

Powys PSB Climate Well-being project plan

September 2023

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Introduction

Climate impacts are happening sooner than models predicted. Critical tipping points in the Earth's natural systems are already being breached with the catastrophic effects of wildfires and flooding on an unprecedented scale in 2023. The future of civilisation, and the natural world as we know it, rests on delivering accelerated decarbonisation, and nature restoration at scale.

The Powys Public Services Board has decided to take a strategic approach to this emergency and to play a leadership role across the county in relation to decarbonisation, adaptation and carbon sequestration in a way that maximises the wellbeing benefits for people and restores nature.

The PSB's work will begin with rapid assessments of the carbon footprint of Powys, the risks and vulnerabilities posed by climate breakdown, and the potential for increased drawdown of carbon through restoring nature. Action plans will then be developed, informed by feasibility studies as needed.

The work is being funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Mid Wales Region.

This document sets out a proposed plan for the project. The structure of the SPF application has been used to aid reporting to SPF as well as the PSB Board. The plan will be discussed by the Powys PSB Climate Well-being Working Group in November 2023.

Project Summary

Project Name	Powys Public Service Board Climate Wellbeing Plan	
Project description	<p>Leading urgent society-wide Paris Agreement-aligned climate action is a top priority of Powys Public Service Board (PSB) over the next five years.</p> <p>This project will develop a prioritised deliverable action plan of interventions.</p> <p>The project has three strands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Research and analysis: to understand the carbon footprint of Powys, a Paris Agreement-aligned decarbonisation target, and climate risks and opportunities across sectors and locations. ii. Feasibility studies: to develop a pipeline of funding-ready project proposals aligned with strategic priorities. iii. Capacity building: for sustained Powys PSB society-wide climate action that will maximise well-being and nature restoration in Powys whilst being globally responsible. 	
The SPF investment priority	Supporting Local Businesses	
The SPF intervention	<p>W29: Supporting decarbonisation and improving the natural environment whilst growing the local economy. Taking a whole systems approach to invest in infrastructure to deliver effective decarbonisation across energy, buildings and transport and beyond, in line with our legally binding climate target. Maximising existing or emerging local strengths in low carbon technologies, goods and services to take advantage of the growing global opportunity.</p>	
Proposed start date	01.10.23 (or as soon as notified the revised budget has been confirmed)	
Proposed end date	31.12.24	
SPF Funding	Total: £199,931	
	2023/2024 £20,754	2024/2025 £179,177
Capital Costs	£0	£0
Revenue Costs	£20,754	£179,177
Project Location	Powys wide: towns and communities and rural areas	

Project plans

Three project strands

There are three elements of the project which will result in a prioritised deliverable action plan of interventions, and the sustained capacity of Powys PSB to lead society-wide climate action in Powys.

i. Research and analysis:

- Carbon footprint analysis (including scope 3 embodied emissions and land use)
- Paris Agreement-aligned net zero trajectory analysis
- Land character, condition and sequestration potential assessment
- Climate risk assessment and adaptation analysis

ii. Feasibility studies focusing on the largest anticipated carbon footprint sectors:

- Agriculture project scoping
- Transport project scoping
- Energy generation project scoping
- Buildings retrofit and heating project scoping
- Low carbon food and drink project scoping

Feasibility studies will be prioritised based on potential:

Carbon impact

Well-being impact

Supporting local businesses

Added impact of the public sector working together to instigate or support outcomes at scale.

Examples of feasibility studies might be:

Exploring PSB organisations coordinating or sharing electric vehicle use across Powys to maximise carbon and cost efficiency in a low-density rural setting.

Exploring net zero procurement coordination across PSB organisations to provide certainty for local businesses to invest in skills and technology.

iii. Capacity building:

- Write a Powys Climate Wellbeing Plan setting out a prioritised deliverable action plan of interventions to give strategic direction about type, scale and speed of action needed in Powys.
- Convening Powys PSB Climate work
- Stakeholder and public engagement
- Fundraising
- UN Race to Zero application and reporting
- Creative communications and visuals
- Welsh language facilitation and translation

Who will deliver the activities

The project will be directed and managed by a **Powys PSB Climate Wellbeing Convenor** (2 days a week).

In-house research, will be delivered by a **Powys PSB Climate Wellbeing Officer** (full time), supported by:

- A part time **Powys PSB Climate Wellbeing Administrative Assistant** (2 days a week)
- Part time **Communications Officer or equivalent consultancy** (1 day a fortnight)
- The **Powys PSB Climate Wellbeing Working Group***
- **Advisors**, including technical, academic and community representatives, as needed.

Day to day project, data and events management will be delivered by:

- The **Powys PSB Climate Wellbeing Officer** supported by
- the **Powys PSB Climate Wellbeing Administrative Assistant**, and
- input of **Powys PSB Climate Wellbeing Working Group as needed** – especially to maximise synergies with other work and events

A large portion of the work will be delivered through **consultants** with specialist technical skills not available within the PSB – see below.

*The **Powys PSB Climate Well-being Working Group** includes representatives of the following organisations who have expertise in climate:

- Powys County Council
- Natural Resources Wales
- Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations
- Powys Teaching Health Board
- Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- Dyfed Powys Police
- Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons) National Park Authority

Well-being Working Group members will need to contribute expertise and data to the project.

Planned activities and how they will be delivered

Activity	How it will be delivered		
Research and analysis	Carbon footprint analysis and Paris Agreement-aligned net zero trajectory analysis	In-house gap analysis. Consultancy supported by PSB data.	12 relatively small public engagement events to contribute information and insight from a range of lived experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 events in towns and communities across Powys • Groups with protected characteristics + socio-economic disadvantage: 5 events • Young people: 1 event • Welsh speaking communities: 1 event • Farmers: 1 event
	Land character, condition and sequestration potential assessment.	In-house gap analysis. Consultancy supported by PSB data.	
	Climate risk assessment and adaptation analysis	In-house gap analysis. Mix of in-house using Met-Office tools and consultancy.	
Feasibility studies (depending on need identified)	Agriculture project feasibility study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-house gap analysis and desk research. 	
	Transport project feasibility study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Powys PSB member engagement to identify synergy projects likely to result in most PSB added value. 	
	Energy generation project feasibility study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritisation based on the above criteria. 	
	Buildings retrofit and heating feasibility study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep dive round-table events, and one to one discussion with technical, policy, business and skills experts as needed. 	
	Low carbon food and drink project feasibility study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist consultancy as needed. • In-house phase 1 costed project reports. 	
Capacity building	Write a strategic Powys Climate Wellbeing Plan	In-house writing, drawing on the research and analysis, feasibility studies and stakeholder and public engagement – guided by Race to Zero best practice.	
	Convening Powys PSB Climate work	Convenor employed two days a week to lead the project including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene Powys PSB Climate Group meetings • Present to Powys PSB Board meetings as needed • Communicate with PSB organisations • Manage finances • Manage staff allocated to the work • Build an ecosystem of stakeholders to collaborate with and support the PSB climate work • Direct public engagement • Ensure legal requirements and best practice are followed, and both outputs and legacy are maximised. 	
	Stakeholder and public engagement	In-house events management, communications and information management – building on existing networks and PSB relationships where possible.	
	Fundraising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant applications written or directed by the Convenor. • Liaison with Welsh Government, the Future Generations Commissioner’s office, and Welsh Local Government 	

		Association about developing a Wales-wide package of support for PSB climate work.
	UN Race to Zero application and reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If appropriate, Race to Zero application written by the Convenor, submitted by Powys County Council. • CDP (formerly Carbon Disclosure Project) questionnaire completion by the Convenor, submitted by Powys County Council, if appropriate.
	Creative communications and visuals	Consultancy and in-house communications

Project milestones

Research and analysis

	By end Dec 2023	By end March 2024	By end June 2024	By end Sept 2024	By end Dec 2024
Carbon footprint analysis and Paris Agreement-aligned net zero trajectory analysis	<p>Desk review of existing analysis and data.</p> <p>Methodology established.</p> <p>Consultant appointed and briefed.</p> <p>PSB briefed about data needs.</p>	<p>Data collected.</p> <p>Analysis completed.</p> <p>Report completed.</p>			
Land sequestration potential assessment.			<p>Desk review of existing analysis and data.</p> <p>Methodology established.</p> <p>Consultant appointed and briefed.</p> <p>PSB briefed about data needs.</p>	<p>Data collected.</p> <p>Analysis completed.</p> <p>Report completed.</p>	
Climate risk assessment and adaptation analysis		<p>Desk review of existing analysis and data.</p> <p>Methodology established.</p>	<p>Data collected.</p> <p>Analysis completed.</p>		

Consultant appointed and briefed.	Report completed.
PSB briefed about data needs.	

Feasibility studies

	By end Dec 2023	By end March 2024	By end June 2024	By end Sept 2024	By end Dec 2024
Low carbon food and drink	Partnership working and events administration set up. Potential partners identified. In-house desk research and gap analysis completed.	Methodology established: - Scale of climate impact - Technical feasibility - Cost estimate - Skills and jobs Key stakeholders identified. Feasibility initiation with partner(s).	Deep dive round-table events, and one to one discussion with technical, policy, business and community experts as needed.	Feasibility study completed. In-house stage 1 costed project report completed.	
Transport		Potential partners identified.	Methodology established: - Scale of climate impact - Technical feasibility - Cost estimate - Skills and jobs Key stakeholders identified.	Deep dive round-table events, and one to one discussion with technical, policy, business and community experts as needed.	In-house stage 1 costed project reports completed.
Energy generation		In-house desk research and gap analysis completed.			
Buildings retrofit and heating					
Agriculture			Feasibility initiation with partner(s).		

Capacity building

	By end Dec 2023	By end March 2024	By end June 2024	By end Sept 2024	By end Dec 2024
Write a strategic Powys Climate Wellbeing Plan				In-house Plan writing, drawing on the research and analysis, feasibility studies and stakeholder and public engagement.	
Convening Powys PSB Climate work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene Powys PSB Climate Group meetings • Present to Powys PSB Board meetings as needed • Communicate with PSB organisations • Manage finances 				
	Staff recruited	Staff managed			
Stakeholder and public engagement	Methodology established	In-house events management, communications and information management – building on existing networks and PSB relationships where possible.			
Fundraising	Liaison with Welsh Government, the Future Generations Commissioner’s office, and WLGA about developing a Wales-wide package of support for PSB climate work.				
		Funding proposals/ grant applications written.			
UN Race to Zero application and reporting			Application written. Submitted by PCC, if appropriate.		CDP questionnaire completed. Submitted by PCC, if appropriate.
Creative communications and visuals	Assess communications needs and options for in-house/ consultancy. Recruit/ appoint.	Communications assets produced to support stakeholder and community engagement in the research and feasibility studies.			

Risk Management

Identified risks and mitigation measures

Issue	Risk	Mitigation
Recruitment	<p>Not able to secure appropriate skills.</p> <p>Not able to recruit in the timescale wanted.</p>	<p>Climate Well-being Officer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start recruitment promptly on securing a grant. • Structure role to be attractive to appropriate applicants. • Actively promote through extensive existing specialist networks. <p>Administrative Assistant: secure time of PSB member officer rather than new recruit.</p> <p>Communications Officer: secure time of PSB member officer rather than new recruit.</p>
Commissioning consultants	<p>Not able to secure appropriate expertise in the timescale needed.</p>	<p>Scope consultancy options and start procurement processes early.</p> <p>Draw on extensive existing networks of practice to identify appropriate consultant.</p>
Data from PSB members	<p>Not able to secure timely information from PSB members to contribute to analysis and feasibility.</p>	<p>Minimise demands on PSB members.</p> <p>Relationship management with PSB members, and clear communications about why their input is important, what is needed, in what form, and by when.</p>
Feasibility studies	<p>Unable to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine the scale of climate impact • Determine technical feasibility • Make informed cost estimate • Identify skills and jobs demands of and availability for the projects 	<p>Draw on extensive existing networks of expertise including the Race to Zero and Welsh Local Government Association networks, and specialists in each field.</p> <p>Identify as early as possible which projects or parts of projects will need feasibility studies and prioritise stakeholder relationship building to source the relevant insights.</p> <p>Fundraise for additional Stage 2 feasibility study phases if needed.</p>

Engaging stakeholders	<p>Developing more relationships than we can easily manage.</p> <p>Not reaching the full diversity of people in Powys – especially people facing socio-economic disadvantage and people with protected characteristics.</p>	<p>Develop a stakeholder engagement plan and protocols that include clear communications and expectation management.</p> <p>Proactively plan diversity and inclusion into engagement from the start, and use a networked approach to engage people through existing organisations and communities where appropriate.</p>
Impact assessment	<p>Not able to assess the individual and cumulative impact of projects as a result of our analysis – including on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The local economy. • People facing socio-economic disadvantage. • People with protected characteristics. • Welsh language. 	<p>An academic symposium is one way to draw on the expertise of academics to help with the complexity of analysis needed.</p>

Monitoring and managing project risks

RAG analysis identifying top risks and measures to mitigate.

Deliver update reports and RAG analysis to Powys PSB Board to ensure senior oversight. This will also be scrutinised by the Powys PSB Scrutiny Committee.

Project monitoring and evaluation

UKSPF Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy here: [Evaluation Strategy](#)

Evaluation of activities and of impact on intended beneficiaries

- The Powys PSB Climate Wellbeing Plan that will be developed through this funding will be evaluated through an end of project reports to the PSB Board and the PSB Scrutiny Committee including:
- Project delivery in relation to an agreed project plan
- Project delivery in relation to Powys PSB wellbeing goals

- Project delivery in relation to Wellbeing of Future Generations Act goals and ways of working
- Project delivery in relation to relevant national, regional and local legislation and plans
- Financial management in relation to an agreed budget, and financial management policies
- Staff management in relation to BBNPA employment policies and protocols
- Risk assessment and risk minimisation and management measures and their effectiveness
- Stakeholder and public engagement management
- Coordination of this project with other Powys PSB Wellbeing Plans and regional and local plans
- Membership of UN Race to Zero and compliance with membership requirements including reporting, if appropriate

We aim to engage academics in impact assessment of proposed projects defined during this programme of work.

Annex 1: Background and context

Where the activities will take place

Powys county.

The beneficiaries

People in Powys:

Residents

Businesses

Public sector

Third sector

Visitors

Nature in Powys.

The work would support Powys being globally responsible, in line with the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act imperative, so there would be global people and nature beneficiaries as well.

SPF outputs and outcomes

Investment priority: Supporting Local Businesses.

Outputs: Number of feasibility studies supported

Up to 5 feasibility studies exploring strategically important projects for reaching net zero in Powys.

Outcomes: Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies

- A prioritised deliverable action plan of projects which will include projects directly related to supporting local businesses.
- Other planned outcomes that will be part of the legacy of this project include:
- A high-functioning Powys PSB climate working group capable of leading or catalysing complex climate projects at scale in Powys.

- Funding (through fundraising) for ongoing coordinated Powys Public Service Board climate action across Powys.
- An ecosystem of engaged stakeholders across sectors connected to the Powys PSB climate vision and plan.
- Funding (through developing attractive investment proposals) for a range of decarbonisation projects likely to involve the public, private and third sectors.

Key challenges and opportunities

The Powys PSB Climate Wellbeing Plan proposal was developed in response to the Powys PSB Wellbeing Assessment which itself relates to the evidence base of opportunities and challenges for the Regional Investment Plan.

Key challenges this proposal relates to are:

- **Climate and biodiversity crisis:** There is currently no county-wide plan to respond to the climate emergency. This project will develop the strategic plan needed and will integrate it with existing work on nature recovery.
- **Poverty and cost of living crisis:** Experience from around the world shows that systematic society-wide climate planning is critical to ensure a just transition from high carbon sectors and to prioritise meeting the needs of people who currently face socio-economic or protected characteristic disadvantage.

Key opportunities this proposal relates to are:

- **Green Infrastructure and active travel:** A clear holistic decarbonisation plan for Powys will build on regional work, and the PAVO-facilitated Community Transport Network, to identify and explore local opportunities especially where the PSB working together can add most value.
- **Building on our Town Centre Plans/Place Plans:** Place Plans must be informed by analysis about the decarbonisation pathway and associated economy and society-wide shifts needed in Powys.
- **Harnessing the Potential of volunteers:** There is untapped potential for local people to be a bigger part of the transition to a low-carbon future. A clear plan will create the conditions within which community and individual action can happen at scale and with maximum impact – including scaling up existing networks such as the Powys Volunteer Centre, volunteer centres and Volunteering Wales website.
- **Creating an attractive business environment:** Experience around the world shows that clarity about strategic direction and operating environment is critical for business. Joining the UN's Race to Zero would make Powys a more attractive investment prospect for the low carbon transition.
- **Green skills and decarbonisation:** The project will build a systematic understanding of the low carbon economy needed in Powys and will inform an understanding of the projected local zero carbon goods and services demands of the future that can be met in Powys. It will include identifying the most important low carbon skills needs of the public sector in Powys and the key challenges and opportunities to overcome them.

How the project aligns other local, regional or national strategies and programmes

This work strongly aligns with and supports the delivery of many national regional and local pieces of legislation and strategies summarised below. It will also help deliver the Shared Prosperity Fund itself by providing a locally relevant strategic plan.

National

Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

This proposal strongly aligns with:

7 wellbeing goals:

A prosperous Wales: Developing a path to decarbonisation, sequestration and adaptation that strengthens the local economy in Powys.

A resilient Wales: Identifying projected climate impacts in Powys and developing an action plan to adapt and mitigate.

A healthier Wales: It is anticipated that research will show food and drink consumption are large parts of the carbon footprint of Powys, and there is a strong correlation between lower carbon and healthier diets. This part of the project will synergise strongly with the Powys PSB obesity well-being step.

A more equal Wales: Well-planned climate action set out in this proposal creates the opportunity to address structural economic and other disadvantages in the local society.

A Wales of more cohesive communities: Community climate action will be a particular focus of the research and project development in this work.

A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language: Creative techniques will be used to engage diverse communities and stakeholders in this project. Welsh language will be fully embedded in the conduct of the work.

A globally responsible Wales: The Specialist carbon footprint and net zero trajectory and opportunity analysis will identify Powys' 'fair share' decarbonisation pathway in line with the science and equity principles of the Paris Agreement.

Five ways of working:

Take account of the long term: We know the next decade is the critical timeframe for averting catastrophic climate change. This plan will set Powys on a track to rapid action in the context of a longer-term shift to a more sustainable and fairer county.

Help to prevent problems occurring or getting worse: This project includes a climate risk assessment which is critical to heading off avoidable climate impacts and managing the impacts that cannot be avoided.

Take an integrated approach: This proposal will achieve a holistic understanding of the climate problems and solutions in Powys and will synergise with other important plans including on nature and public health.

Take a collaborative approach: This is a collaborative project drawing together the public sector in Powys to work with local people, communities, the private and third sectors.

Consider and involve people of all ages and diversity: We know that climate impacts are a multiplier of existing disadvantages so the research will seek to identify risks to those populations and opportunities to mitigate them and put them at the centre of a just transition.

Environment (Wales) Act 2016

Under section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 public authorities that exercise their functions in relation to Wales have a duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems.

The action on climate change proposed in this bid is critical to promoting the resilience of ecosystems in Powys in particular:

- Land sequestration potential assessment: will identify the opportunities for nature-based sequestration and mitigation measures in relation to climate and nature.
- Agriculture feasibility study: will identify practical scalable solutions to climate impacts and to maximise sequestration – particularly where the public sector working together can have most impact.
- Climate risk assessment: will identify the top risks to nature in Powys from climate and the priority adaptation measures that need to be adopted.

Net Zero Wales plan for Carbon Budget 2 (2021–2026)

The Net Zero Wales Plan is a key national document detailing Wales' second carbon budget emissions reduction plan, following on from Prosperity for all: A Low Carbon Wales. The document contains 123 policies and proposals across all ministerial portfolios detailing the required collective climate and nature action towards a stronger, fairer and cleaner Wales for future generations.

The Climate Change Committee's Sixth Carbon Budget report was explicit that locally led climate action accounts for around a third of emissions and national climate targets cannot be met without local authority leadership.

This work will support Powys PSB to lead the strategic county-wide climate action needed – contributing to achieving the Net Zero Plan for Wales.

Public Sector Net Zero by 2030

All Powys public sector organisations are committed to reaching net zero in their own operations by 2030. A key challenge in achieving this is the weak low carbon provision of goods and services within Powys.

This work will build the capacity to explore coordinated PSB commissioning and procurement to help unlock private sector investment in skills and technologies needed to deliver public sector goals.

Regional

A vision for Growing Mid Wales

Growing Mid Wales aims to overcome barriers and challenges in region to improve the economic and social prosperity of Mid Wales. One of the key priority themes is energy and decarbonisation and achieving net zero.

This work will complement the regional strategy by identifying and scoping through feasibility studies how Powys PSB can accelerate decarbonisation across the county by working together using resources efficiently.

Regional energy strategy: mid Wales

The regional energy strategy takes a holistic approach to energy planning across mid Wales setting a vision, priorities and objectives to decarbonise heat, power and transport.

This work will complement the regional strategy by identifying and scoping through feasibility studies how Powys PSB can accelerate this energy shift across the county by working together and using resources efficiently.

Mid Wales Joint Transport Plan

This Plan identifies opportunities to increase the mode share of active travel in order to improve the health and wellbeing and to improve road safety.

The Powys PSB Climate Wellbeing Plan will build on this work by analysing the contribution transport must make to achieve Powys' Paris-aligned decarbonisation goal, and by identifying and describing additional transport projects needed to meet the decarbonisation goal.

Mid Wales Area Statement theme: Climate Change (NRW)

The PSB Climate Wellbeing Plan will deliver climate action in a way that maximises nature restoration.

Powys

Powys Public Service Board Wellbeing Goals

Action on climate is essential to achieve all three wellbeing objectives of the Powys Public Service Board:

Objective 1: People in Powys will live happy, healthy, and safe lives: People in Powys will be exposed to increasing climate risk which needs to be identified and mitigated to keep them safe.

Objective 2: Powys is a county of sustainable places and communities: People in Powys consume significantly more than our fair share of global resources (including carbon), and the local natural world that we all depend upon is in steep decline. This plan will provide a vision and pathway to sustainable communities in Powys.

Objective 3: An increasingly effective Public Service for the people of Powys: People in Powys require and rely upon climate literate public services and planning decisions for current and future generations. This work will provide crucial missing evidence and analysis to inform public service decision-making.

Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales and the Powys Nature Recovery Action Plans and Powys Local Biodiversity Action Plan

The land character, condition and sequestration potential assessment will be a vital addition to existing nature work in Powys. It will enable practical spatial understanding to enable synergies to be maximised and trade-offs minimised and managed between nature recovery, carbon sequestration and food production.

PSB member organisations

Powys County Council: Climate and Nature emergencies declaration

The Powys PSB Climate Wellbeing Plan will provide the framework for a Powys-wide response to the emergencies in an urgent and systematic way.

Powys County Council Corporate Plan: Stronger, Fairer, Greener

The Powys PSB Climate Wellbeing Plan will help to deliver the vision, ambitions, and aims of Powys County Councils Corporate Plan especially:

Stronger: Setting Powys County on a strategic planned pathway to a resilient low carbon economy.

Fairer: Setting Powys County on a strategic planned pathway to secure a just transition to a fairer low carbon future in which people who have been disadvantaged economically or because of protected characteristics are involved and prioritised.

Greener: Setting Powys County on a strategic planned pathway to play its globally responsible role in cutting emissions. Only this systematic approach can ensure that climate action also maximises nature recovery.

NRW Corporate Plan: Nature and People Thriving Together

The Powys PSB Climate Wellbeing Plan will help to deliver NRW's corporate vision by focusing collective actions in Powys towards: **Nature's recovery, Resilience to climate change, Minimising pollution.**

Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons) National Park Management Plan: Climate Mission

The Powys PSB Climate Wellbeing Plan is critical to the National Park Management Plan Climate Mission, to decarbonise the National Park by 2035, being achieved. With a large geographical overlap between the National Park and the county of Powys, many of the interventions needed including on transport and energy are best achieved at a county scale.

Steps to avoid duplication

The Powys PSB Climate Wellbeing Plan proposal has been developed with extensive input from PSB member organisations, including people with experience of previous county, regional and PSB work – a particular focus has been on ensuring that it is not duplicating previous or ongoing work. For example, this work will build on and not duplicate:

- Powys Carbon Positive Strategy (2020), by AECOM (unpublished, and does not include Scope 3 or land use emissions)
- The Powys PSB Wellbeing [Assessment](#) (2022)
- The Mid-Wales Energy [Strategy](#)
- Mid-Wales Joint Local Transport [Plan](#)
- PSB Net Zero by 2030 operational decarbonisation plans

The project will draw on national data sets and analysis – following the ‘do it once for Wales’ approach.

The project will draw on international best practice via the UN-backed Race to Zero and Welsh Local Government Association and others to ensure that research and analysis builds on rather than duplicates other relevant work.

Specifically, before prioritising feasibility studies we will check across SPF-funded and PSB organisations’ projects, and wider, to ensure no duplication and to maximise any synergies where relevant.

All public sector organisations are on a path to meet the Welsh Government Net Zero by 2030 goal in relation to their own organisation’s operations. This project is in addition to that work because it focuses on society-wide climate action.

The structure of the project plan includes **gap analysis before developing or commissioning new research or feasibility studies**.

The need and demand for the project

The need for the project

The latest climate science shows that extremely urgent action is needed across the globe to limit breaches of critical tipping points in the Earth’s natural systems that are necessary to support human civilisation – this really is an emergency situation.

The risks of reaching 1.5 degrees warming are greater, and the impacts are happening sooner, than previously predicted.

The UK Government’s advisors, the Climate Change Committee, [found](#) that “more than half of the emissions cuts needed rely on people and businesses taking up low-carbon solutions – decisions that are made at a local and individual level. Many of these decisions depend on having supporting infrastructure and systems in place. Local authorities have powers or influence over roughly a third of emissions in their local areas”. It is therefore not possible for Wales to meet national climate goals without local authorities and the public sector leading ‘territorial’ society-wide climate action.

Powys does not currently have a coherent society-wide climate action plan.

Public demand for climate action

According to [YouGov](#), more than two-thirds of the public (67%) are worried about climate change and its effects, 62% think it would only be possible avert the worst impacts of climate change with a “drastic change” to the steps already being taken, and around half (51%) believe individuals can make a big difference in the fight to save the planet.

A public consultation for the 2023 Powys PSB Wellbeing Plan supported climate action being a priority.

Stakeholder support

This bid is written on behalf, and with the active involvement of, the Powys Public Service Board (via the Climate Well-being Working Group).

The Climate Wellbeing Plan proposal that this bid is based on was also developed with input from all PSB members.

The Powys PSB Board has approved and encouraged a bid to SPF to fund the work.

Equalities impacts and measures

The public and stakeholder engagement strand of work enables us to consider and plan for engagement across the demographic diversity of Powys, and to particularly focus engagement with under-represented groups who face socio-economic disadvantage or who have protected characteristics (or both).

We will be using a networked engagement approach drawing on existing groups and networks in society to reach the broadest range of people in a way that they are already familiar with, as well as reaching out to target individuals.

We will engage academics and relevant third sector representatives as well as people with lived experience to contribute to impact assessments of the proposed overall plan and feasibility projects including the particular impact on these groups.

We have included printing and physical events organising in the budget to make sure we can engage people in creative engaging ways that go beyond online consultation which often only reaches limited demographics.

Effects on the Welsh language

Positive: Welsh language will be used throughout the project including public and stakeholder engagement.

The project will comply with the requirements of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and adhere to the principles set out in the Council's Welsh Language Standards.

The shift to a low carbon and more nature-based economy could mean a different balance of jobs in Powys, and both employment and education have a strong impact on the use of the Welsh language. This project seeks to develop a planned path to that new future providing the opportunity to plan for the use and celebration of the Welsh language.

How the project supports the Government's net zero ambitions and wider environmental considerations

This project will set Powys on a course to deliver climate action in line with the UK and Welsh Government's climate strategies and plans. There is currently no plan in Powys to achieve this.

Systematic analysis of the problems, and clear prioritised and costed proposals for action, are essential to achieve the scale and speed of change needed, and to do it in a way that plans to meet people's wellbeing needs and to protect and restore nature.

The UK Government's climate advisors, the Climate Change Committee, found that coordinated local climate action involving leadership by local authorities is critical to achieving UK and therefore Welsh climate goals – see above.

The plan will be developed in line with the UN Race to Zero best practice which is the global gold standard framework for local authority and public sector climate action.

[Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/net-zero-strategy-build-back-greener)
[Welsh Government Net Zero strategic plan | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales/government/net-zero-strategy)

How people in rural areas can access the project activities

The public and stakeholder engagement strand of work enables us to consider and plan for engagement across the geographical and demographic diversity of Powys.

We will be using a networked engagement approach drawing on existing groups and networks in society to reach the broadest range of people in a way that they are already familiar with, as well as reaching out to target individuals.

There will be in-person events in four towns/ villages across the geographical span of Powys to limit travel. A specific farmer engagement session is planned. Engagement events will be a mix of in-person and online to maximise access.

We have included printing and physical events organising in the budget to make sure we can engage people in rural locations.

Exit Strategy

All activities described are planned to be delivered within the timescale of the SPF funding.

The SPF funding will unlock the ability to raise further funding for sustained work including:
Direct project delivery at scale (re the pipeline of costed projects this work will describe and recommend).
Longer term funding for a Powys PSB climate wellbeing secretariat including ongoing convening capacity.
Further feasibility studies.

The work planned in this project would enable Powys County Council (on behalf of the PSB) to apply to be a member of the UN's Race to Zero initiative, if appropriate, which is the global gold-standard framework for climate action. Being part of this framework and network will make Powys a more attractive investment prospect for future funding of climate action.

Annex 2: Budget and resources

How the project budget was estimated

Cost field	How estimated	Cost effectiveness
Salary	Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority salary scale	BBNPA has a low officer salary scale so the Convenor role is at a cost-effective pay grade for the expertise that will be contributed.
Consultancy	<p>Based on the costs of comparable projects with some adjustments made for scale and duration as needed.</p> <p>Bannau Brycheiniog National Park has recently commissioned and had successful projects delivered on the two largest areas of consultancy spend proposed: Specialist carbon footprint and net zero trajectory and opportunity analysis (including scope 3 emissions) Land character, condition and sequestration potential assessment. We also have recent relevant expertise in working with consultants on other areas including transport and energy. We therefore have a good understanding of the potential consultancies and competitive costs.</p>	<p>Flexibility in the consultancy budget between different strands of work means that spending can be optimised where it will have most impact.</p> <p>Because public and stakeholder engagement will be needed across several of the areas of research this proposal includes coordinated public, community and stakeholder engagement to minimise consultancy costs and maximise synergies.</p>
Operational costs	Costs of comparable projects.	Bannau Brycheiniog National Park has recently undertaken relevant comparable work that insight will support cost-effective decision-making.

Project resources

Convenor: 2 days a week
Climate officer: full time

Admin assistant: 2 days a week
Communications officer: one day a fortnight

PSB Climate Wellbeing Officer Group: Time contributions tbd depending on the project.

Specialist consultants
Specialist advisors, including academics
Stakeholders

Governance arrangements to manage the funding and the activities

Delegated authority to manage the project will be from Powys PSB to the Powys PSB Climate Wellbeing Plan Convenor. The Convenor is accountable to the Powys PSB Board. Powys PSB has a Scrutiny Committee to oversee the effectiveness of the PSB.

Progress will be reported to and reviewed by the PSB Board including:

- Project delivery in relation to an agreed project plan
- Project delivery in relation to Powys PSB wellbeing goals
- Project delivery in relation to Wellbeing of Future Generations Act goals and ways of working
- Project delivery in relation to relevant national, regional and local legislation and plans
- Financial management in relation to an agreed budget, and financial management policies
- Staff management
- Risk assessment and risk minimisation and management measures in place
- Stakeholder and public engagement management
- Coordination of this project with other Powys PSB Wellbeing Plans and regional and local plans
- Membership of UN Race to Zero and compliance with membership requirements including reporting, if appropriate

The Powys PSB Climate Wellbeing Plan Convenor is employed by BBNPA. Financial management will follow BBNPA standard policies including:

- Financial audit
- Counter fraud, corruption
- Anti-bribery
- Conflict of interests
- Cyber security
- Data management

Code of conduct and standards for ethical and professional behaviour will follow BBNPA policy.

Procurement

Procurement will comply with the UK Public Contract Regulations UK Shared Prosperity Fund: procurement (8) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) and BBNPA's policies.

Open to tender process through Sell2Wales.

Annex 3: SPF criteria

Interventions

W29: Supporting decarbonisation and improving the natural environment whilst growing the local economy. Taking a whole systems approach to invest in infrastructure to deliver effective decarbonisation across energy, buildings and transport and beyond, in line with our legally binding climate target. Maximising existing or emerging local strengths in low carbon technologies, goods and services to take advantage of the growing global opportunity.

Investment Priority: Supporting Local Business

Number of feasibility studies supported	Up to 5 feasibility studies exploring strategically important projects for reaching net zero in Powys.	<p>Feasibility studies are planned in relation to the following areas depending on need identified in research and analysis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture Transport Energy generation Buildings retrofit and heating Low carbon food and drink <p>The feasibility studies will explore project ideas in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The scale of climate impact Technical feasibility Cost and income estimates Skills and jobs demands and availability Opportunities for the PSB working together to maximise impact <p>Then the project concept and how to communicate it will be refined to make it attractive to relevant stakeholders – particularly local businesses.</p>
Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies	Number tbd	This project will develop a prioritised deliverable action plan of projects that will enable new investment to be attracted and prioritised where it will have most impact. Some of the projects will arise from feasibility studies funded by this bid.

Further information

Contact Liz Hutchins, Convenor, Powys PSB Climate Well-being Working Group

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