A Journey to

A Resilient Wales

1: Biodiversity and Soil: Maintain and enhance the natural environment through managing land appropriately to create healthy functioning ecosystems

2: Natural Green Space: Support social resilience and community well-being

3: Knowledge of Nature: Increase awareness of the importance of a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems

4: Water and Air Quality: Support ecological resilience, making the environment healthier for wildlife and people

5: Using Natural Resources: Be adaptive to a changing environment where there is a need to use resources efficiently

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In the Well-being of Future Generations Act, this goal is defined as

"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".

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Defining the goal

Here in Wales, we are now among the most nature-depleted countries in the world, with 1 in 14 wildlife species facing extinction.

Wales also has some of the worst air quality in the UK, still emits high numbers is greenhouse gas emissions and are now at greater risk of flooding, soil erosion and poorer water quality. Without healthy functioning ecosystems, we cannot resist, recover from or adapt to the changes facing our planet.

Our natural environment here in Wales is vital for our well-being; it provides the air we breathe, our food, 951 million litres of drinking water per day, our clothes, medicine, materials such as timber, as well as green spaces to enjoy. However, we are living in an area of unprecedented change when it comes to our planet. Biodiversity, 'the variety of all life on earth', has seen an overall 60% decline in species across the globe since 1970.

The goal of a resilient Wales is to reverse the decline of our biodiverse natural environment, to develop better awareness of our impacts as individuals and organisations, to ensure we are ecologically resilient, with healthy ecosystems, and to support community well-being.

Eg

Case studies
Throughout the document you will find a number of reports relating to the topic subject. Please read the link If you see this symbol.

Wildlife Trusts Wales

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Other statutory requirements in relation to this goal

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 introduces the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR) and sets out an approach to planning and managing natural resources to ensure that the benefits they provide for our social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being are available now and for future generations.

The Natural Resources Policy sets out national priorities for the sustainable management of natural resources, for us all to contribute towards. The priorities are about mainstreaming action for biodiversity across our urban and rural areas and reducing the pressures on our natural resources.

Natural Resources Wales' area statements will be developed by 2020. They help deliver the priorities in the Natural Resources Policy in a place, and will be a valuable tool to support public bodies and others delivering local actions.

Section 6 under Part 1 introduced an enhanced biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty (the S6 duty) for public authorities (which includes public bodies in the WFG Act) in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales.
More details can be found in the Welsh Government Essentials Guide.

The State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) sets out the national evidence base on the resilience of ecosystems in Wales so that we can understand the extent to which sustainable management of natural resources is being achieved. The building blocks of ecosystem resilience are – Diversity, Extent, Condition, Connectivity and Adaptability.

Planning Policy Wales plays a significant contribution to the improvement of well-being in all its aspects and embeds the spirit of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, through moving us towards a low carbon, resilient society with well-connected environments for everyone in Wales. The planning system can contribute to improving the resilience of ecosystems and ecological networks, halting and reversing the loss of biodiversity, maintaining and enhancing green infrastructure, ensuring resilient choices for infrastructure and built development, moving towards a more circular economy in Wales; and facilitating decarbonisation.

https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-12/planning-policy-wales-edition-10.pdf

St
Some of the suggested steps and actions in this document complement the policies set out in legislation - specific steps and actions that adhere to these are highlighted in orange and with an 'St' symbol.

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Enablers

Achieving this goal is **more likely to happen** when…

- **There is urgent action at a pace and scale needed to combat the loss of biodiversity.**

- **Events and campaigns raise public awareness (e.g. Blue Planet 2 series) that can 'bring the topic to the political table'.**

- **It is recognised that Green Infrastructure (GI) is an achievable and effective way to alleviate multiple social, economic and environmental challenges.**

- **Organisations, including businesses, understand and work to Environment (Wales) Act, SMNR, SoNaRR report, Natural Resources Policy and Planning Policy Wales.**

- **Community organisations are enabled to drive change in their area, to ensure nature is something that can be accessed and appreciated by all.**

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Disablers

Achieving this goal is **less likely to happen** when...

- **Environmental grants are reduced and restrictive and short-term.**

- **Economic growth, including jobs and business, are prioritised over the natural environment, with environmental damage trade-off for short-term growth.**

- **Failure to plan, design and manage green infrastructure from the start of programmes and projects.**

- **A focus on waste, transport and energy, away from the natural environment.**

- **Lack of knowledge – Green Infrastructure is seen as the role of environment department.**

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5: Using Natural Resources

Being adaptive to a changing environment where there is a need to use resources efficiently and support economic resilience.

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5: Using Natural Resources

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Defining the issue

The global population is expected to reach 8 billion by 2030, with 3 billion new consumers, placing an ever-increasing pressure on our natural resources. State of Natural Resources Report explores whether we are using and managing natural resources sustainably. Natural resources are continuously declining or are being used faster than can be replenished. 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.

Sustainable systems can also bring economic benefits; contributing to innovation, growth and job creation.

Wales faces many challenges today; securing energy and fuel supply, creating jobs and income, tackling poverty and inequality, reducing the threats of climate change and flooding, and improving people's health and well-being. In meeting these challenges we need to understand how we maintain, improve and use our natural resources.

Synergies and connections to other journeys

Journey to a globally responsible Wales
Topic 1: Ethical Consumption and Procurement
Topic 4: Our Fair Share of Natural Resources

Journey to a more prosperous Wales
Topic 1: Fair and Local Procurement

Actions relating to energy are included in the Journey to a more prosperous Wales.

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Making **Simple** Changes

Adopt a single-use plastic policy (to remove single-use plastics from your estate).

Eg E.g. **National Assembly for Wales** phasing out single-use plastic http://www.assembly.wales/en/newhome/pages/newsitem.aspx?itemid=1868

Eg E.g. **Glyncollen Primary School** Going Plastic Free film https://blog.vocaleyes.org/2018/07/future-generations-news-glyncollen-primary-school-going-plastic-free/

Reduce the environmental impact of events for example by not using balloons, providing recycling facilities, raising awareness to attendees through art/cultural activities.

Eg E.g. **Public Health Wales** Guidelines and Good Practice for Sustainable Events.

Ensure you have facilities for recycling across your organisation.

Source reused/recycled items across your estate (furniture, stationery, electronics, paint, flooring etc.) using local social enterprise suppliers where possible. Request zero plastic & polystyrene packaging.

Eg E.g. **Public Health Wales** Office refurbishment http://www.wrapcymru.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/Public%20Health%20Wales%20Sustainable%20Workplace%20(4).pdf

Eg E.g. **Swansea City Council** refurbishment http://www.wrapcymru.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/20180305_Swansea_Council_Case_Study_Final_V1.pdf

Eg E.g. **Natural Resources Wales** are undertaking a project to reduce single use plastic in their ICT supply chain.

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Making **Simple** Changes

Eg

Support community repair cafes and zero-waste community initiatives.

EG: **Listen to Seismic Wales' podcast** on the Repair Cafe in Cardiff

https://soundcloud.com/seismicwales/ep-01-repair-cafe-cardiff

Ensure your canteens, venues and events label the source of food - for example sustainable fish, local, organic, Fairtrade.

When holding events and conferences, book local venues and suppliers that procure sustainable/local/ethical food and don't use single-use plastics.

Include nature in your organisation's Environment Policy (or other relevant policy)

Evaluate tender responses on not only cost and quality, but also response to social, environmental and cultural questions; and weight decisions accordingly.

Increase access to mains water refilling stations (free of charge) on your estate.

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Being More **Adventurous**

Reduce all plastic products and packaging that you use; if its use is unavoidable, choose plastic that is reusable, recyclable and with recycled content where technically possible.

In Temporary Event Notices make it a condition to only allow compostable/locally recyclable food packaging.

Ban balloon and sky lantern releases on all your land and land you work with whilst promoting other artistic alternatives.

Eg

E.g. **Marine Conservation Society** Don't Let Go Campaign
https://www.mcsuk.org/campaigns/dont-let-go

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Eg

E.g. **RSPCA Sky lantern** https://www.rspca.org.uk/getinvolved/campaign/skylanterns

Carry out a Waste Audit of your organisation.

Develop forums to enable the sharing of furniture, stock and stationery between departments and organisations or donate unwanted items to charities to avoid the purchase of new products that use more raw materials.

Work with local suppliers and farmers to source local, healthy, sustainable food delivered to work premises.

Take actions to reduce food waste from canteens, venues and food premises; monitor, report on and promote what you are doing.

Eg

E.g. Food waste mission for **Bridgend County Borough** schools
https://foodrecyclingmission.org.uk/bridgend/teachers-schools/

Work with others to provide educational materials and appropriate facilities to help businesses, people and staff to easily understand how to reuse, compost or recycle new materials, such as plant-based plastics.

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Being More **Adventurous**

Provide Reverse Vending Machines for use in your buildings.

Eg

E.g. **Marine Conservation Society** Reverse Vending Machine trial
https://www.mcsuk.org/press/wales_assembly_DRS

Eg

E.g. Deposit Return Machine trialled at **National Assembly for Wales**
https://www.davidmelding.wales/news/conservative-politician-brings-deposit-return-machine-trial-wales

Procure only Forest Stewardship Council grade timber or home-grown wood from well-managed forests.

Ensure environmental, social and cultural commitments are detailed as conditions in contracts and monitor the delivery of these.

Install mains Water Refill stations in commonly used areas to make water more visible and accessible for your staff and people you work with.

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Owning your **Ambition**

Collaborative or national actions

Support the innovation and commercialisation of new products, processes and services by local businesses through purchasing.

Develop initiatives that aim to re-use and re-process products to support a circular economy.

Eg

E.g. **Green Shed** projects https://resource.co/article/wales-invests-54m-new-reuse-and-recycling-projects-12970

Organisational actions

Your organisation is 100% single-use plastic free and a zero-waste organisation.

Ensure your choices about the use of material resources are based on making the most appropriate and sustainable use of finite resources and promoting the principles of a circular economy.

Source markets for new materials, such as plant-based packaging, so that they can be included in household recycling collections.

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Other examples and resources

Beautiful Barry - Local children outlining the litter problems and how they are tackling throw-away plastic.
http://www.beautifulbarry.co.uk/simple-changes-with-the-future-generations-act

Friends of the Earth 'Plastic Free Friday'
https://friendsoftheearth.uk/who-we-are/our-history

WRAP UK Plastics Pact
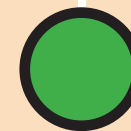http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/the-uk-plastics-pact

Portland, Oregon (USA) – Programme whereby businesses and non-profits in Portland can meet with a sustainability advisor and get advice on greening the workplace. The advisor can pinpoint problem areas, assist with creating sustainability programs that get employees engaged.

Understanding Plastics packaging
http://www.wrap.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/Understanding%20plastic%20packaging%20FINAL.pdf

WRAP Support for Public Sector Procurement
http://www.wrapcymru.org.uk/public-sector

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