



## RSAW response to the Senedd's climate change committee consultation on priorities for climate change, environment and infrastructure

The Royal Society of Architects in Wales (RSAW) represents and supports around 650 Chartered Members of our parent body, the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), who live and work in Wales.

In October 2019, the RIBA (which includes RSAW) launched the 2030 Climate Challenge. The Challenge asks architects meet net zero (or better) whole life carbon for new buildings by 2030 by reducing operational energy, embodied carbon and potable water usage.

We believe that there are several areas that are critical to success in achieving the Wales's net zero ambition, and with the right decisions, Wales can demonstrate global leadership and create a world-leading built environment sector.

To ensure this ambition, the RSAW recommends the Senedd:

- Prioritise a long-term plan and investment programme for upgrading the energy efficiency of our housing stock – encourage incentives and exclusivity for retrofit rather than re-build.
- Re-consideration of VAT on all homes (new build and retrofit) – incentivise retrofit
- Set targets and incentivise the use of sustainable materials in Wales.
- Regulation of embodied carbon targets for buildings in Wales.
- Planning in Wales is hugely under resourced creating significant backlogs and delays with in the sector which must be addressed urgently. Consideration for architects self-certify some planning permissions (specified scales)
- Ensures skills for sustainable buildings
- Ensure there is accommodation for sustainable forms of energy
- Ensure that opportunities within the Future Wales – the National Plan 2040 are actively pursued.
- Support the revitalisation of town/city centres

**Cymdeithas Frenhinol  
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