



PARTNERIAETH LLESIAN T LLEOL

Blaenau Gwent

LOCAL WELL-BEING PARTNERSHIP

Blaenau Gwent Climate Assembly:

Actions



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1. From Recommendations to Action

This document sets out the actions that local partner organisations in Blaenau Gwent have agreed to work together to deliver in response to the five recommendations of the [Blaenau Gwent Climate Assembly](#).

These actions are focused on elements of the recommendations that can be delivered locally at the Blaenau Gwent level, and will form the basis of an ongoing Climate Action Plan.

We also want to keep the conversation from the Climate Assembly going, there is a questionnaire linked to this document, open to both Climate Assembly members and the wider public, where you can give your feedback on these actions and tell us how you would like to be involved in our climate work in the future. You can also sign up to keep in contact with future updates through this [link](#).

2. About the Climate Assembly

In March 2021 44 residents of Blaenau Gwent got together online to discuss the question 'how can we tackle climate change in Blaenau Gwent in a way that is fair and improves living standards for everyone?' The 44 Assembly Members were chosen at random to be representative of people in Blaenau Gwent (in terms of age, gender, where they live, type of housing etc.)


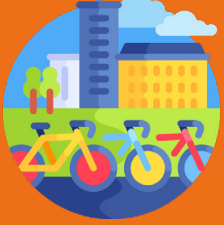



The Assembly was organised by the four Registered Social Landlords in Blaenau Gwent (Linc, Melin Homes, Tai Calon and United Welsh) with Cynnal Cymru and funding from Welsh Government. The Climate Assembly met for a total of 23 hours online, hearing evidence from over 20 experts (from academics to local residents), and voted on recommendations they created themselves, five of which received the 80% support needed to become official recommendations (see table on next page).

We supported these recommendations in our initial response on 5th July 2021, and identified where we are already taking action in these areas, but we also recognised that given the climate emergency we need to do more. We committed to work together through workshops to identify additional actions.

These actions focus on the most impactful things we can do locally in Blaenau Gwent now to accelerate action. We recognise that there are also elements of the recommendations that will require action at a wider scale, such as a one-ticket system for public transport, for these we will continue to advocate for action at regional and national scales.



3. Recommendations

Theme	Recommendation	Support %
Integrated Transport 	<p>Establish an affordable, integrated road & rail transport system accessible throughout BG.</p> <p>A one ticket system that links to bus, rail & cycle schemes - inclusivity for purchasing of tickets (digital or paper).</p> <p>Accessible all hours with safety via lighting, CCTV and to keep maintained.</p>	91
Walking and Cycling 	<p>Establish & improve a safe, easily maintainable infrastructure for walkers & cyclist, for either recreational or work purposes, with access to the public transport network. Including lighting & CCTV & Storage for bikes.</p>	88
Housing Retrofit 	<p>Train local tradespeople, create qualifications and upskill local businesses, involve FE colleges and local universities, future proof it and provide the right courses to enable them to do the work in all green construction.</p>	86
Woodlands 	<p>Implement a programme of woodland preservation and reforestation of BG, using the right tree in the right place for the right reason, increasing opportunities for jobs, biodiversity and connecting woodlands. Making sure the skills are available so we can create green jobs, e.g. saw milling and timber framed housing.</p>	86
Housing New Build 	<p>Ensure that all new build properties are built using the latest sustainable technologies (E.g. Glanffrwd development as a template), employing local builders and providing a variety of accommodation types appropriate for all inc. homeless/single occupancy up to large families.</p>	81

4. About Us

In response to the Climate Emergency we have established the Blaenau Gwent Climate Mitigation Steering Group to develop a plan to tackle climate change in Blaenau Gwent. The group agreed that the plan should be based on Blaenau Gwent residents' priorities for climate action and data about our emissions. We recognise that not all of these emissions are controlled locally, but if we do not plan ahead and take action we will not reach Net Zero in Blaenau Gwent even if the wider changes needed do take place. It is also important that climate action takes place in ways that are fair and improve well-being for residents.

Since the Climate Assembly took place the Blaenau Gwent Public Services Board (PSB) which the Climate Mitigation Steering Group reports to has become the Blaenau Gwent Local Well-being Partnership. The Local Well-being Partnership is still made up of representatives of public services and voluntary sector organisations (see below). The partnerships is also still responsible for delivering the [The Blaenau Gwent We Want' Well-being Plan 2018-2023](#).

A new regional Gwent Public Services Board (PSB) has taken responsibility for the development of our new Gwent wide Well-being Plan for 2023 onwards. The Blaenau Gwent Local Well-being Partnership will continue as the local delivery group for this new regional plan in Blaenau Gwent.

5. Organisation represented on the Local Well-being Partnership:

- ✓ Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
- ✓ Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
- ✓ South Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- ✓ Natural Resources Wales
- ✓ Welsh Government
- ✓ Gwent Police
- ✓ Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Organisations represented on the Local Well-being Partnership:

- ✓ GAVO
- ✓ Tai Calon
- ✓ Linc
- ✓ Melin
- ✓ United Welsh
- ✓ Coleg Gwent
- ✓ NHS Wales

The Climate Mitigation Group also has community representation from:

- ✓ Blaenau Gwent 50 Plus Forum
- ✓ Blaenau Gwent Youth Council



6. Actions

Recommendation: New Build Housing 81%



Ensure that all new build properties are built using the latest sustainable technologies (E.g. Glanffrwd development as a template), employing local builders and providing a variety of accommodation types appropriate for all inc. homeless/single occupancy up to large families.

Set up a new build decarbonisation group with partners to maximise benefits from **current major housing development sites in Blaenau Gwent** to decarbonisation and local skills development. With the aim that housing developments on these sites will kick start further new build training and local business development to support decarbonisation.

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Recommendation: Housing Retrofit 86%



Train local tradespeople, create qualifications and upskill local businesses, involve FE colleges and local universities, future proof it and provide the right courses to enable them to do the work in all green construction.

Explore and report on the business case for an **arm's length organisation** and/or a **jointly funded post** to implement a strategic approach to retrofit, establish collaboration on maintenance budgets, data sharing, communication, training opportunities and skills development, between partner organisations on retrofit.

Develop a county-wide **Blaenau Gwent Home Energy/Retrofit Plan** during 2022 to coordinate work between partners, focus resources and lobby for longer term funding for retrofit.



Recommendation: Woodlands 86%



Implement a programme of woodland preservation and reforestation of BG, using the right tree in the right place for the right reason, increasing opportunities for jobs, biodiversity and connecting woodlands. Making sure the skills are available so we can create green jobs, e.g. saw milling and timber framed housing.

Develop an **evidence base** on suitable sites for carbon sequestration to inform a **combined delivery plan for woodland preservation and reforestation** in Blaenau Gwent which includes skills development opportunities for the development of the timber supply chain; and suitable sites for communities to manage small-scale woodland sites across the borough.

Establish a **Blaenau Gwent woodland network** and **information hub** to share information, resources and training opportunities to support on the ground works.

Seek to establish a **jointly funded post** to support these actions and establish collaboration on data sharing, communication, on the ground works, training opportunities and skills development, between partner organisations on woodland preservation and reforestation.

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Recommendation: Integrated Transport 91%



Establish an affordable, integrated road & rail transport system accessible throughout BG. A one ticket system that links to bus, rail & cycle schemes - inclusivity for purchasing of tickets (digital or paper). Accessible all hours with safety via lighting, CCTV and to keep maintained.

Establish a **dedicated transport group** for Blaenau Gwent which involves core transport partners; this would take the lead in developing an **intelligence hub on integrated transport** to encourage sharing of data, understanding data gaps and gathering of data by partners, to inform decision making at a community level.

Seek to establish a **jointly funded** post to support these actions and to establish collaboration on data sharing, communication and delivery between partner organisations and the community on integrated transport.

Recommendation: Walking and Cycling 88%



Establish & improve a safe, easily maintainable infrastructure for walkers & cyclist, for either recreational or work purposes, with access to the public transport network. Including lighting & CCTV & Storage for bikes.

Ensure that revenue and capital funding for ongoing **maintenance of infrastructure** is a key element of forward planning, through the new **Active Travel Programme** and that maintenance forms a key part of funding bids.

Seek to establish a jointly **funded post** to provide an on the ground presence carrying out maintenance works and to facilitate data sharing and communication between partner organisations and the community on walking and cycling infrastructure.

7. How will we ensure that these actions are delivered?



These actions will now form the basis of an action plan that will be monitored by the Blaenau Gwent Climate Mitigation Group.



The actions require different organisations to work together to deliver different parts of these actions, but to ensure clear lines of responsibility an overall lead organisation will be agreed for each recommendation, and this lead organisation will be responsible for reporting back to the Climate Mitigation Group on progress against agreed timetables.

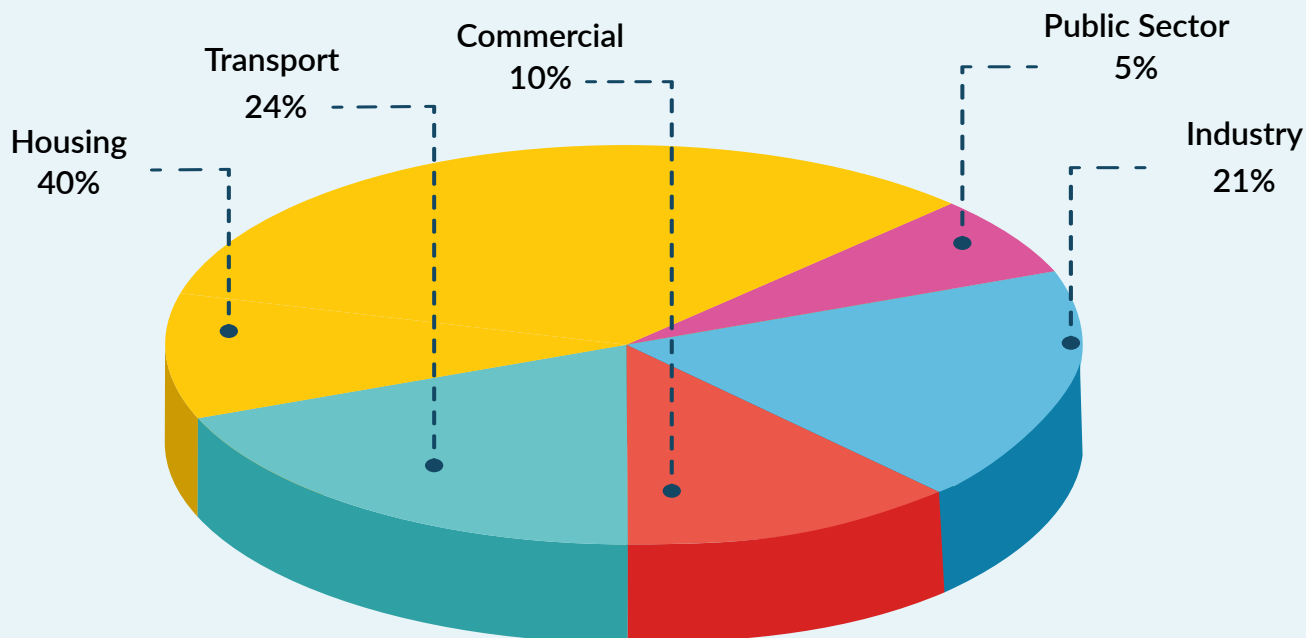


The group will be setting these timetables over the next couple of months, some of these actions are already underway, while others such as creating joint posts will take longer to develop.

8. What does the data tell us about Blaenau Gwent's carbon emissions?

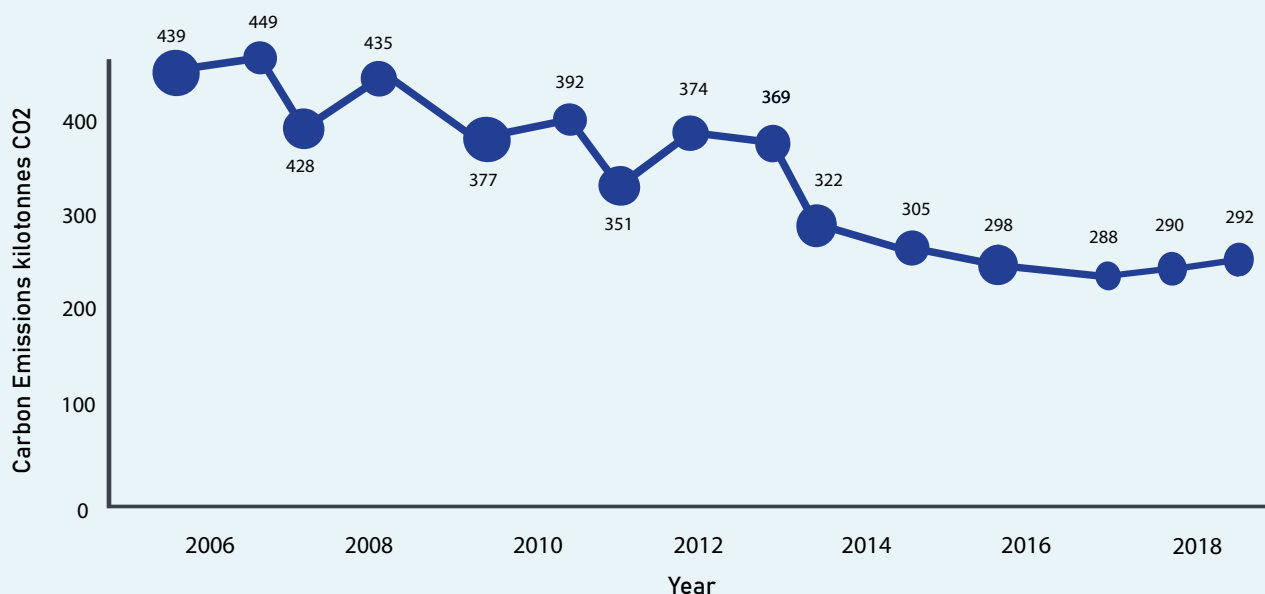


Where do Blaenau Gwent's Carbon Emissions Come From?



The distribution of climate emissions in Blaenau Gwent highlights the importance of the housing and transport recommendations.

Blaenau Gwent Carbon Emissions 2005 - 2019



Carbon Emissions have fallen 33% in Blaenau Gwent over the 14 years from 2005 to 2019. However, it is important to remember that these figures only includes emissions that are released in Blaenau Gwent and we also consume a lot of things that are made outside Blaenau Gwent that are not included in these figures.

9. Next Steps

We are keen to continue the public involvement in climate action from the Climate Assembly. This will need to be in different forms as we move from setting overall priorities to delivering specific climate actions, likely involving less time intensive engagement opportunities on specific elements of climate change.

We want to ensure that there is a mechanism for the public have their say on, and be involved in, future climate actions, and also that all views that people have previously shared with us, such as climate assembly members' discussions, are easily available to all partners when they are planning climate actions in the future.

Attached to this document is a brief questionnaire asking for your ideas about how you would like to be involved in the future, as well as for your thoughts on our proposed actions. The questionnaire can be completed by Climate Assembly Members or anyone who lives or works in Blaenau Gwent.

If you want to be contacted with future updates from us about our climate work you will need to opt in to future communications using this [link](#).

