

Expert Witness

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Chair the PSB Climate Change Steering Group



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

BG Public Service Board

Public Services Boards (PSBs) established to improve joint working across all public services in each local authority area in Wales.

Each board is required to carry out a well-being assessment and publish an annual local well-being plan. The plan sets out how partners will meet their responsibilities under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

Legislation sets out which organisations are members of each PSB:

- Blaenau Gwent CBC
- Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
- South Wales FRS
- Natural Resources Wales

In addition, the following also participate:

- Gwent Police
- Police and Crime Commissioner
- Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations
- Coleg Gwent
- Tai Calon Community Housing



The role of the Board is to

- Undertake a Well Being Assessment & publish plan – *the Blaenau Gwent We Want Plan was published in 2018 and will be undertaken further WBA this year*
- WBA Plan is a long term view of issues and priorities affecting Blaenau Gwent – 30 year plan
- Board has agreed annual work priorities - *includes tackling climate change*
- We set up a CC Mitigation Steering Group last Autumn – including all partners plus reps from Youth Forum and 50+ Forum.

The Board does not have a budget and is not intended to duplicate or undertake the work being done by individual organisations – but it can ensure collective action to tackle some of the bigger issues facing our community.

In Gwent there is also a partnership across the five local authority areas to pursue issues which affect us all – Climate Change also features as part of this work and enables us to attract in funding for projects including EV Charging Points, Green Infrastructure, Active Travel.

How does the Climate Assembly help?

The Climate Assembly is perfectly timed to inform both the WB Assessment and the work of the CCSG; We are in the process of putting together an Action Plan to tackle – as a partnership – the issue of Climate Change. As individual organisations we are also dealing with the challenge of reducing our carbon impact...

For example, in September the Council declared a Climate Change Emergency and agreed a Decarbonisation Plan. Our commitment is to become a Net Zero Carbon Council by 2030...other partners have made similar commitments. For the Council this means looking at how we work, our fleet, how we deal with waste collection, how we heat our building and how we reduce business travel.

We are keen to hear from the Assembly and your recommendations for tackling CC in Blaenau Gwent. This will inform our thinking - not only as a PSB but as individual partners – and help shape our action plans and future work.