

Our manifesto for the Welsh Government Election

A sustainable, healthier and more equal Wales

The climate and nature crisis is a public health emergency that needs an urgent response. Evidence of climate change and its impacts on health are already being seen in Wales. Almost 600 people are estimated to have died prematurely in England and Wales during the June 2025 heatwave and more than 3,000 excess deaths were recorded during the summer heatwaves of 2022.

Wales has also suffered from multiple flooding incidents over the last five years. Severe flooding in the Wye and Usk catchments have increased from one every 100 months in the past to once every seven years since 2019. One in seven properties are now at risk of flooding and this will rapidly worsen without immediate action. The burden of long-term air pollution exposure is estimated to result in 1000–1400 deaths annually in Wales. The increasing frequency and intensity of climate-related events pose significant challenges to Wales' healthcare system and those already experiencing health inequality will be impacted the most.

The Government elected in 2026 must capitalise on opportunities that both keep Wales on track to achieve its target to reach net zero emissions by 2050, support the goals of the Well-Being of Future Generations Act, and deliver its mission to become a Marmot nation. Achieving these aims requires delivering a healthier, resilient and more equal Wales through maximising the co-benefits to health of addressing the climate and nature crisis. Failure to act now will cost lives and our economy. Bold action to deliver meaningful change will reap economic, environmental and health rewards for the long-term.



**UK Health Alliance
on Climate Change**

Find out more: <https://ukhealthalliance.org>

Contact us: info@ukhealthalliance.org

We ask that parties incorporate commitments in their manifestos to deliver:

- 1** An accelerated transition to clean energy
- 2** Low-carbon, energy efficient homes
- 3** Clean ways to travel
- 4** Resilient, sustainable, healthy food system
- 5** A healthy natural environment
- 6** Sustainable health and care services



Accelerated transition to clean energy

Electricity supply is the highest-emitting sector in Wales, accounting for 19% of emissions. While significant progress has been made with the complete phase out of coal, in 2022 only 27% of electricity was generated from renewable sources. The Climate Change Committee's fourth carbon budget for Wales indicates a significant increase in electricity supply from renewables to 78% by 2033. Achieving this will require rapid development of policy and infrastructure to decarbonise electricity supply. This transition to clean energy will bring wide benefits to Wales, including reducing air pollution and lower and less volatile energy bills from reduced reliance on international fossil fuel markets. While policy in the electricity supply sector is largely reserved, there are actions the Welsh Government can take to decarbonise supply.

We call for the next government to commit to:

- Working with the UK Government, communities, workers and businesses impacted by the transition to develop proactive transition plans that enable access to secure employment and opportunities
- Accelerating the planning and consenting process for renewable developments
- Accelerating the expansion and streamlining of grid infrastructure to ensure it meets projected increase in demand for electricity
- Opposing new licences for oil and gas exploration and extraction

Low-carbon, energy efficient homes

More than 90% of homes in Wales are heated with fossil fuels and up to 45% of households were estimated to be in fuel poverty in 2022. This drives a spiral of poor physical, mental and emotional health. The next government must deliver for households in Wales by rapidly accelerating the installation of electrical heating systems, lower bills, and better insulated homes. Achieving this will both help to promote a healthier Wales and support a more equal Wales.

We call for the next government to commit to:

- Deliver regulations and incentives for homeowners to switch to heat pumps and other electrical heating systems
- Ensure adequate funding to lift people out of fuel poverty through the Warm Homes Programme by providing targeted support and incentives to improve home energy efficiency, including draught-proofing and loft, floor and wall insulation

- Work with the UK Government to provide clear, trusted information to households and businesses on the benefits of low-carbon choices
- Place requirements on housing developers to ensure no new properties use fossil fuel heating systems or domestic wood burners, with exceptions for those in very rural locations and unreliable alternative sources of energy
- Phase out domestic wood burning in urban areas and support rural residents to transition away from wood as a primary heating source

Clean ways to travel

Surface transport accounts for 15% of emissions in Wales. Transport emissions have only decreased by 6% since 1990. Significant action is needed to increase use of public transport and active travel in a way that will promote healthier lifestyles and improve connectivity between people and communities.

We call for the next government to commit to:

- Invest in active travel infrastructure with dedicated walking and cycling routes, supported by long-term funding for local councils
- Deliver incentives that encourage the use of public transport and active travel

- Ongoing improvement in public transport services and improved connectivity between North and South Wales through strategic investment in integrated networks and enhanced services
- Deliver planning policies and funding to support the development of electric vehicle charging infrastructure
- Work with the UK Government to provide reliable public information to support implementation of the zero emission vehicle mandate

Resilient, sustainable, healthy food system

Agriculture and farming are strongly connected to Welsh culture, community and rural economies, and farmers are already experiencing weather-linked climate change impacts, which in turn impact on incomes, jobs and communities. The Climate Change Committee's carbon budget for Wales includes a 20% reduction in the consumption of high-carbon meats and dairy by 2030, with further reductions planned for future years. The pathway to net zero and the future resilience of the sector will require the Government to support farmers and rural communities to introduce low-carbon farming practices and diversify their incomes. The Welsh public must also be supported to reduce meat consumption and increase consumption of plant-based diets to support the carbon budget targets. These dietary shifts will also bring significant benefits for health.

We call for the next government to commit to:

- Increase choice and availability of plant-based whole foods in public procurement, restaurants, and supermarkets

- Deliver a public awareness campaign to encourage reduction of meat and dairy balanced by increased consumption of plant-based wholefoods
- Support locally grown sustainable food and supply
- Prioritise and promote plant-based wholefoods, nutritious and sustainable food in schools, hospitals and other public services
- Commit to supporting farmers to produce food and diversify land use to enable carbon reduction targets, adapt to climate change and build resilience
- Build on Wales' strong record on waste reduction by achieving 39% reduction in food waste per person by 2030 compared to 2021 levels

A healthy natural environment

Nature will play a critical role for Wales to achieve its emission reduction targets, build ecosystem resilience, and provide healthy places for communities to work and live. The natural environment also brings multiple benefits for physical and mental health, cleaner air and cooling from extreme heat. Delivering actions that protect and restore Wales' biodiverse landscape, and ensure the people of Wales can connect with nature will create a better, healthier, and more sustainable future.

We call for the next government to commit to:

- Every Wales resident to have equitable access to safe green space within a 15 minute walk of their home
- Significantly increase tree planting rates over the next decade to achieve woodland cover of 17% by 2033 and 26% by 2050
- Measures to achieve 52% of peat under restoration and rewetting management by 2033 and 85% by 2050

Resilient health and care services

The health service accounts for about 2.6% of Wales' greenhouse gas emissions. The 'Net Zero Wales' plan sets an ambitious target for public sector net zero emissions by 2030. Along with decarbonising the NHS, action must also be taken to reduce waste and pollution associated with health and care services, and improve resilience of the system from climate-related threats. Extreme weather, rising temperatures, and shifting disease patterns also threaten the health of the population and place additional strain on existing and future healthcare resources, which must be addressed. There are currently no systems in place to report overheating in healthcare facilities in Wales, and 51 GP practices, 16 hospitals, and 81 emergency service locations are at risk of flooding. Ensuring a sustainable, resilient health service demands actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

We call for the next government to commit to:

- Deliver the commitments outlined in the NHS Wales Decarbonisation Delivery Plan
- Dedicated ring-fenced funding for climate adaptation initiatives within the NHS budget

- Risk assessment for all NHS facilities that identify vulnerabilities and responses to them
- Financial support to enhance biodiversity on NHS sites that benefit staff, patients and local communities
- Retain current commitments on expansion of the electric ambulance fleet to targets regarding patient response times and outcomes
- Encourage the integration of climate and health training into medical, nursing, pharmacy, and allied health professionals curricula
- Reduce waste from health care services, including avoiding single-use items wherever possible
- Implement waste reduction measures to reduce nitrous oxide emissions from anaesthetics
- Financial support for local authorities and NHS trusts to deliver public transport and active travel routes to health workplaces for staff
- Promote provision of sustainable, healthy plant-based food choices in health and care services