



## NRW Briefing: Net Zero Wales

November 2021

NRW welcomes the opportunity to provide our initial views to the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee on the Welsh Government's recently published '[Net Zero Wales](#)' Low Carbon Delivery Plan ('the Plan').

Given the nature of the request by the committee, our comments here are general and limited. They should be considered initial views and certainly not exhaustive in scope or detail. We will welcome the opportunity to provide detailed comments if the Committee undertakes later scrutiny.

**General Comments:** Most of the policies and proposals are welcomed. However, as technology, behaviours and society changes during the Plan period we hope that the plan is maintained as a live document that evolves over the next 5 years so that it continually drives future action over that period.

This should involve meaningful consultation with advisors, delivery sectors and bodies to: ensure the ambitions are aligned with the urgency for action and the latest scientific evidence which continues to evolve rapidly in many areas; assess whether considered policies and proposals are adequate to meet intended aims and are feasible; identify how best to implement and avoid potential barriers to delivery; and what changes are required for more effective delivery.

Notwithstanding the above, for the proposals identified in the Plan it would be useful to communicate the effect of their implementation to demonstrate to a wider audience the benefits that will be achieved. Additionally, it will be beneficial to include key milestones and deadlines/ targets for delivering individual proposals during the Plan period so that barriers or challenges to delivery are addressed in a timely manner.

### Sectoral comments:

- We welcome that the delivery of peat restoration and woodland creation policies actions will be based on the **sustainable management of natural resources**. This should also extend to the deployment of **renewable energy** to help ensure an aligned response to both the climate change and nature emergencies.
- Whilst we welcome the stated policies and proposals for **energy efficiency**, consideration should be given to setting measurable targets.
- We welcome the support for the continuation of NRW's **Offshore Renewable Energy Programme** and the commitment to strategic planning and evidence for marine renewables, all of which are critical for ongoing development of marine renewable energy.
- We would welcome further clarification on the mechanisms that Welsh Government intend to deploy to implement the policy aspirations in relation to new and existing **fossil fuel** powered generation by 2035, and the implementation of the policy with electrification and network availability.
- To help communication and monitor progress, we encourage further clarity on the Government; aspirations for the hectare of **woodland creation** during the plan period.

- We welcome the Routemap to achieve a collective **net zero public sector by 2030**, but we also require greater understanding and tools to support delivery, and consideration of the need for mandatory annual progress reporting and action.