



Expert Witness

Natalie Rees, TfW

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

I have been working in sustainability since 2002. My background is varied and covers a wide range of sustainability topics I have worked cross sector in public, private and in the voluntary sector. I currently work for Transport for Wales as Sustainable Development Manager. I am also a volunteer Board Member for Groundwork Wales and Fairtrade Wales.

I am very committed to my sustainable lifestyle and I try to influence others to do the same, I became a vegetarian when I was 15 due to the emissions from agriculture, that I learned about in a Geography lesson. In 2014 I gave up my car for a bike, I cycle commute and have recently invested in an ebike to help me cycle the 14 miles to work. In 2017 I gave up flying and I adopted a vegan diet to lower my emissions. I have an allotment and I grow my own fruit and vegetables.

In 2015 I decided to take a Masters degree in Climate Change and Sustainable Development to enhance my knowledge of climate change specifically due to the worsening impacts we were seeing as a result of global warming. I was really influenced by the experts that sat on the Climate Change Commission for Wales such as Kevin Anderson [Kevin Anderson | Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research](#)

I think transport plays a huge part in reducing the climate crisis, it is the third highest source of emission in Wales. We can all make simple changes that will have a big impact such as walking or cycling for short journeys, it takes around 15 minutes to walk a mile and around 8 minutes to cycle. Alternatively we should look to move away from private cars to using public transport for our daily commute, improving the public transport services in Wales is a key priority for Welsh Government and Transport for Wales are investing billions in creating a transport network that Wales can be proud of.

I think that the 20 minute neighbourhood can help a great deal too, creating environmental where we can live more locally will help us to avoid unnecessary travel. [Climate Week: How 20-minute neighbourhoods can help us fight the Climate Emergency and save our towns and cities – The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales](#)

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

97 percent climate scientists agree, and over 97 percent of scientific articles find that global warming is real and largely caused by humans.

A revitalised network that will see new services and rolling stock, innovative solutions, and a massive programme of station investment.

- We're investing £738m to transform the valley lines to Treherbert, Aberdare, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhymney and Coryton, electrifying 172 km of track and upgrading infrastructure to enable improved journey times and more trains every hour.
- From 2023, an £800m investment will ensure that 95% of journeys are on new trains. More than half the trains will be assembled in Wales.
- By December 2023, we are going to run an extra 285 (29%) more services every weekday, including improvements on the Ebbw Vale, Cambrian and Heart of Wales lines and the North Wales Metro (Wrexham-Bidston). A new service will link Cardiff and Liverpool via Wrexham.
- We're creating more than 600 new jobs, including 200 new on-train customer service staff, and add 30 apprenticeships per year.
- We're transforming the availability and quality of ticketing facilities by 2023, and also introducing Delay Repay for delays of above 15 minutes from January 2019.
- Free end-to-end internet access will be available on 85% of journeys by 2024.
- We're introducing seven new Community Rail Partnerships, employing 30 Community and Customer Ambassadors and investing more than £1.25m per year in community activity. Disused station spaces will be transformed to meet local needs.
- Smart ticketing will be rolled out across Wales and the Borders. Validators on the South Wales Metro will enable pay-as-you-go flexible ticketing. Elsewhere, customers will be able to use mobile tickets to ensure they always pay the lowest fare.
- Free travel for under 5s extended to under 11s. Half-price fares extended to 16 – 18 year-olds. Under 16s go free off peak when accompanied by a fare-paying adult.
- We're installing more than 700 new customer information screens across the network and in other locations including colleges, hospitals and workplaces.
- We're investing in more than 200 new ticket machines and providing ticket sales through local convenience stores to improve access.
- To support an integrated network, we are ensuring that there is appropriate signage at all stations to promote onward travel by public transport

What's happening in South East Wales: [What's Happening in South East Wales | Transport for Wales \(trc.cymru\)](#)



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.

Collaboration, working together is key to finding the solution to the question you have been set. Feeling involved helps you to own the solutions you identify and help you to ensure that these are implemented.

Simple changes such as switching your energy to a renewable contract, cycling and walking more, buying locally, reducing your meat consumption and growing your own have a huge impact on reducing emissions.

The talks by Lorraine Whitmarsh, Chris Blake, Julie Froud, Sian Cox all highlight how important YOU are in the answer to the question you have been set.