

Bwletin Rheoli Adnoddau Naturiol

Natural Resource Management Bulletin

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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

www.cymru.gov.uk

Environment Bill

To help inform the Assembly's scrutiny on the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill and the Planning (Wales) Bill, a document explaining the links between these Bills and the forthcoming Environment (Wales) Bill has been developed.

The main aims of the three Bills are as follows:

- Our Planning Bill makes sure planning in Wales is fair, consistent and the right things are built in the right places
- Our Well-being of Future Generations Bill makes sure we make the right decisions for us now and for future generations
- Our Environment Bill will help us manage our natural resources in a more sustainable and more joined up way

Put simply, the overarching aim of these Bills is to put in place the legislation needed to enable us to secure the long-term well-being of Wales.

Click here for more information:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/natural-resources-management/environment-bill/?lang=en>

<http://wales.gov.uk/docs/desh/publications/150223-three-bills-diagram-en.pdf>

It's our Wales – Let's look after it!

Calling all primary and junior schools in Wales – Design a poster and win up to £250 for your school's eco committee – Closing date – 27 March

The Welsh Government is developing a new law to ensure we look after Wales' environment and its natural resources and we need children to help us. Please circulate to local primary and junior schools in your area.

We are asking pupils to design a colourful poster about what people get from their local environment and offering an opportunity to win up to £250 in vouchers for their school's Eco-Committee.

The poster could be about playing in a local park, walking, cycling or food growing, and the importance of clean air, clean water and healthy soil for plants, trees and crops. We want children to use their imagination to show what they think is important and what makes our environment so special.

A copy of the entry form is [here](#). Here are the [notes for teachers](#) for all the information needed to enter the competition.

Pupils should submit their posters to us by Friday 27 March 2015 to be in with a chance of winning.

Nature Fund - Nature Action Zone Focus

This month's Nature Action Zone focus is on the Brecon Beacons and also the pan Wales project being led by Coed Cymru and the Rivers Trust.

The Black Mountains Ecosystem Restoration project being led by the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority aims to work with the moorland owners to develop a continuous improvement programme to restore heathland, peat bogs and other habitats in the Black Mountains. Work has commenced with footpath improvement on Waun Fach . The work on Waun Fach will help to protect the fragile peat bog and its wildlife whilst restoring the bog will also provide essential services to wider communities by mitigating the effects of climate change. Further information can be found here:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-mid-wales-31576196> (external link)

The Berwyn and Migneint, Black Mountains and Radnor Upland Recovery project is also undertaking work to improve our uplands in the Brecon Beacons. The project aims to work with the moorland owners and all involved in the project encompass long-term, sustainable management of the upland areas to the benefit of biodiversity and the local and wider communities. This project is being managed by FWAG Cymru (Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group).

The Coed Cymru and Rivers Trusts Nature Fund Soil and Water Scheme aims to deliver improved soil and water management practices and farm infrastructure. The project has progressed well and has attracted significant landowner interest. Capital works are underway such as fencing off watercourses, restoring hedgerows, planting small areas of woodland and undertaking farm yard improvements to benefit soil and water. Significant progress has also been made with Soil and Water Management plans with around 150 in development and 40 plans already complete. These plans will highlight the opportunities to benefit water, soil, nature and the farm business. Each holding will also receive a 'SCIMAP' for their land highlighting areas at key risk of overland flow and erosion.

Contact details for each of the projects can be found on the Nature Fund website:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/natural-resources-management/nature-fund/?lang=en>

Also watch out on our website for the Nature Fund project fact sheets coming shortly.

Other areas of interest

Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) - Programme of Measures Consultation - Welsh Government Stakeholder Workshop

The UK is now entering the third stage of implementing the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).

The Welsh Government has been working closely with the UK Government and Devolved Administrations to develop a proposed Programme of Measures. The joint consultation on the proposed programme was launched on 30 January and closes on 24 April.

As part of the consultation process the Welsh Government will be hosting a stakeholder workshop to discuss the measures and inform stakeholders on the consultation process and how they can get involved.

Date: **6 March 2015**
Venue: **Cardiff**

Invitations will be sent to stakeholders in due course and places will be limited. If you would like further details, or wish to receive an invitation please email marine@wales.gsi.gov.uk

The Programme of Measures covers 11 separate standards, or descriptors, and is designed to achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status (GES) in our waters by 2020.

This is the 3rd stage in implementing a Marine Strategy for the UK.

Stage 1 – Initial assessment of our seas, the characteristics of GES and targets and indicators that will take us towards GES. See link to UK Marine Strategy Part One (external link) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-strategy-part-one-uk-initial-assessment-and-good-environmental-status>

Stage 2 – Monitoring programmes in place to measure our progress. See link to UK Marine Strategy Part Two (external link) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-strategy-part-two-uk-marine-monitoring-programmes>

Stage 3 – Implement a Programme of Measures by 2016.

For more information on MSFD and how you can get involved in the consultation, please visit our website:

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/environmentandcountryside/marine-strategy-framework-directive/?lang=en>

Plans to replace Landfill Tax in Wales

The Minister for Finance and Government Business has recently launched a 12 week consultation on proposals for a replacement Landfill Tax for Wales.

The Welsh Government is developing Landfill Disposals Tax to replace UK Landfill Tax when it is devolved to Wales from April 2018. For the first time, Wales will be able to develop a tax that fits the needs of its own communities and businesses. This is your opportunity to share your views and help shape this new tax.

Landfill Tax was introduced in 1996 as an environmental behavioural tax to encourage re-use, recycling and recovery and to reduce waste going to landfill. It affects a broad range of interests from businesses, regulators, communities, landfill owners to various third sector organisations such as charities.

This consultation is looking to:

- clarify areas of the existing tax that cause confusion and uncertainty
- Improve compliance and enforcement, tackling tax evasion and avoidance
- modernise the administration of the tax, enabling it to operate more efficiently, minimising the burdens on business
- explore whether and how we might use a proportion of a Landfill Disposals Tax to enhance community wellbeing

The Welsh Government appreciates that businesses require long-term stability and certainty on which to base their business plans and investments. As waste producers and managers most of you will be affected by these proposals. It is important that we hear your views on the importance of maintaining consistency with England and Scotland as well as where changes might be made to ensure that the replacement tax meets Welsh needs and circumstances.

The consultation will close on the 19 May but we will continue to invite views from stakeholders as this tax is developed for Wales. If you like to be included on our mailing list and hear how you can share your views, please let us know through the mailbox address below.

For further information, please e-mail the Financial Reform Mailbox FinancialReformMailbox@wales.gsi.gov.uk or to download the consultation visit the Welsh Government website. www.wales.gov.uk/consultations

Ways to keep updated

To learn more about the Natural Resource Management Programme please visit: www.wales.gov.uk/naturalresourcemanagement

The web pages include [frequently asked questions \(FAQs\)](#), an [information pack](#) and some [case studies](#).

You can also keep up to date with developments on Facebook and Twitter by following @WG_NatResMin and liking the Welsh Government's Facebook page.

If you have any questions or if you want to join the mailing list, please email us at naturalresourcemanagement@wales.gsi.gov.uk

