

Children's Commissioner for Wales: Plan to meet the Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems duty

Section 6 of Part 1 of the Environment (Wales) Act puts in place a Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty for public authorities. Public authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity, and in so doing, promote the resilience of ecosystems.

Biodiversity underpins ecosystem resilience and the sustainable management of natural resources, the S6 duty aims to ensure that biodiversity becomes an integral part of the decisions and actions that public authorities take in relation to Wales.

This document lays out the Commissioner's plan for 2019-22 and is structured according to our performance framework, which covers 4 areas: Children and Young people; CCFW People (staff); organisational processes; financial stability and value for money.

In 2017 we invited a school eco-committee (Glyncollen primary school) to audit our office's practices in relation to environmental actions. They produced 5 recommendations including more shared lifts, biodegradable art materials for events, use of recycled paper, low energy light bulbs and more recycling. While we have made progress with all of their recommendations, the only one we have fully completed is to change to recycled printing and photocopying paper. We continue to work on the other recommendations and they are included below.

Progress against this plan will be reported in our annual reports from 2020 onwards.

Children and young people

	Person responsible	timescale
Work in partnership with eco-schools Cymru to deliver our recycling and reuse of school uniforms, prom dresses and other clothes Revolve project	Head of Practice	March 2020
Continue to support children to be listened to by local and national governments when expressing their views on climate change, reducing plastic waste and recycling.	Head of Practice	ongoing
Develop activism toolkit for schools.	Head of Policy and Public Affairs	March 2020
Support the Youth parliament committee working on reducing plastic waste and climate change	Head of Policy and Public Affairs	Feb 2021
Publish a case study as part of our Children's Rights Approach series that demonstrates the links between biodiversity and children's human rights.	Head of Policy and Public Affairs	December 2020

CCFW people and accommodation

	Person responsible	timescale
Ensure all staff adhere to use of public transport while on business in line with CCfW policies (except where exempted for health, disability or caring responsibilities)	Head of Finance	ongoing
Continue to encourage lift sharing in the office by setting up car pool lists for all events and training days	Head of Practice	ongoing
Ensure that new staff receive information about our green car and bike purchase support scheme during induction	Head of Human Resources	ongoing
Explore and if appropriate invest in measures to encourage diversity outside our office, including potentially planters with bee-friendly plants, nesting boxes and/or 'bug homes'. The woodland to the NNE of Oystermouth House building is a key habitat for rare moss and lichen. Any siting of such measures will need careful consideration.	Head of Finance	December 2020
Ensure that as much office waste is recycled as possible	Head of Performance and Communications	March 2020
Ensure that we continue to use recycled paper for all printing and photocopying and ensure that printed reports similarly are 100% recycled, when printing deemed necessary.	Head of Performance and Communications	March 2020 and ongoing
Include sustainability as a key component of the ongoing accommodation project	Head of Practice	March 2020
Accommodation project team to audit lighting in the office to ensure that low-energy bulbs being used throughout.	Head of Practice	June 2020
Accommodation project team to review use of water coolers in office (currently refilled from a local spring source).	Head of Practice	June 2020
Accommodation project team to audit use of lighting within and external to building at night time.	Head of Practice	June 2020

Light pollution is a key driver for insect decline, plus potential energy wastage.		
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Organisational processes

	Person responsible	timescale
Include biodiversity as an essential consideration in our Procurement Policy	Head of Finance	March 2020
Include biodiversity duty in our performance evaluation framework	Head of Performance and Communications	March 2020 and annually
Review progress on this plan on a 6-monthly basis in management team	Commissioner	Ongoing. June 2020/Dec 2020/June 2021/Dec 2021/June 2022
Report on our adherence to the biodiversity duty in our annual report	Head of Performance and Communications	October each year.

Financial stability and value for money

	Person responsible	timescale
Ensure that our Events Guide includes accessibility from public transport as an essential criterion when booking venues for events that we organise	Project Sponsors	March 2020
Ensure that recycled, organic or biodegradable materials actively considered when ordering office supplies including cleaning materials, stationery, 'freebies' and art materials. (Research availability of 'freebies' that encourage biodiversity such as flower seeds or ideas packs for biodiversity such as building bug homes.)	Head of Performance and Communications	Initially by March 2020 and then ongoing
Review our bank's policies on ethical and sustainable investments and consider a switch if justified following review	Head of Finance	December 2020
Research sustainability of investment plans by pension providers and explore options depending on results.	Head of Policy and Public Affairs	March 2020

Continue to seek 100% renewable sources when conducting annual review of electricity supplier	Head of Finance	Ongoing
Carbon off setting for flights taken for business purposes as part of Finance policies. Flights to be taken only when other forms of transport are not available/practical.	Head of Finance	Ongoing