



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Achieving our low-carbon pathway to 2030

Consultation – Young people's version

The full consultation document can be found at
<https://beta.gov.wales/low-carbon-pathway-wales>



The challenge... and the opportunity



Climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing the world. Lots of things we do – like from getting a lift to school, heating our homes and producing the food we eat – create carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. There is clear scientific evidence these gases are having an effect on our climate and this is making our weather more extreme and unpredictable. Things like heatwaves, storms and flooding affect our health, our homes and our economy. So we need to reduce the amount of these gases we create.

And we are not alone: countries around the world recognise that cutting greenhouse gases not only reduces the impact of future extreme weather events but also brings benefits like cleaner air and water, and better health. These countries are changing and investing in cleaner ways of producing energy and transport and more efficient ways to live.

We can all help to reduce greenhouse gases and avoid the worst impacts because we all make choices every day about how we travel, what we eat and whether we recycle our waste.

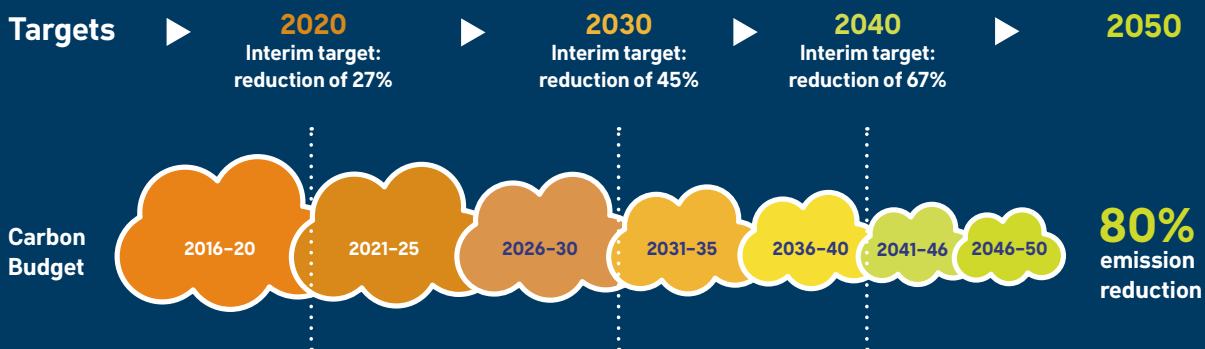
What are we aiming for?



Experts say we need to cut greenhouse gases by **at least 80%** in 2050 to avoid the worst impacts.

We have decided to set a number of targets to get us there, including a 2030 target to reduce our greenhouse gases by **45%**. We'll ask the National Assembly to confirm these targets later this year.

We have been trying to reduce these gases for a while already and have managed to cut them by **about 15%**. Now we need to think about how to reduce these gases by **another 30%** over the next ten years or so.



Our ideas for reaching the 2030 target

Some things will need to be done by others, such as the UK government's idea to phase out cars which burn fossil fuels, but there are lots of things the Welsh government can do too. We've listed our ideas below and would like to hear what you think.



Power

Nearly **35%** of our greenhouse gases come from burning fossil fuels to produce energy. There's a big coal power station in Aberthaw near Cardiff and a big gas power station in Pembroke. One of our ideas is about controlling when we take fossil fuels from the ground in the first place. We want much more energy to come from renewable sources, like solar panels and wind turbines, and for local people to have more ownership of these things. This will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and bring local communities together.



Transport

Greenhouse gases are also produced when we burn fossil fuels to move people and goods around – **about 15% of the total**. We want to make it easier for you to walk and cycle to the places you go. We also want to make buses and taxis zero-carbon, and develop a charging network for electric vehicles to encourage people to swap their petrol or diesel vehicle for an electric one. These ideas will reduce greenhouse gases and improve air quality and our health.



Buildings

About 10% of our greenhouse gases come from heating and lighting our homes. We're thinking about setting higher energy efficiency standards for new buildings and renovation projects. Lots of our houses are pretty old and can be difficult to heat. So one of our ideas is to help people change their homes to make them warmer, more comfortable and cheaper to run. This could be things like insulating the walls and draught-proofing the windows. This will reduce greenhouse gases and energy bills. We also want to make our buildings more sustainable in the first place by thinking about where we can use Welsh timber and other materials when we build them.



Agriculture, land and resources

The way we produce food creates **about 10%** of our greenhouse gases, and meat like beef and lamb creates more than fruit and vegetables. Our land – whether it's grassland, crops or forest – absorbs greenhouse gases from the air so we want to plant lots more trees and manage our peatland better. A small amount of greenhouse gases comes from landfill – around 2%. One of our ideas is to help our economy by using more of the stuff we throw away to make new products. We call this a circular economy. This will reduce greenhouse gases and create new jobs.



Technology

We want to use new, exciting ideas and technology to help us reduce greenhouse gases. One of our ideas is to look more closely at how we might use technology to capture greenhouse gases when they are produced at power stations and big industrial plants and store it underground. Experts say we will need to do this if we want to reach the **80% target by 2050**.



Business and skills

Putting these ideas into practice will mean big changes for our economy. We want to make sure businesses reduce their greenhouse gases and help them take advantage of the opportunities to come. We also want to help people get the new skills they'll need when jobs change.



What do you think of our ideas?

Fill in our short survey at

www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/yp-low-carbon-pathway-2030/.

