

## Expert Witness

Chris Blake, Director - The Green Valleys CIC (Lead Expert)



### What is your passion / specialism / position on solutions to the climate crisis?

I am an environmentalist who has spent the last ten years working to support communities to take action on climate change. I was a founding director of the award winning [The Green Valleys \(CIC\)](#) and [Community Energy Wales](#).

I lead the [Skyline](#) project which seeks to give communities long-term control of landscape to deliver their economic, social, and climate goals.

You can get a feel for my priorities and beliefs in this recent [blog](#), but strong belief is that communities, if given the opportunity are the best people to imagine and deliver a sustainable future.

Scale of challenge is huge – this is an emergency...but we can meet the challenge if we work together.

For a perspective on the size of the challenge [look at this article in the Guardian newspaper](#).

For a brilliant introduction to “net zero” [watch Paul Alen talk about the zero carbon Britain programme](#).



Cynulliad Hinsawdd  
Climate Assembly

Carbon Brief provide timely and detailed analysis of the carbon challenge including the technical and the political.

[www.carbonbrief.org](http://www.carbonbrief.org)

[Watch this introduction to ice core data](#) – very simple video.

### References to slides

Slide 3 – recent temperature rises <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/grantham/publications/climate-change-faqs/how-do-we-know-climate-change-is-happening/>

Slide 4 – long-term temperature trends

<http://www.realclimate.org/index.php/archives/2013/09/paleoclimate-the-end-of-the-holocene/>

Not included – recent GHG trends

<https://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/trends/>

Slide 7 – historic, cumulative CO2 emissions

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/264699/worldwide-co2-emissions/>

Not shared CO2 and temperature – Vostok ice core data

<https://niwa.co.nz/file/32553>

Slide 8 CO2 concentrations – 800,000 years

<https://nca2009.globalchange.gov/800000-year-record-co2-concentration/index.html>

Slide 10 – Paris agreement

<https://ourworldindata.org/co2-and-other-greenhouse-gas-emissions>

Slide 11 – Wales to 2050

<https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Advice-Report-The-path-to-a-Net-Zero-Wales.pdf>

Not included – sector reductions

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/875482/2019 UK greenhouse gas emissions provisional figures statistical summary.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/875482/2019_UK_greenhouse_gas_emissions_provisional_figures_statistical_summary.pdf)



Thinking about critics and/or alternative views to that which you have put forward above – what would others say about your perspective and idea?

Technical, scientific opposition to climate change has virtually stopped. Critics have moved away from denial to criticising the strategies and arguing against investment in mitigations.

[Treehugger](#) provides a good introduction to the common challenges.

This article from the Guardian provides [a good summary of the changing tactics](#).

[The issue about the temperature appearing to stop in the early 2000s](#) is addressed in this article from Carbon Brief.

Use this final part of your presentation to help Assembly members better understand your position in relation to others and what that means for addressing the question that they have been set.

My passion is enabling communities to take action for themselves. The politicians have the power to legislate to tackle climate change but in the end it is individuals and communities who need to drive the political ambition and make the individual decisions that will bring about change. You have the power. Use it!