



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Welsh Air Quality Forum Annual Seminar – 22nd October

Welsh Government Update

Clean Air Plan for Wales: Healthy Air, Healthy Wales

- Clean Air Plan consultation: 10th December 2019 – 10th March 2020.
- Three consultation events held in Aberystwyth, Wrexham and Cardiff.
- The final version of the plan was published on 6th August 2020
- On the same day, we also published ‘Provisional Analysis of Welsh Air Quality Monitoring Data – Impacts of Covid-19’.



Clean Air Plan for Wales: Healthy Air, Healthy Wales

- The plan sets out a 10-year pathway to achieving cleaner air.
- We have structured the plan around four core themes:



Clean Air Plan for Wales: Healthy Air, Healthy Wales

People

Protecting the health and well-being of current and future generations

This section of the plan highlights our current and planned actions to improve air quality through:

- New evidence-based, health-focused targets for fine particulate matter (which take account of stringent WHO guidelines values) and improving national air pollution monitoring and modelling capabilities.
- A Clean Air Act for Wales, to create a fit for purpose legislative and regulatory air quality management framework. This will include the LAQM regime and emissions from domestic burning activities.
- Delivering enhanced behavioural change communications to support improved air quality.

People

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Clean Air Plan for Wales: Healthy Air, Healthy Wales

Environment

Taking action to support our natural environment, ecosystems and biodiversity

Improvements in air quality benefit the environment. This section of the plan highlights actions to improve air quality through:

- Establishing baseline indicators and data sets for air quality and biodiversity.
- Strengthening the control of emissions in the agriculture sector.
- Improving the resilience of biodiversity and ecosystem health, to improve resilience to air pollution and climate change impacts through tree planting and other nature based solutions.

Environmental

Taking action to support our natural environment, ecosystems and biodiversity.



Clean Air Plan for Wales: Healthy Air, Healthy Wales

Prosperity
Working with industry to
reduce emissions,
supporting a cleaner and more
prosperous Wales.



Prosperity

Working with industry to reduce emissions,
supporting a cleaner and more prosperous Wales

Reductions in emission from industry will be achieved through:

- Working with key sectors to secure further emission reductions.
- Ensuring there is a clear process for determining Best Available Techniques (BAT) for addressing emissions industry.
- Promoting a shift to ultra-low emissions vehicles for waste collection. We are also working on a proposal for all new cars and light goods vehicles in the Public Sector fleet to be ultra-low emission by 2025 and where practicably possible, all heavy goods to be ultra-low emission by 2030.



Place
Creating sustainable places
through better planning,
infrastructure and
transport.

Clean Air Plan for Wales: Healthy Air, Healthy Wales

Place

Creating sustainable places through better planning, infrastructure and transport

Sustainable infrastructure, planning and travel choices will improve air quality. This section will achieve this through:

- New planning guidance which enables air quality, noise and soundscape improvements.
- Investment into active travel infrastructure.
- Promoting walking and cycling to school through our Active Journeys Programme in collaboration with over 400 schools.
- Improved rail services which will bring about a 65% increase in capacity, reduce emissions and greatly increase the attractiveness of rail travel.

- Tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations in Wales.
- Working with UK Government, Local Authorities, the energy sector and business to plan for and implement the roll out of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure across Wales.
- Achieving air quality improvements as well as decarbonisation of the fleet through our bold aim for a zero tailpipe exhaust emission taxi and bus fleet by 2028.

Clean Air Plan for Wales: Healthy Air, Healthy Wales

The Well-being of Future Generations Act describes five ways of working toward achieving sustainable development.

Five ways of working

The Plan aims to deliver in line with the Act's five ways of working by:



Prevention

Reducing the impacts of air pollution on public health and the natural environment, this will be achieved by the adoption of preventative approaches and taking action early to head off new problems before they arise.



Long term

Taking decisions and acting sustainably to achieve the progressive reduction of emissions and pollutants in the air to ensure long-term impact.



Collaboration

Collaboration with relevant departments within the Welsh Government, UK Government, national partners and at a local level to ensure actions are implemented and well-being objectives are met.



Integration

Improving the integration of air quality management processes with a range of policy areas and sectors.



Involvement

Involving partners and stakeholder representatives throughout the delivery of this plan.

Clean Air Plan for Wales: Healthy Air, Healthy Wales

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- **A Clean Air Act for Wales, to create a fit for purpose legislative and regulatory air quality management framework. This will include the LAQM regime and emissions from domestic burning activities.**
- **Delivering enhanced behavioural change communications to support improved air quality.**

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UN International Day of Clean Air for blue skies



International Day
of Clean Air
for blue skies

- The UN Nations General Assembly adopted the resolution to hold an International Day of Clean Air for blue skies on 19th December 2019.
- The first UN International Day of Clean Air for blue skies was held on 7th September 2020.
- Welsh Government collaborated with Environment Platform Wales to host a webinar in support of the day with panellists Professor Lorraine Whitmarsh and Professor Enda Hayes.
- The webinar can be viewed at:
<https://epwales.org.uk/events/blue-sky-thinking-how-can-wales-achieve-cleaner-air/>

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Clean Air Day Wales 2020



- Focus on 'cleanest clean air day yet'.
- Social media campaign.
- Sector specific resources were hosted on the Clean Air Day Wales website.
- We hosted a webinar with Environment Platform Wales. Webinar recording can be viewed at: <https://epwales.org.uk/events/upcoming-events/webinar-building-back-better/>



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Clean Air Day Wales 2020



Thank you for supporting!



Clean Air White Paper Overview

- The First Minister committed to the development of a Clean Air Act for Wales in his manifesto.
- The aim of the Act is to introduce a fit for purpose air quality legislative and regulatory framework that reduces the burden of poor air quality on health, biodiversity and the environment.
- The Act will enhance existing legislation and bring forward new legislation to deliver air quality improvements in Wales.
- Clean Air Plan commitment to publish and consult on a White Paper by the end of this Senedd term.
- Delivery of the Act.

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What is a White Paper?

- A document which sets out the intent for upcoming legislation.
- White Paper public consultation enables stakeholders and the public to share their views and shape the content of the legislation.

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Clean Air White Paper content

- Air quality target powers;
- a fit for purpose legislative and regulatory air quality management framework;
- consolidated powers to implement Clean Air Zones / Low Emission Zones;
- new powers for smoke control linked to tackling air pollution from domestic burning (PM2.5);
- strengthened powers to address vehicle idling;
- a duty on public bodies to adhere to guidance encouraging different ways of working and actions to reduce air pollution and support decarbonisation; and
- a requirement for a Clean Air Plan / Strategy to be published / reviewed every 5 years.

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Time frame for delivery

- Publish the White Paper in January 2021
- Consultation open January – March 2021
- Analysis of responses April – June 2021
- Bill envisaged to be laid by end of 2022

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