

Beyond Recycling: making the circular economy in Wales a reality

Driving action on the Well-being of Future Generations Act goals

7: A Globally Responsible Wales

A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.

The strategy can help to achieve this by: Taking full responsibility for our waste, ensuring it does not become a problem elsewhere and driving progress towards the Welsh Government's one planet resource use objective. Reducing consumption also reduces the exploitation of the world's natural resources and moving to a circular economy is vital in responding to the global climate emergency.

Key Actions:

- Become the world leader in recycling
- Take full responsibility for our waste
- Make more efficient use of our food

1: A Prosperous Wales

An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.

The strategy can help to achieve this by: Driving our progress to a circular economy, which is a key part of the transition to an innovative, low carbon economy. This also creates opportunities for circular economy jobs, skills and qualification development. Providing a more circular and reliable supply of affordable materials for businesses and improving resource efficiency. Helping to address the climate emergency by reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with making products.

Contributing Actions:

- Create the conditions for businesses to seize the opportunities
- Enable communities to take collective action
- Become the world leader in recycling

6: A Wales of Vibrant Culture and thriving Welsh language

A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.

The strategy can help to achieve this by: Further growth in recycling which has become a part of our culture. Supporting initiatives like repair cafes that bring communities together and encouraging people to participate in their language.

Contributing Actions:

- Enable communities to take collective action



2: A Resilient Wales

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.

The strategy can help to achieve this by: Reducing the consumption of products and the raw materials associated with making them, thereby reducing ecosystem damage and pollution, tackling a key issue impacting global biodiversity and minimizing the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources.

Contributing Actions:

- Phase out single use plastic
- Prioritise the purchasing of wood, remanufactured and recycled content

5: A Wales of Cohesive Communities

Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.

The strategy can help to achieve this by: Reducing the amount of single use plastic which contributes substantially to litter. Engaging and connecting communities through the further development of circular and resource efficient community initiatives such as repair cafes and ensuring the infrastructure is in place to help our communities to re-use and recycle.

Contributing Actions:

- Enable communities to take collective action
- Phase out single use plastic
- Make more efficient use of our food

4: A More Equal Wales

A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances.

The strategy can help to achieve this by: Increasing training and job opportunities for all. Creating opportunities for communities to develop skills through initiatives such as repair cafes. Ensuring uniform waste management services for all.

Contributing Actions:

- Take full responsibility for our waste
- Enable communities to take collective action

3: A Healthier Wales

A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.

The strategy can help to achieve this by: Improving well-being by increasing community engagement through initiatives such as repair cafes. Making more efficient use of our food and reducing poverty related health problems through food redistribution initiatives such as FareShare Cymru. Modernising waste collection to reduce harmful transport emissions and improve air quality.

Contributing Actions:

- Make more efficient use of our food
- Invest in clean technology for materials collection