

# Climate Action Plans for Councils - Wales

#ClimateActionCymru #CouncilClimateAction

#NetZeroHeros

## Overview

2019 saw the [majority of councils in Wales declare a Climate Emergency](#) in a new wave of environmental awareness. 2020 was going to be the year of climate action but the coronavirus pandemic has understandably meant that councils have needed to focus their attentions on public health matters.

But although we remain in a pandemic situation, things are now moving again, and the Welsh Government have asked all Councils in Wales to submit net zero action plans by March 2021. Councils are required to plan how their buildings and operations will be carbon neutral by 2030.

Councils may call these climate action plans by a different name such as an energy plan, a net zero action plan, one planet strategy or decarbonisation plan, and only have to cover Council operations and buildings – not the whole council area.

## The campaign

Local Authorities (LAs) will be at different stages with developing their plans. The aim of our campaign is to ensure that the plans are fit for purpose and ambitious enough to get to net zero carbon by 2030. And crucially we want LAs to have action plans for the whole area, not just council buildings and operations. This is what we've outlined in our [Climate Action Plan for Councils](#).

We have webinar planned for 24<sup>th</sup> November 7 – 8.30pm to explain the info in this document and decide next steps.

## What you can do:

### The Short Version

1. [Attend the Webinar on 24th November](#)
2. Find out if your council has a Climate Action Plan
3. Build a relationship with your council and your community
4. Show them our Climate Action Plan for Councils – a [50 point plan to tackle the climate and nature emergencies and coronavirus recovery](#)

5. Convince your council to adopt the points in the plan for the whole council area not just their own operations
6. Decide if their plan is good enough by using our checklist ( will be ready at the end November)
7. Celebrate the good stuff!

## The Long version

### Stage 1: Information Gathering

We need to find out what stage your LA is at so we have an overall picture of the situation across Wales, and what kind of support and information you might need.

You can send us the answers by [filling in this form](#)

### Stage 2: Contacting your councils

Don't worry if you do not have an existing relationship with someone in your council. You can always start with your local ward councillor, and you can find out who they are and how to get in contact with them using the [Write to Them](#) website.

Arrange to meet with your ward councillor or your usual point of contact, if you have one, to chat about what they know about the Climate Action Plans. Record any information and how you can sign up to be kept informed of the plans. Then let us know.

#### How we can support you?

Download our [template letter](#) to request a meeting

We offer a range of support and guidance from written how to guides like '[Understanding how your Council works](#)' to online webinars. There will be an opportunity to meet with other groups in Wales working on this campaign, so you can share ideas, plans and knowledge.

You can also use the [Take Climate Action Slack](#) space to contact groups in Wales and the rest of the UK as well as Friends of the Earth staff.

### Stage 3: Consultation period and working with your Council

If you have completed stage 1 and 2 you should now have a point of contact in the council. Hopefully, you are now on a mailing list, part of a working group or generally just know how to keep up to date with what your LA is doing.

Your LA will consult on their plans, so this is your chance to influence them. Don't worry if you don't have the technical knowledge – we have done the research for you!

Take a look at our [Climate Action Plan](#) for councils and the [policy document and explainer](#) that goes with it. Please beware that not all points are relevant to Wales but that is marked on the document.

You should send the plan to your contact in the council.

Some councils will already have draft plans that only relate to their own operations\* and services – where it is too late for councils to change their plans we are preparing a checklist for what should be included on that level and a commitment to develop a further comprehensive plan.

#### **How we can support you?**

We have drafted a template letter to send to your council with the 50 point Climate Action Plan.

Use our [tool to find out how Climate Friendly your area is](#).

Then use the Climate Action Plan Checklist against your council's plans (Will be available W/B 17/11)

We will host a series of Zoom meets for you to network with other activists working on this across Wales and to give you the chance to ask FoE Cymru staff any questions.

#### **Stage 4 – building alliances in your community**

Your council needs to know that people in your area support the ideas in our plan. Building alliances in your community is a great way to show support. You can do this in several ways both in person (if allowed - see our [Coronavirus guidance](#) and Welsh Government guidance) and online, but first you need to know who is in your area. You could try a mapping exercise. Think about where the power is in your local area and but other community groups and activist groups working in your area.

You can also get feedback from individuals. [Eastbourne Eco Network used the Your Priorities platform](#) to consult people and feedback. It very easy to use!

**This bit is where you can really get creative to get people onboard – let your imagination run wild. Get people imagining what your area could look like in a zero-carbon future!**

**Find ways to let the council know that this is what people want.**

## How we can support you?

[Alliance building guide](#)

Power Mapping Webinar - keep an eye out on our [webinar page](#) for when the next one is

Check out [our guide to tools](#) that will help you in online meetings and get together

## Stage 5 – Getting your Council to change their plans

The idea is to work with your council not against, because building relationships with the council and in your community is the most important thing you can do.

Apply pressure but work as an ally, keeping an eye on what your council aren't doing, and praising them when they do something right!

There's a lot to think about in our Climate Action Plan for councils but we've also done [some research](#) on what the most effective and top priority actions should be and how they are good for the health of the people in your area not just the environment - this might help convince them!

[Check out our more in depth guide on our website](#)

## Stage 6 – Celebrating what you and your council have achieved

Did you get them to include the whole area?

Was it too late for that and instead you built great relationships and will be included in future decision-making processes?

Winning will look different for each of you. Of course, we want every council in Wales to adopt all the relevant point from the plan! But that's not the only way to win.

Did you build alliances with other groups?

Did your council adopt some, not all of our points?

Don't forget to celebrate the 'little' wins as well as the big ones!

## General Support and tools

**Action Network** – A digital platform that you can use to create petitions, events and mailing lists. We can help you set up a GDPR-compliant account with us.

[Check out our resource page for more information.](#)

**Newsletter** - Regular monthly updates on what other groups are doing in 'The Lowdown' as well updates from the Cymru team. [Email Becky to get on the list.](#)

**Amplify** - When you have something you'd like to share more widely we can also share on our social media channels and email supporters in your local area. We'll need a bit of notice for emails but social media we can share right away!

**Network** - A point of contact in Friends of the Earth Cymru, regular Zoom meets with activists across Wales. **Slack** - This is an online messaging platform that connects you with other activists around the country.

**Money** - [Apply for a small grant to get you started](#)

**Training** - Bespoke and off the shelf.

And a whole host of other how to and action guides on our resource pages, so whether you need some help with social media or lobbying your council you'll find what you need [here](#).

**If you have any questions, please contact Becky your point of contact in Wales**

**Rebecca.harford@foe.co.uk**