

# Powys PSB Board Climate Emergency Step update

Liz Hutchins, Powys PSB Climate Working Group Convenor  
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## Summary

The aim of the Powys PSB Climate Emergency step is to drive a step-change in the scale and pace of action.

We have made good progress since the last PSB Board meeting and are on track with our project to develop a Powys-wide climate action plan, including:

- Finalising the SPF Funding Agreement
- Recruitment
- Project initiation
- Methodology assessment
- Alignment with Mid-Wales
- Alignment with Wales-wide Race to Zero

The October Board meeting requested information about the work PSB members are undertaking in relation to their own operations and services. This information is summarised below.

## Aims

**The aim of Powys PSB's Climate Emergency Step is to drive action.** The research and analysis will result in a pipeline of projects that are credible and attractive to funders. We are working to model how a PSB can align climate action with the Well-being of Future Generation Act *Globally Responsible Wales* goal, whilst maximising the well-being of people and nature. We are setting Powys on a path to:

- Decarbonise in line with our fair share of global emissions
- Draw carbon down from the atmosphere at very large scale by restoring nature
- Enable people and nature to be more resilient to the climate impacts that cannot be avoided.

## Powys-wide climate action planning

### SPF Funding

We have been working towards signing a Funding Agreement with the Shared Prosperity Fund for the £199,931 grant. There have been delays due to the complexity of the project and staff illnesses. We expect the agreement to be finalised imminently and before the PSB Board meeting.

We have been briefed about the terms of the grant and have incorporated the reporting requirements into our planning.

### Project initiation

We had a well-attended Climate Working Group workshop on 9 November to set up the project. The discussion included:

- Aims and objectives
- Values
- Ways of working
- SWOT analysis
- Stakeholder mapping

A write-up of the session is [here](#).

### Recruitment

Two roles, paid for by the SPF grant, have been advertised: Climate Policy Officer, Climate Project Coordinator.

At the time of writing shortlisting has been completed with several strong candidates on paper. Interviews are scheduled for 1 and 4 December. The posts are due to commence on 1 February.

### Methodology

We have explored a wide range of methodologies available for us to draw on for the main elements of research relating to:

#### Decarbonisation

- The carbon footprint of Powys
- A Powys science-based (fair share) target to reach net zero

- A Decarbonisation Action Plan for Powys to reach net zero

#### Sequestration

- Carbon sequestration opportunities for Powys
- A Powys Sequestration Action Plan

#### Adaptation

- A climate risk and vulnerability assessment (for people and nature)
- A Powys Climate Resilience Action Plan (for people and nature)

The PSB Climate Working Group met with NRW colleagues to hear about a new Climate Risk Framework, and to give feedback. This is very timely and addresses exactly the PSB's needs: to assess the risk to Powys as a whole not just to public services, and to address the climate risk to nature as well as people.

We are seeking 'critical friend' advice from a range of technical experts to make sure we are aware of all the tools and support available and are using the most appropriate ones for this project.

Methodology in relation to public stakeholder engagement is still being explored in coordination with the Data and Insights Step.

### Alignment with Mid Wales

The previous PSB Board considered the merits of this climate analysis and action planning being conducted at a region-wide level. This was put to Mid Wales CJC CEO Eifion Evans. The feedback was that Eifion acknowledges the importance of identifying all cross-cutting themes in time, including climate strategy. However, the CJC is currently in process of establishing principles and working practises and it is too early to include this at this stage. It is likely the CJC will consider it in future.

Powys PSB PSB Climate Working Group has been acting to ensure there is effective Mid Wales-wide communication in the interim:

- Gillian Perry, NRW, who chairs the Ceredigion PSB Climate Working Group attended the 9 November workshop.
- Gemma Delafield, who leads the Mid Wales energy strategy and Local Area Energy Planning is invited to Powys PSB Climate Working Group meetings.

### Alignment with Wales-wide Race to Zero

Powys PSB Well-Being Plan says "Powys PSB will work towards joining the United Nations-backed Race to Zero. This global initiative supports public bodies and organisations to take action aligned to the Paris Agreement, and to build a fairer, more resilient future. Powys PSB's work will be shaped by the five membership criteria of Race to Zero."

- The [Partnership Council for Wales](#), which brings together Welsh Government Ministers with leaders from the 22 local authorities, met on 8 November. Race to Zero was on the agenda and Climate Minister Julie James said she supports members joining the leadership initiative. Future Generations Commissioner was represented at the meeting and Derek Walker's support for Race to Zero was expressed. He wants to see how it can be used as a framework for Public Services Boards and Corporate Joint Committees.
- The Future Generations Commission's Cymru Can strategy was published in November including a climate and nature [mission](#): 'We will challenge and advise public bodies to deliver against their climate targets and forge a pathway to a net zero public sector by 2030; to be leaders in the reduction of territorial emissions'.

## Operational climate action by Powys PSB members

Powys PSB members have shared the work they are doing in relation to their own operations and services. A summary is below. The full detail is in [this](#) Excel spreadsheet.

Some next steps have been identified. It is likely that these will be picked up in the next financial year because the focus needs to be on the SPF-funded project for now.

Area of action	Work undertaken by PSB members	Next steps
<b>Decarbonisation</b> of operations and services	<p>All PSB members are working towards the public sector net zero by 2030 goal.</p> <p>Overall substantial progress has been made in public sector decarbonisation but the sector is not on track for 2030.</p> <p>There are sector-specific programmes supporting decarbonisation in health, police and fire and rescue, and national parks. WLGA has an active programme to support local authorities decarbonise.</p>	<p>The 9 November workshop opened a conversation about how Powys-wide climate action can assist individual PSB organisations in their operational and service-level climate action.</p> <p>There is a big net-zero skills and capacity gap in the local economy to support the transition needed.</p> <p>We will be exploring the main barriers and how collective efforts can help overcome them.</p>
<b>Carbon sequestration</b> (drawing down carbon from the atmosphere) of land owned by the PSB member	<p>NRW has a sequestration plan. BBNPA is working with other national parks to model sequestration opportunities in each national park including on land owned by the national park. NRW and BBNPA are undertaking significant peatland restoration.</p> <p>PCC intends to consider sequestration as part of the wider Powys Nature Partnership's Nature Recovery Action Plan.</p>	<p>We will be looking for opportunities for the public sector to act at scale in a way that can help drive the systems changes needed, for example towards sustainable food production and consumption.</p>
<b>Adaptation and resilience</b> in relation to unavoidable climate impacts	<p>NRW is the only organisation with a baseline understanding of risk and is close to finalising a plan. PCC and BBNPA intend to develop an action plan in the next year.</p>	
<b>Public engagement</b> about the climate emergency	<p>There is very uneven and as yet uncoordinated public engagement about the climate emergency across PSB members. The PSB Climate Working Group is working with colleagues leading the Data and Insight step in relation to public engagement.</p>	<p>Recommendations for joint initiatives may be brought to future PSB Board meetings.</p>
<b>Carbon literacy</b> training for PSB member employees	<p>There is also significant carbon literacy knowledge and skills gap within PSB member organisations.</p> <p>NRW recently worked with Cynnal Cymru on tailored carbon literacy training for their staff.</p>	<p>The PSB Climate Working Group will explore developing a carbon literacy recommendation for the PSB Board to consider.</p>