

Despite this, there are some key messages I've gathered:

- People are concerned about modern day slavery and the settlement of refugees and asylum seekers.
- People have raised the complexity of procurement and investments (such as pensions) and concerns that these are not supportive of the goal.
- The threat of climate change is real, but we are still very attached to our way of life, and not everyone will give that up lightly.
- Major changes are needed in energy production, efficiency and use, and attitudes towards waste and sustainable packaging.
- People are alarmed at the effects of plastic on the environment and marine life and cite the important role of regulation and retailers reducing/removing their use of it.
- Young people in Wales should be better prepared with skills fit for the future.
- People are concerned about Brexit, and how it might affect Wales in the future.
- Our current food systems adversely impact the environment and people's health, and there is now a need for a secure, fair and sustainable food system that improves well-being in Wales.



## Challenges and opportunities for change

The outbreak of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in 2020 reminds us more than ever that Wales' actions are connected to global issues. Although it originated in Wuhan over 5,000 miles away, the declaration of a pandemic by the World Health Organisation was a clear signal that communities in Wales would have to respond. As cases in Wales continued to rise, and the death toll increased, our public services faced increasing pressures.

However, from innovating on designs to create ventilators and personal protective equipment, to encouraging community cohesion through acts of kindness and intergenerational fairness, Wales has played its part.

Examples such as Dr Kathrin Thomas, GP, and Chair of the Wales for Africa Health Links providing guidance on COVID-19 and interventions for those working in Wales and supporting projects in Africa, demonstrate that working in global collaboration is necessary to combat pandemics. I am also grateful to public bodies, the voluntary and private sector and our communities for working together during this time.

It has shown that it is possible for international governments and citizens to act appropriately and together, when faced with the science surrounding global emergencies and crises. I hope that leaders, who have been repeatedly presented with the facts surrounding the nature and climate crises, will now act with the same level of urgency.

I also look forward to working with public bodies and others to share our learning from this time, and how we can harness the positive approaches we have seen as we progress.

When maximising our contribution to being globally responsible, the Act asks us to not only balance the four dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social, environment and culture) here in Wales, but also elsewhere. This is not always easy to achieve in a local context; globally makes it even more challenging.

As well as acting responsibly in an institutional sense (for example, when we form health or educational partnerships and networks, particularly through research and development), we must also be mindful of our impact in our day to day transactions and when we travel, to not unknowingly contribute to modern-slavery or other actions that negatively affect future generations in other countries.

In this chapter, I have therefore set out the challenges and opportunities I believe can help us all work towards becoming a globally responsible Wales.



## Wales should demonstrate global citizenship and leadership

### What future generations need

As a nation that aspires to be outward-looking and recognised for fairness and sustainability, taking part in international development activities can demonstrate leadership, and supports our role in being a globally responsible nation.

Everyone should be able to develop their knowledge about global issues, in relation to areas such as natural resources, trade, democracy, peace, solidarity and climate change. Developing skills and empowering people to act can help ensure we use only our fair share of the earth's resources and contribute to a peaceful World.

By fostering sustainable behaviour and citizen engagement we can also mitigate against climate change and contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



### Where we are now

**‘A Globally Responsible Wales’ well-being goal is not well understood, and public bodies are not demonstrating clear and credible accounts of their positive contributions on the World**

The [‘All Together! Pointers for action from the Well-being of Future Generations’](#) report published in 2018 by Welsh Government and WWF-Cymru highlighted that the ‘Resilient Wales’ and ‘Globally Responsible Wales’ well-being goals are the least understood and/or considered by public bodies.

It is complex and challenging to identify the ripple effect that policies and actions here in Wales can and might have around the World, and it is equally challenging to measure. At various times, indicators such as poverty rates and volunteer numbers have been used to illustrate progress against this goal. Whilst these are vital areas for the future well-being of Wales, less evident is a clear understanding of how examples like these are making a positive contribution to global well-being.

Similarly, of the [10 Simple Changes I](#) published that public bodies can take to progress towards being globally responsible, responses from public bodies revealed it was one of the lowest adopted of the seven well-being goals, and the lowest adopted amongst local authorities. For example, the simple change to ‘Support your staff and visitors to understand their personal carbon footprint’ is amongst the five lowest adopted Simple Changes of the initial 82 published in 2018.

There is also less understanding on how we can become more globally responsible in a systematic way.



This can result in actions that on the surface look positive but are offset by other behaviours. For example, an organisation switching to Fairtrade tea and coffee whilst failing to eradicate slavery in their main supply chain, or not considering their carbon footprint with their staff travel policy.

Despite this, there are some great examples in Wales of organisations demonstrating how they are being globally responsible. For example:

[Welsh Government's Wales and Africa Grant Programme](#) has supported thousands of people in Wales to undertake actions that are globally responsible, and capacity and knowledge is being developed through partners such as the Welsh Council for Voluntary Action and Hub Cymru Africa.

[Welsh Government's Plant! tree planting scheme](#) plants two trees for every child born or adopted in Wales – one in Wales and one in Uganda. These trees contribute to Wales' Mbale programme, which plants trees in the heavily deforested region of Mount Elgon in Uganda. The Mbale programme has planted 10 million trees since 2014 with a goal of planting 25 million by 2025.

[Carmarthenshire County Council's Development Education Awareness programme](#) brings together pupils from schools in the area to learn about the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals. The project has looked at the global plastic issue, Fairtrade, zero carbon and on World Environment Day, all came together on a Global Walk to share their learning and inspire others.

[Size of Wales](#) raises awareness of the issue of deforestation and climate change and empowers young people to get involved in taking action against it.

Following on from many years of working with Fairtrade farmers, in Spring of 2020, [Welsh Government](#) agreed to support [3,000 Fairtrade Organic Coffee farmers](#) in Uganda. This initiative allows the people of Wales to trade directly with the people of Uganda and support their community to respond to climate change and provide community programmes on health, education and gender.

Young people in Wales have been participating in [Model UN](#) by role-playing meetings like the Security Council and General Assembly, participants get a unique insight into how the United Nations works. They research, debate and try to solve some of the World's most pressing problems just like the real thing. We could all give it a try!

Welsh Government should consider how they support, encourage and provide greater support to help public bodies better demonstrate progress against a globally responsible Wales.

Public bodies should explore ways their staff can develop the knowledge and skills to understand complex global issues, and identify the impact of individual and collective actions, policies and plans. This will help ensure decisions taken have a positive impact on the World beyond Wales, or as a minimum, avoid harm.

For example, how their staff could benefit from programmes like [The International Learning Opportunities programme](#). There are also a number of practical tools and suggestions for globally responsible actions – for example, in 2019, I provided guidance to public bodies (and others) on the steps and actions they can take in my '[Journey to a Globally Responsible Wales](#)'.



**The Well-being of Future Generations Act is a World-leading piece of legislation, and we have an important role in helping other nations learn from our approach**

The Well-being of Future Generations Act continues to attract international interest, as the only legislation of its type in the World. Subsequently, Wales remains the only country to establish an independent Future Generations Commissioner.

Countries including Canada, New Zealand, Germany, Hungary, Netherlands and the United Arab Emirates are among the international nations interested in learning from the Welsh approach. It has also been supported by several international institutions including the [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development \(OECD\)](#), the United Nations and the [World Government Summit](#).

**“What Wales is doing today, the World will do tomorrow - action more than words is the hope for our future generations.”**

United Nations (2015)

As the first and only country in the World to legislate for well-being, Wales has a unique story to share with other countries. Internationally, our way of doing things is continuing to inspire and impact change. For example, our membership of the Network of Institutions for Future Generations has been instrumental in developing a methodology of sharing best practice between fellow member countries such as Israel, Hungary, Norway, New Zealand, Finland and Canada.

**“Sophie Howe as Chair has been instrumental in showcasing the International Network of Institutions for Future Generations (NIFG) in the international arena. Under her leadership members have developed a methodology of sharing best practice in areas of interest, amongst others the Welsh Plant! scheme served as one of the role models for the Hungarian ‘Tree Sibling’ initiative. Institutional engagement with UN Sustainable Development Goals is a common project among many of NIFG members and under her leadership we co-organised an international conference.”**

Anna Martinez-Zemplén, Secretariat for the Network of Institutions for Future Generations.

Professor Jonathan Boston from Victoria University, New Zealand, described our legislation as:

**“Remarkable in terms of its breadth, its coverage and ambition. There’s nothing quite like it anywhere else in the World at this point. I am enormously impressed with the amount of work the Commissioner’s team has done in a very short space of time.”**



International institutions including Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the United Nations continue to use the legislation as a World-leading example, and I have met and shared the Welsh approach with senior United Nations figures including their Economic and Social Council President, Special Envoy on Climate Change and the Special Envoy for Youth. Since 2016, I have addressed the United Nations High Level Political Forum on an annual basis, where in 2019 I launched my guidance [‘Journey to a Globally Responsible Wales’](#).

These platforms have given me the opportunity to advocate international support for ‘independent and statutory institutions for future generations.’ This is particularly relevant to [Target 16.6](#) under the Sustainable Development Goals which calls on member states to ‘Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions’.

In June 2019, as Chair of the Network of Institutions for Future Generations, I published a discussion paper entitled ["Looking to 2030 and Beyond - How Institutions for Future Generations Can Assist in SDG Implementation"](#). It highlighted how various institutions representing the interests, rights and well-being of future generations are unique and important assets in national and international long-term governance and useful enablers in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

I am particularly encouraged that other countries are seeking to legislate on behalf of future generations and follow Wales’ example. For example, a Well-being of Future Generations Bill has been introduced to the House of Commons and Lords at the UK Parliament led by Lord John Bird.

Professor Daniella Tilbury, the Commissioner for Sustainable Development for Gibraltar, is also passionately pursuing legislation.

To build on this, Welsh Government should find ways to support other nations to learn from its approach, and its international offices should be tasked with supporting governments, organisations and stakeholders.



From left to right: Mary Robinson, Gro Harlem Brundtland and Sophie Howe





**Welsh Government’s International Strategy is an opportunity to promote Wales to the World, but we should all be thinking and acting in a way that is globally responsible**

Wales is embracing many of the levers available to improve its global responsibility. For the first time since Devolution in 1999, Welsh Government appointed its first Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language in 2018 - Eluned Morgan, AM. Following this, Welsh Government published its first [International Strategy](#) in January 2020.

Welsh Government maintain a presence in many of the World’s major investing regions, with several international Wales offices across the World. Welsh Government, and other Welsh organisations, have affiliation to various international networks highlighted in the International Strategy. These have the potential to prioritise global responsibility in their interactions with the World.

This builds on existing initiatives demonstrating Wales’s approach to global citizenship such as the Wales for Africa programme. Launched in 2006, this supports people in Wales to take action on poverty in Africa by funding projects that support learning, the exchange of skills, joint working and tackling climate change.

The Welsh Government-funded [Hub Cymru Africa](#) and the [Wales for Africa grants scheme](#) provide advice, training, support and small grants to the hundreds of groups in Wales, enabling them to access funding for small-scale projects that contribute to Wales’ delivery of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals and deliver benefits both here and overseas.

**“Our actions and behaviours in Wales have an impact on the global community, particularly on the global south, which disproportionately affects Black Asian and minority ethnic people.”**

Race Alliance Wales, November 2019

Despite these developments, there are still some important barriers to being fully globally responsible, and Wales does not have all the legislative levers needed. The following areas are reserved powers under the control of UK Government: aerial navigation, shipping, marine transport, external trade, the making of peace or war, defence, treaties, currency, immigration, national security, counter-terrorism, emergency powers, firearms, import and export control, sea fishing, and international development.

While these areas are not under our control, we can still show support for areas such as international development where existing UK law protects 0.7% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for spending in this area and ensures that it is spent well.

Welsh Government also has to consider the potential contradictions within an international strategy that is globally responsible. For example, trading relationships in countries with human rights issues.

Worryingly, the ‘Oxfam Feminist Scorecard 2019: Tracking Welsh Government action to advance women’s rights and gender equality’ makes the point that there is no publicly available evidence that global responsibility is a consideration when trade or other promotional decisions are being taken, or that the impact on women is a consideration in such decisions.



While I welcome the appointment of Wales' first Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language, and Wales' first international strategy, I endorse the recommendations set out by Oxfam to Welsh Government, including that they conduct human rights and gender equality assessments of trade policies.

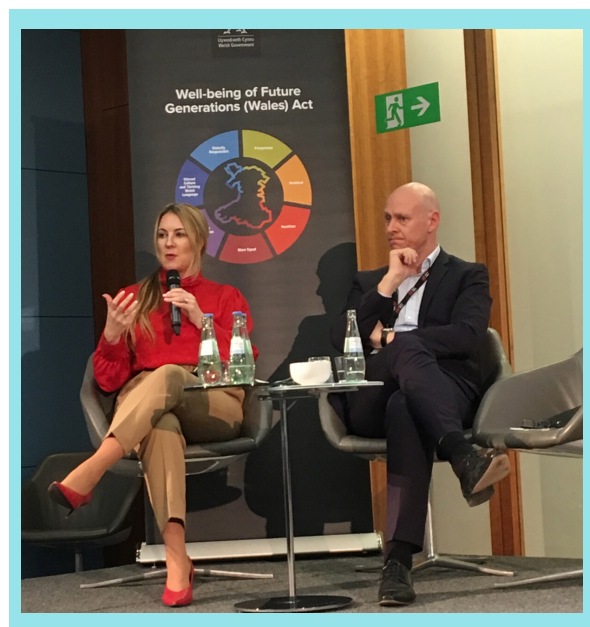
Welsh Government should also ensure the International Strategy is implemented by all ministerial portfolios, and work with the business and voluntary sector and civic society to maximise its opportunities.

**“I would like to see Wales continuing to take a lead in international justice, fair trade, working towards a better World. I would like to see fair trade embedded in the World of business and procurement, as well as climate change being something that the World of commerce and importing takes action on.”**

People's Platform

**Wales' contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals has been recognised, but we should accelerate the pace of change to ensure we are recognised for action, and not just words**

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted in January 2016 are designed to address urgent global challenges over 15 years, and its progress is reviewed annually. The Goals emphasise a universal agenda that requires all United Nations member states – both rich and poor alike - to take action to support sustainable development.



The Well-being of Future Generations Act, with its vision for public services in Wales, provides a framework for our contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. To help organisations navigate the connections between our national indicators, well-being goals and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, Welsh Government have published this helpful, interactive [tool](#).

In July 2019, the UK Parliament's International Development Committee identified serious failings in the preparation and presentation of the [UK's first Voluntary National Review](#) of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

The findings highlighted that the UK government had taken a long time to produce the Review (some countries had produced two since 2015), and as expectations increased, the disappointment was that much greater. The Voluntary National Review itself was selective and partial, relying on cherry-picked data, context-free snapshots and positive vignettes, to present a 'good story'. It failed to highlight serious issues including food security, poverty trends and EU withdrawal.



The Committee recommended that:

**“Coordination with Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, for the purposes of the VNR, could be improved. We recommend early communication between the UK Government and the devolved administrations, and agreement of a common style, structure and reporting framework, well in advance of the next VNR.”**

The Committee [further added](#):

**“There is clearly rich potential for peer learning within the UK, in particular the way that the UK could learn from the approaches in Scotland and Wales—both to the VNR and to SDG implementation.”**

The then Secretary of State for International Development, Rory Stewart MP, in addressing the United Nations on the 16th July 2019 said:

**"This process then has been a process of learning of what we have done well and what we have done badly, it has been a process of learning also from our devolved administrations for the work that Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales has taken, often better work than what we've undertaken in England in providing the data and the structures to drive change." He added, the UK Governments "must engage with existing good practice such as the leadership in Scotland and Wales on the SDGs."**

I therefore support calls from the UK Stakeholders for Sustainable Development ([UKSSD](#)) for there to be a Minister in the UK Cabinet with a domestic mandate to lead the UK's efforts to implement the SDGs.



### **Wales is unique in the World in demonstrating a comprehensive commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals**

Welsh Government published the [Wales Supplementary Report](#) to the United Kingdom's Voluntary National Review. The report is a record of progress in Wales so far and it used the seven well-being goals to illustrate Wales' contribution towards the Sustainable Development Goals. My office worked with Welsh Government on the report and helped coordinate two involvement events.

Some of the learning from Wales that is of interest internationally includes:



- Recognising the role of culture as a fourth dimension of sustainable development
- How Wales has translated the Sustainable Development Goals at the appropriate level by mobilising people to own nationally-specific goals
- Focusing on sustainable development as an organising principle and avoid the ‘add on’
- Establishing an independent voice and advocate for sustainable development in the role of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales
- Ensuring that global responsibility is an essential part of the political debate and architecture.

The Supplementary Report is important in highlighting that the progress that Wales is making in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals and our own Well-being of Future Generations Act. It should help us measure where we are on this journey and highlight where further work is needed.

Welsh Government should start proactively seeking out opportunities to share its approach on delivering the Sustainable Development Goals with other devolved administrations and the UK Government.



**Well-being objectives and steps relating to being ‘globally responsible’ are varied, and do not always reflect the definition of the well-being goal**

Through their well-being objectives and steps, public bodies are demonstrating a varied understanding of what being ‘globally responsible’ means. For example:

Velindre University NHS Trust has an objective to: ‘Strengthen the international reputation of the Trust as a centre of excellence for teaching, research and technical innovation whilst also making a lasting contribution to global well-being’ and steps include: ‘support colleagues to use their knowledge and skills to enable developing health systems elsewhere in the World’

Swansea Council have a step to ‘develop young citizens to respect rights, understand responsibilities and be globally aware’ around the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and education.](#)

Welsh Government’s objective: ‘Promote and protect Wales’ place in the World.’



The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales have an objective to: 'Champion internationally excellent higher education that also works to support global well-being, and sustainable development.'

Pembrokeshire National Park Authority's objective: 'Global: To ensure our work makes a positive contribution to global well-being.'

Public Health Wales' step: 'Through implementation of our International strategy we will develop, with the World Health Organization, a World-leading Centre for Investment in Health and Well-being, harness public health expertise developed abroad, and disseminate knowledge, innovation and learning developed in Wales.'

Cam Amgueddfa Cymru i: 'Cefnogi Safleoedd Treftadaeth y Byd UNESCO Cymru."

Monmouthshire Public Services Board's step: 'Procurement can also have significant global impacts and thought needs to be given to being globally responsible.'



However, there are some examples where public bodies in Wales are demonstrating a more systematic/innovative approach to being globally responsible:

As part of the Transforming Mental Health Programme, key staff members of Hywel Dda University Health Board developed links with Trieste in Italy, with a formal twinning agreement in place since 2015/16. In conjunction with the Regional Partnership Board, senior staff also visited Barcelona and Bilbao to share knowledge, best practice and skills, informing the development of work being delivered through the Transformation Fund.

Powys Teaching Health Board have a link with the Molo Health District in Kenya, focused on improving maternal and newborn health.

Public Health Wales are working with the World Health Organization's Collaborating Centre on 'Investment for Health and Well-being', providing staff with leadership opportunities to work across a four-year work programme. This includes developing, collecting and sharing information and tools on how best to invest in better health and promote more sustainable policies in relation to global health, and together with Oxfam, delivering global citizenship training to Welsh Health Professionals.

Public bodies should ensure their objectives and steps are aligned to the definition of the 'Globally Responsible Wales' well-being goal.



**Our young people must be educated and prepared for a changing World, and the new education curriculum provides Wales with a once in a generation opportunity to achieve this**

We want young people that are dedicated to the development of a peaceful World with prosperity and dignity for all, who are committed to working for a better-connected World, as citizens of Wales and stewards for the planet.

**“I would like to see Wales as a nation of global citizens, with an international outlook. Wales already has a positive impact on some of the World's poorest communities but could do so much more - grow Wales as a Fair Trade nation, increase the capacity of Size of Wales.”**

People's Platform

The new Curriculum for Wales states that ‘all our children and young people will be ethical, informed citizens who’:

- Find, evaluate and use evidence in forming views
- Engage with contemporary issues based upon their knowledge and values
- Understand and exercise their human and democratic responsibilities and rights
- Understand and consider the impact of their actions when making choices and acting are knowledgeable about their culture, community, society and the World, now and in the past
- Respect the needs and rights of others, as a member of a diverse society
- Show their commitment to the sustainability of the planet and,
- Are ready to be citizens of Wales and the World.



As Welsh Government state in its guidance, “Learners can explore the connections and interdependence between such societies in the past and present, in the context of a globalised World. Further engagement will also encourage them to explore – and develop a tolerant and empathetic understanding of – the varied beliefs, values, traditions and ethics that underpin and shape human society.”

The intention is that experiences in this area can help learners develop an understanding of their responsibilities as citizens of Wales and the wider interconnected World, and of the importance of creating a just and sustainable future for themselves and their local, national and global communities. As I set out in the section on Skills in Chapter 5, our current and future generations will need different skills for a future that will rely on, for example, halting and preventing the impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss and dealing with major socio-economic change.

If implemented and resourced effectively, the Curriculum for Wales 2022 applies the principles of the Act to compulsory education, which will help them meet these environmental, social and economic challenges.



There are also opportunities for Wales to be at the forefront of emerging digital, low carbon and 'green' economies of the future, if we recognise now that we will need different skills to take advantage of this.

Described as 'eco-literacy' (an understanding of our natural systems/ecosystems), it will be crucial children, young people and adults learn about the natural systems that make life on earth possible. This, in turn, will provide the foundation from which people can work together to take an integrated approach to tackling global challenges.

This is why I recommend Welsh Government commit to Wales becoming the most eco-literate nation in the world by 2030.

Within the Skills Challenge Certificate Welsh Baccalaureate there is a compulsory 'Global Citizenship' component, which engages students in learning about global issues. In 2017/18, there were over 28,000 entrants for the Global Citizenship Challenge at Key Stage 4 and over 14,000 at A-level. Nearly half of Key Stage 4 learners achieved a merit or distinction for this component, and nearly a quarter of A-level candidates achieved a distinction.

There are international mobility and volunteering projects available for young people. For example, the European Voluntary Service (now [European Solidarity Corps](#)) run by [UNA Exchange](#) sends and hosts volunteers across Europe for skills exchange, including many young people with fewer opportunities.

However, Brexit is likely to impact the future of these projects for young people in Wales and the UK unless there is replacement and support. Where they do continue to occur, the focus should be on exchange of skills, ideas and experiences.

Whilst organised exchanges and movement like these are important for young people and learners, there are other examples of links and movement between Wales and other nations. For example, Wales' diaspora communities regularly engage in exchanges and movements across the World.



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## Ensure Wales is welcoming, safe and fair to all

### What future generations need

A globally responsible nation understands the importance of acceptance and tolerance. It works in partnership with people from all faiths and backgrounds, creating policies and delivering strategies that provide adequate support and services, creating a safe and peaceful future for all.

It also takes action to mitigate against issues such as climate change or conflict, and through actions of solidarity, welcomes its fair share of refugees who may have been displaced. It is vital we understand and welcome those that need our support the most.

### Where we are now

**Wales is globally recognised and respected as a mostly welcoming nation, but we should continue to ensure we're creating a safe and peaceful future for all**



Bordered on three sides by water, Wales has relied heavily on its connection with the international community for centuries. People from across the World have been drawn to Wales, to trade, work, study, live, and to explore our landscapes and natural beauty. Wales has used its geographical positioning as opportunities for collaboration.

Wales has benefitted economically, socially and culturally from this long history of migration. For example, the Somali community has been in Tiger Bay in Cardiff for four generations; together with people who came as part of the 'Windrush' generation to help re-build Wales after the second World War.

Welsh icons such as Dame Shirley Bassey, Colin Jackson, and Ryan Giggs all have mixed cultural heritage and many more have continued to shape and influence society. Wales also has a long history of welcoming refugees who have made Wales their home, from Jewish people at the time of World War II, to people from Syria, Chile, Uganda and other countries.

**“For such a small nation our diversity is huge.”**

Our Future Wales conversation, Culture Roundtable





Wales is the smallest country in the United Kingdom (UK) with 3.1 million inhabitants. Over the last 20 years, Wales' population has increased by 8%, a much slower increase than that of the UK as a whole.

According to the Bevan Foundation: 'Almost all of Wales' population growth (97%) between 2016 and 2017 was from net migration – that's 57% from internal net migration and 39% from international net migration. Most of those coming into Wales from outside the UK came to study or to work and were more likely to be from outside the EU than from inside the EU.'

Wales has an ambition to be a [Nation of Sanctuary](#). Although we are still waiting for a strategy on how Welsh Government hope to achieve this status, there are clear examples of how Welsh Government and others are already seeking to integrate refugees in Wales.

The '[Nation of Sanctuary: Refugee and Asylum Seeker Plan](#)' captures a range of actions to improve the lives of people seeking sanctuary in Wales, that can help reduce inequalities, increase access to opportunities and enable better relations between communities.

There are commitments to ensure that refugees and asylum seekers can access health services throughout their asylum journey; are provided with information and advice to allow them to integrate into Welsh society from day one; are prevented from becoming destitute; and can access educational opportunities. The plan has been endorsed by the United Nation's High Commissioner for Refugees. Welsh Government has also issued guidance on the health and well-being of refugees and asylum seekers.

**“Fact – we will have more refugees, need to take this into account in planning and social services.”**

Our Future Wales conversation Welsh Local Government Association roundtable

I also welcome the publication of '[Adverse Childhood Experiences in child refugee and asylum seeking populations](#)' by ACE Support Hub and Public Health Wales in April 2020. As the report highlights, 40% of people granted asylum, humanitarian protection or alternative forms of leave and resettlement in the UK in 2018/19 were children. Children seeking sanctuary may have experienced multiple adverse childhood experiences across the migration journey, and parental stress and trauma from migration can also increase this risk (see section on 'Adverse Childhood Experiences' for more information).

Some public bodies in Wales refer to asylum seekers or refugees in their strategic plans. However, there is very little mention of this in their well-being objectives and steps, with the exception of the [Vale of Glamorgan Council](#), which has a step to: "Provide non-classroom based cultural/ citizenship activities using the gallery and library resources to familiarise Syrian refugees with their new home.



Responsibility for asylum and immigration rests with the UK Government rather than the Welsh Government. However, a concerted effort is required by Welsh Government, public bodies and communities to successfully integrate refugees and asylum seekers in Wales.

Complete figures for the numbers of asylum seekers and refugees who are resettled in Wales are not available. However, figures relating to the number of refugees resettled under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme, and the number of those currently receiving asylum support, are published.

At the end of March 2019, nearly 3,000 asylum seekers were receiving support in Wales. Although it is a slight fall compared to the previous year, the numbers have generally been increasing since a low during the same quarter in 2012 and are similar to the levels of the previous high point in 2007. As at the end of March 2019, a total of 1,072 refugees have been resettled in Wales under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme.

According to the National Crime Agency, the recorded incidents of potential victims of slavery to the National Referral Mechanism continue to increase each year, with more referrals of survivors from the UK and Wales.

The National Crime Agency judge that the scale of modern slavery and human trafficking in the UK is likely to be increasing steadily but cannot disentangle increases in the incidence rate from improved reporting. Therefore, they are unable to quantify the overall growth of modern slavery.

In 2018, there were 251 referrals of potential victims of slavery where the referral was subsequently sent to a police force for crime recording considerations in Wales. This is a 30% increase on the previous year and is also higher than in previous years (although some increase in recent years is probably due to changes in how the data are recorded). It represents 3.6% of all UK referrals.

It was an important step for Wales to appoint a Human Trafficking Co-ordinator recognising the need to bring together devolved and non devolved agencies in the private and third sector and communities to respond to this increasing problem. There are also a number of local forums which support this work. Whilst this is undoubtedly useful to focus action at a local level, as set out elsewhere in this report it is also important for public bodies to understand where this fits with their wider work and governance structures.

There is little evidence relating to modern slavery in public body well-being objectives, though [Swansea Council](#) have a step to 'Work with partners to address safeguarding in its wider sense; for example, hate crime, modern slavery and bullying in schools.' Swansea is a City of Sanctuary and the Waterfront Museum (part of [Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales](#)) was the UK's first Museum of Sanctuary ([Culture](#)) due to their outreach work with refugees and asylum seekers.

The [Vale of Glamorgan Council](#) have a step to: 'continue a programme of awareness raising of Child Sexual Exploitation, Slavery and Trafficking'.



[Cardiff Council](#) are also demonstrating leadership in this area. Their inaugural Modern Slavery Statement forms part of their Corporate Safeguarding Policy and sets out what the Council has done and will do to tackle modern slavery. They were the first public body to sign up to delivering the Welsh Government's 'Code of Practice: Ethical Employment in Supply Chains' and are reporting progress on the 'Transparency in Supply Chains' website. Their tender clauses also encourage contractors to sign up to the Welsh Government's Code of Practice.

Public bodies should follow the example set by [Cardiff Council](#) in taking steps to ensure they are tackling modern slavery as part of their corporate safeguarding policies, and sign up to deliver [Welsh Government's 'Code of Practice: Ethical Employment in Supply Chains'](#). This includes commitments to treat people fairly when procuring goods and services as well as guidance and training to help achieve them.

Ethnic minorities in Wales are experiencing high levels of hate crime. For example, the majority (75%) of hate crimes reported and recorded in Wales in 2016/17 were motivated by race or religion. This is a particular concern given Britain's exit from the European Union and the spikes in hate crime after the EU referendum.

A [report](#) published by [Ethnic Minorities and Youth Support Team Wales](#) (EYST) highlights the complex experiences of people from ethnic minority backgrounds who live in Wales. Whilst over half of those surveyed felt strongly part of their local community, over half (52%) had also reported experiencing abuse due to their race, religion or cultural identity.

I support EYST's recommendation that Welsh Government and the police should review their approach to hate crime, shifting from a responsive/reactive approach to a preventative/proactive one. This will help ensure Wales is welcoming, safe and fair to all, and support those who need it most.

Food can often bring cultures together and the [Women Connect First's World Café](#) is a great initiative that uses food as an integration and educational tool. The idea came from a group of women who faced barriers in employment; they lacked work experience, enterprise background or employability skills but were experts in cooking. Nor were they able to access culturally sensitive learning environments where they could develop these skills.

The café provides a community space where people come together and socialise in a friendly atmosphere to enjoy free freshly cooked authentic meals once a week. I have used the World Café to cater for my own events and the food is fantastic!

Wales-based organisation [Bees for Development](#) were awarded [£15,000](#) funding through the Welsh Government's Wales for Africa programme, by working with a partner organisation in Ethiopia to provide training in Beekeeping skills in Somaliland.

This is to facilitate and support 50 families from Somaliland establish profitable apiaries by selling honey locally and exporting beeswax to Wales. Beeswax, usually seen as a by-product of bee keeping, will be made into artisan candles by members of the Somaliland diaspora community in Wales and sold from their Bees for Development shop in Monmouth.



## Making the right financial decisions now, to enable future generations to thrive

### What future generations need

How we manage finances, investments and budgeting, can have significant impacts and serious consequences. By applying long-term and preventative principles in decision-making processes, we can contribute positively to a sustainable planet, its people, and mitigate against climate change.

### Where we are now

#### Not enough public bodies are showing signs of commitment to fair and ethical investment and divestment

**“Procurement policies – make sure that products procured are produced in environmentally sustainable ways, free of modern slavery, environmental and human rights abuses. Pension funds and ethical investments – public bodies consider social impacts of investments such as arms industry, supporting apartheid and human rights abuses.”**

Race Alliance Wales, November 2019

It is vital that when thinking about improving the well-being of people in Wales, we are also thinking about our impacts on others. We are global citizens, and we have a responsibility to ensure we are not acting at the detriment to others.

When we are making financial decisions, this means thinking about:

- [Life cycle](#): taking whole life cycle and circular economy approaches to making financial commitments, budget planning and contracts can deliver positive benefits for now and the future.

There are some examples of public bodies demonstrating a good understanding of the long-term action needed to be taken to reduce and reuse, rather than just recycle waste:

Monmouthshire County Borough Council’s step to ‘Reduce waste by committing to the principles of a circular economy’, and [Natural Resources Wales](#)’ step to ‘Put steps in place to work towards a circular economy and zero waste in Wales’.

[Mid and West Wales Fire & Rescue Service](#) have reviewed the life cycle of their emergency equipment and have partnered with a not for profit to repurpose their hoses and raise income for charity.

However, we need a system where waste and resource use are minimised, and when a product reaches the end of its life, it is able to be used again to create further value.

Public bodies should explore and demonstrate how they are seeking to move to a system where products can be used again to create further value (the principles of the circular economy), and how this, for example, relates to the development of skills, innovation, local materials and saving money.



It also means thinking about:

- Fossil fuels / arms divestment: using our fair share of the Earth's resources is vital to the success of future generations. By divesting things like pensions and investments from sources of harm, including fossil-fuels, pollutants, human rights violations and arms, organisations can secure a better future for all. Using energy that is renewable and fossil-free, organisations can ensure that the actions taken in Wales causes no harm to others on our planet and contributes to our transition to a low carbon economy.
- Ethical investment: ensuring all future dealings with financial institutions are ethical and do not invest in things that cause harm, e.g. child slavery, forced child labour, climate change, arms, military conflict, environmental pollution, and human and animal rights violations.

As covered in the section on Decarbonisation in Chapter 5, I have written to public bodies encouraging them to divest their pension funds from fossil fuels.

Whilst I am seeing encouraging progress, the majority of public sector pension funds continue to invest almost £1 billion each year in fossil fuels which is not sustainable in light of the climate emergency and incompatible with the declarations of many public bodies.

Welsh Government should seek to take advantage of opportunities to assist the UK Government to work out a new post-Brexit trade policy to promote values within trading relationships that are not exploitative of people or the planet and protect human rights throughout supply chains.

100% of [Pembrokeshire County Council's](#) electricity is purchased from renewable sources and they are represented on the National Procurement Service's energy sub-group.

[Cardiff Council](#) and [Powys County Council](#) voting to divest pensions from fossil fuels as a part of a growing movement in Wales.

[Caerphilly County Borough Council](#) is part of the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension fund which has a policy on ethical investment.

Welsh Government and public bodies should better demonstrate how their investments are committing to fair and ethical investment and should further divest pensions and investments funds from sources of harm, fossil-fuels, pollutants, human rights violations and arms.

My '[Journey to a Globally Responsible Wales](#)' includes guidance and steps public bodies and others can take to ensure fair and ethical investment and divestment, which goes beyond divesting from fossil fuels.



**Wales will need to plan effectively for the EU transition period and beyond, and ensure our relationship with the World beyond Brexit is based on positive shared values**

On 17 October 2019, the negotiators for the United Kingdom and the European Union reached an agreement on the text of a Withdrawal Agreement – a document that sets out the terms of the United Kingdom’s departure from the European Union.

Whilst there was no formal role for the Assembly in terms of ratifying the Withdrawal Agreement, the Assembly’s legislative consent was required for aspects of the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill – the legislation that was required to implement the Withdrawal Agreement in the [UK](#).

In January 2020, the Committee published its report on the implications of exiting the EU on Wales, following an initial assessment completed in November 2018. The [report](#) focussed on seven areas:

- The economy and trade with the EU
- Ports and Transport
- Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
- Energy and Environment
- Healthcare
- Equality and Human Rights Institutions.

The committee’s report sets out one high level recommendation to Welsh Government:

“To ensure that Wales is as prepared as possible for the transition period, we recommend that the Welsh Government, working with the UK Government, prepares an assessment of the economic, legal and constitutional implications for Wales arising from our departure from the EU on the terms of the Withdrawal Agreement.”

I support this recommendation, and the need for the Welsh and UK Governments to provide details of what the Withdrawal Agreement means for the people of Wales. Welsh Government should work with all statutory commissioners to identify opportunities and challenges for public services during the EU transition period and beyond including on the implementation of the Well-being Future Generations Act.

Brexit is referenced in some public body well-being objectives and steps. For example:

**Carmarthenshire County Council’s step to:** ‘Ensure clear business support plans in order to support any implications from Brexit. Support local economic growth.’

**Welsh Government’s step:** ‘Continue to press the UK Government to prioritise full and unfettered access to the EU Single Market and work with the UK Government to promote Wales’ interests as new international Free Trade Agreements are prepared.’

However, Welsh Government should ensure public bodies and Public Services Boards are alert to the details of the withdrawal agreement as they emerge and develop and consider the potential impact on their work in Wales and abroad. This should also be in relation to areas such as:

- Freedom of movement
- University Research, EU Students and Erasmus
- Cultural exchanges
- Trade challenges around exporting and importing
- Businesses opening and moving
- Protected status for food and produce
- Education and global citizenship
- Human rights



## Ensure our supply chains are fair, ethical and sustainable

### What future generations need

Behind everything we buy is a person, and by paying that person a fair price for goods and making sure they work in acceptable conditions, we can support them to stay healthy, send their children to school, put food on the table and plan for the future.

### Where we are now

**The £6 billion public purse in Wales is a powerful tool to deliver social, environmental, cultural and economic sustainability. However, value for money (lowest price) is still seen as the key driver of procurement rather than wider value and outcomes**

Leadership and action in this area can help contribute to national and global challenges. For example, by ensuring products procured are produced in environmentally sustainable ways, free of modern slavery, environmental and human rights abuses.

In 2008, Wales became the World's first Fair Trade nation. The Well-being of Future Generations Act is a further obligation to build on this foundation to ensure public money is spent in a way that improves economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being throughout its global supply chains.

A few public bodies have highlighted their procurement activities as demonstrating their contribution to being more globally responsible through ethically sourced supply chains, Fair Trade policies and seeking to procure locally (thereby reducing carbon footprint). For example:

[Cardiff Council](#) has adopted a Socially Responsible Procurement Policy and is now working Fair Work Practices Questions into its tender documentation.

[Public Health Wales](#) promote Fairtrade Fortnight, and in 2019, worked with procurement to communicate the Fair Trade products available for purchase corporately, alongside a Fair Trade 'Be the Change' Well-being Goals Challenge for staff (inside and outside of the workplace).

[South Wales Police](#) have taken action in a number of ways, including establishing an ethical champion at Chief Officer level, agreeing ethical supply chain questions for inclusion in tender documents, establishing a process to deal with any identified modern slavery related breaches, adopting the real living wage, sharing ethical employment training with those involved in procurement and recruitment, and sharing progress across Wales with the police sector.

[Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service](#) switched to Fairtrade Tea and Coffee across its three main offices following a project, funded by the EU's Trade Fair, Live Fair programme.

It also gives me hope when I hear from young people who have led presentations to PTAs (Parent Teacher Associations) and school school governors, as they successfully switched their school uniform to Fairtrade, and ensured that the staff room and canteen only serve Fairtrade tea and coffee.



Despite examples like these, it is apparent that value for money (lowest price) is still seen as the key driver of procurement rather than wider value and outcomes. This is supported by research by the Audit Wales and is why I've highlighted the importance of procurement as a key area of my work.

Procurement provides a significant opportunity for public bodies to maximise their contribution to the well-being goal 'A Globally Responsible Wales'. When we consider the key drivers of change within procurement such as decarbonisation, waste, community benefits, modern slavery, foundational economy and social value, this goal expects us to think of well-being on a global scale, not just about impact in Wales. [See the section on Procurement in Chapter 2 for more information.](#)

**Ensure we use natural resources efficiently, recognising the limits of the global environment, and contribute to global well-being**

### What future generations need

It is vital we manage our natural resources sustainably to ensure they continue to provide the many services and benefits we use, enjoy and rely upon. We must do all we can to mitigate against climate change, contribute positively to protecting and enhancing the natural environment, and support equatorial communities most at risk of climate change. Using and managing our natural resources sustainably also means innovation can be at the heart of helping Wales become a zero waste, net zero carbon country, with a workforce at the forefront of the 'green economy'.

When local authorities such as [Carmarthenshire County Council](#), [Monmouthshire County Council](#), [Cardiff Council](#) and others made the decision to declare a climate emergency, I expected everyone to join them. As did our young people. Making the decision to act locally, and take action for climate change, is being globally responsible.

### Where we are now

**We are using our natural resources faster than can be replenished, but Wales is demonstrating its ambition to become a zero waste, net zero carbon country**

What we do in Wales, can have a positive and/or negative impact somewhere else on the Planet. Currently, if everyone in the World consumed the same as the Welsh average, we'd need 2.5 of our Planets to provide the necessary resources and absorb the waste. Wales' ecological footprint, at 10.05 million global hectares, is roughly five-times the size of Wales.

More positively, Wales has been a leader with its recycling rates and currently has the fourth highest household recycling rate in the World at 63% of municipal waste reused, recycled or composted. Many public bodies are also taking steps to reduce their carbon footprint, helping achieve Wales' ambition of a carbon neutral public sector by 2030.

By setting (and acting upon) well-being objectives and steps that embed resource efficiency, the sustainable management of natural resources and transition to a low carbon society, public bodies will be actively supporting the goal of a globally responsible Wales.

[See the section on 'A Prosperous Wales' in this Chapter for more information on using natural resources sustainably.](#)





# A Globally Responsible Wales

## Recommendations for Welsh Government

### Key Recommendation

Create a vision and plan to ensure Wales becomes the most eco-literate country in the world.

### Policy Recommendations

#### Welsh Government should:

- Ensure the International Strategy is implemented by all Ministerial portfolios and work with the business and voluntary sectors and civil and civic society to maximise its opportunities.
- Ensure it provides clarity to public bodies on how the Social Partnership (Wales) Bill and the socio-economic duty align with The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
- Be proactive in sharing its approach on delivering the Sustainable Development Goals within the rest of the UK and internationally.
- Build links and alliances with other countries who are leading on sustainability and put in place mechanisms to develop new ideas and share best practice.
- Review its 'Nation of Sanctuary Refugee and Asylum Seeker Plan' in light of evidence from the ACE Support Hub, regarding the adversities experienced by child refugee and asylum seekers.
- Consider implications of the EU Withdrawal Agreement, specifically in relation to the impact it may have on meeting their well-being objectives.
- Continue to support and build upon the successes of Wales for Africa and Plant!, that demonstrate Wales' commitment to being globally responsible.



# A Globally Responsible Wales

## Recommendations for Welsh Government

### Process Recommendations

In their day to day actions Welsh Government should **stop**:

- Investing in fossil fuels.

In their day to day actions Welsh Government should **start**:

- Conduct human rights and gender equality assessments of all trade policies and agreements and ensure all investments are ethical.
- Ensuring Wales has measures and indicators that help map what impactful approaches to being globally responsible looks like.
- Better communicate the relationship between the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 to all sectors (public, private and voluntary) and civil and civic society.
- Rolling out the Code of Conduct for ethical procurement and investment, alongside providing clear leadership and support for public bodies in addressing all seven of the well-being goals through their procurement practices.



## A Globally Responsible Wales

### Advice on setting well-being objectives for all public bodies and boards covered by the Well-being of Future Generations Act (including Welsh Government)

Please refer to the chapter on Setting Good Well-being Objectives, but in setting their objectives specifically in relation to this goal all public bodies and boards covered by the Well-being of Future Generations Act (including Welsh Government) should:

- Clearly demonstrate the connections between their well-being objectives and steps on being globally responsible; and other areas such as the natural environment, inequality, community cohesion, procurement, decarbonisation, resource efficiency, organisational development and skills.
- Clearly set out how you understand the definition of the goal of a Globally Responsible Wales.

In setting their steps, public bodies and boards covered by the Well-being of Future Generations Act (including Welsh Government) should focus in the following areas and should:

- Demonstrating global citizenship and leadership by supporting sustainable behaviour and making the connections.
- Playing their part to ensure Wales is welcoming, safe and fair to all.
- Committing to fair and ethical investment and divestment - making the right financial decisions now to enable future generations to thrive.
- Ensuring supply chains are fair, ethical and sustainable.
- Ensuring that they understand the importance of using the earth's resources efficiently in order to contribute to global well-being.



# A Globally Responsible Wales

Recommendations for all public bodies and boards covered by the Well-being of Future Generations Act (including Welsh Government)

## Process Recommendations

In their day to day actions they should **stop**:

- Investing in fossil fuels.
- Seeing global actions as an 'add-on' to business as usual.

In their day to day actions they should **start**:

- Exploring ways their staff can develop the knowledge and skills to understand complex global issues; and identify the impact of individual and collective actions, policies and plans. This will help ensure decisions taken have a positive impact on the world beyond Wales, or as a minimum, avoid harm.
- Being more explicit in demonstrating how initiatives, programmes and decision-making are making a positive contribution to global well-being.
- Taking more of a concerted effort to successfully integrate refugees and asylum seekers in Wales.
- Taking steps to ensure they are tackling modern slavery as part of their corporate safeguarding policies; and sign up to deliver Welsh Government's 'Code of Practice: Ethical Employment in Supply Chains'. This includes commitments to treat people fairly when procuring goods and services as well as guidance and training to help achieve them.
- Exploring and demonstrating how they are seeking to move to a system where products can be used again to create further value (the principles of the circular economy); and how this, for example, relates to the development of skills, innovation, local materials and saving money.



## Process Recommendations (continued)

In their day to day actions they should start:

- Better demonstrating how their investments are committing to fair and ethical investment; and should further divest pensions and investments funds from sources of harm, fossil-fuels and pollutants.
- Understanding Wales' International Strategy, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and their relevance to Wales.
- Identifying what is happening in their communities/areas; and finding ways to help support and scale up international sustainable development initiatives.
- Resourcing and prioritising carbon and eco-literacy training for all elected members and senior officers to ensure they have the necessary skills and understanding to make the right decisions (see also the section on A Resilient Wales in Chapter 3).



## Resources / Useful Information

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Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

- [Journey Towards A Globally Responsible Wales](#)
- [Future Generations Framework](#)
- [Future Generations Framework for Scrutiny](#)
- [Future Generations Framework for service design](#)

Welsh Government

- [WG Future Trends Report](#)
- [Well-being of Wales 2019](#)





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**Cenedlaethau'r  
Dyfodol**  
Cymru

**Future  
Generations**  
Commissioner  
for Wales

