



**Cyfoeth
Naturiol
Cymru
Natural
Resources
Wales**

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Mike Hedges
Chair of the CCERA Committee
By e-mail: Mike.Hedges@senedd.wales

16 July 2020

Dear Mike,

Further to our recent meeting with the Committee to discuss the impact of the Covid pandemic on the NRW budget, I wanted to let you and the Committee know about the work I am leading around the Green Recovery.

As you will be aware, the pandemic has forced the world into collective pause and allowed us to reflect on the Wales we want to see as we emerge from one of the most challenging periods of our lives. With some semblance of normality returning as we steadily reopen our economy and see the return of visitors to our sites, attentions are now focusing on how we must take a collective approach to a truly green recovery from coronavirus.

Sophie Howe, the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, recently said that the pandemic has brought incredible challenges, but the recovery plan gives us a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reset Wales' economy to address health, the economy and the ongoing climate and nature crises for the sake of Wales' long-term future.

Business leaders in Wales have also called for the Welsh Government to prioritise green growth to boost jobs and the economy while protecting our climate.

Green Recovery Task and Finish Group

There is little doubt that Wales can be a strong voice in the green recovery conversation, and NRW has a vital role to help lead the way and deliver a recovery that will sustain Wales into the future, building on our commitment to our sustainable management of natural resources work through the State of Natural Resources Report and Area Statements.

I'm pleased to have been asked by our Minister Lesley Griffiths to lead a Task and Finish Group that includes a wide range of innovative, creative and diverse people with a wealth of experience from the third sector, local government, industry and academia to help shape a recovery plan.

The outputs of the group will be action orientated to develop integrated solutions that deliver for climate, nature and the economy and will make sure the Welsh recovery plan is integrated and holistic.

Any recovery plan must not lock in:

- High carbon emissions or climate risk
- decline of biodiversity
- unsustainable patterns of consumption or production

The recovery plan must deliver on **all three of these** elements together, not just one in isolation.

The group will not be looking at proposals which focus on legislative and strategic policy frameworks, instead they will utilise their networks over the next few weeks to gather intelligence and look at the opportunities and tools in our legislation to help work with our communities to drive integrated and long-term proposals for practical action. We hope to produce our report and recommendations in the early autumn.

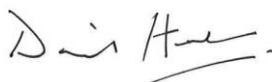
We will not achieve these goals for our environment in isolation. We need to better understand what kind of natural environment the people of Wales want to see in the future by asking what they value about it, what are the opportunities it can provide and what we need to do to achieve it.

And by drawing on the expertise and knowledge we have in our environmental, private and third sectors, we can ensure the climate and nature emergencies we continue to face are enshrined as key pillars in the development of recovery plans.

We've also started work on developing a shared national vision for the natural environment in Wales for 2050. This shared vision will bring organisations and individuals together through a national conversation to co-produce it and make it a reality. It will be based on evidence and trends, and will indicate how current behaviours and practices need to change if natural resources in Wales are to be truly managed sustainably and secured for generations to come.

We will be in touch with you soon to explain how you and your constituents can help shape our collective vision for the future, and I hope that you will encourage your networks to participate so that their views can be reflected in our aspirations for a sustainable and successful Wales.

Yours sincerely,



Sir David Henshaw
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