

ROCP 15, Extinction Rebellion Cymru

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith | Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee

Adolygiad o flaenoriaethau'r Pwyllgor ar gyfer y Chwchedd Senedd | Review of the Committee's priorities for the Sixth Senedd

Ymateb gan Extinction Rebellion Cymru | Evidence from Extinction Rebellion Cymru

Your views

1. What are your views on the Committee's three strategic priorities: Climate Change; Sustainable Communities; and Protecting and enhancing the natural environment?

Generally they remain relevant. Please consider adding methane to Priority 1. AS for Priority 2, Sustainable Communities, this is a very vague term. Is there a better way of describing the committee ambitions on this front? Perhaps using the Future Generations and Wellbeing Act? No comment on 3. The reviewing responsibilities must be highlighted and emphasised.

2. To what extent are the Committee's three strategic priorities still relevant, reflecting on social, economic and environmental developments since they were set at the start of the Sixth Senedd?

No further comment.

3. What are your view on the Committee's detailed priorities/outline programme of work for Years 3 to 5 of the Sixth Senedd (set out in its report, Priorities for the Sixth Senedd?)

We believe the priorities should be as follow:

Priority 1: A focus on Fossil Fuels and Net Zero

Despite the statement by the Government on fossil fuels, there are still 3 coal mines operating in Wales. How is this affecting our Net Zero targets? There are great holes in the operators' reclamation budgets; what can be done?. What can WG do to assist and put pressure on the TATA reconfiguration? What evidence has the NET ZERO 2035 had submitted about transforming from fossil fuels?

Priority 2: Democracy and the Public Engagement Strategy

The new Climate Action Wales website and associated initiatives are interesting and innovative. They need assessing in the next year. What has been the impact on public perception and changed behaviour? How have the grants for groups to initiate climate conversations been spent and what evaluation is being done of their results? Is there now space for a national conversation using deliberative democratic mechanisms?

Priority 3: Water Quality

A detailed review of NRW is due and in particular in regard to enforcement of the sewage discharges into the seas and the run-off and other forms of pollution in our rivers. It is said it will take decades to improve them. How have IPUs added to the problem in the rivers and why have there been no refusals of planning for these developments? How are NRW working across the boundary where rivers fall into both countries? What can local authorities do about sewage outfalls?

4. To what extent are the Committee's detailed priorities/outline programme of work still relevant, reflecting on social, economic and environmental developments since they were set at the start of the Sixth Senedd?

Priority 1 should be even higher - 1*??? The report by the UK Climate Change Committee on Welsh progress to Net Zero and the IPCC report on global warming must push this topic up the agenda along with the exploration of how transition can be carried out without a major impact on the disadvantaged. It is the top 10% whose behaviour change would make the most difference to our carbon footprint.

5. Are there any other matters related to the Committee's priorities/work programme/ways of working that you would like to comment on?

We understand the Committee is small and overworked but feel that our submission should be carefully considered. Our Group is just as small and overloaded!

6. Other information

No response.
