

Climate Strategy

Please Note: Powys County Council is responsible for ensuring and protecting your privacy when you respond to a survey using this portal. If you were to give us any personal data (your full name, address or phone number), we would like you to know that it will be stored securely for a limited period only, used only for the purposes described in the survey and in compliance with the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Click on the Privacy tab at the bottom of the page to find out more.

All fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required.

1. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Climate change is important to me	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am concerned about the impacts of climate change	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The council should have science-based climate targets	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2. Are you already taking action on climate change?

☒ Yes

☐ No

3. If yes, what action do you take? [Tick all that apply]

- ☐ Source renewable electricity
- ☐ Source local renewable electricity
- ☐ Reduce what I buy new
- ☐ Repair what I already have
- ☐ Buy used, refurbished or re-manufactured
- ☐ Expand lifetime of products through good maintenance
- ☐ Buy sustainable options e.g from recycled content or low carbon
- ☐ Use financial providers that 'divest' from fossil fuels
- ☐ Contribute financially to renewable energy projects e.g. community renewables
- ☐ Use a car club
- ☐ Use electric transport
- ☐ Volunteer on a climate project (renewables, tree planting, sustainable mobility project and beyond)

SAVE & CONTINUE

All fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required.

3. What do you think of the following?

	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
The title of the report – Red Kite Climate Vision and Strategy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The motivation statements (foreword, introduction, the need for action now)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The view ahead (vision, what could Powys look, sound and feel like)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The mission statement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The six objectives	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you have selected dissatisfied or very dissatisfied, please explain why you have chosen your response for each of the above:

4. The title of the report – Red Kite Climate Vision and Strategy

We do not object to a memorable title but the use of "the red kite story" is inappropriate and irrelevant. It is even insulting to the public to suggest that this single-species success, which owes little or nothing to PCC and did not involve the general population of Powys, equips the Powys local government and pollution for the unprecedented challenge of Climate Change.

5. The motivation statements (foreword, introduction, the need for action now)

These are woolly generalities. The twin emergencies of Climate Change and Ecological Emergency (biodiversity collapse) should be addressed together from the outset. The strategy does not describe WHY we need action now apart from "can save lives" and children are worried. This is a missed opportunity to lay out specifics of current context and parameters (e.g. funding specifics, current RE capacity installed and % of need met, projected future need, progress with efficiency modifications etc.) determining the scope for action. The consequences of global warming with weather disruption, including flooding, heatwaves and drought and natural species loss should be spelt out. (Forward: para 1. sentence 3 - grammar.)

6. The view ahead (vision, what could Powys look, sound and feel like)

There is lack of specifics. A 'fantastic place to live, work and play' rings hollow when so many council decisions are making residents increasingly unhappy with the quality of life in rural Powys. This vision is at odds with current direction of travel of planning decisions, one of the principle areas in which the Council has the authority to shape our future.

Powys is a very rural county with rapidly increasing carbon-costly industrialisation of the countryside and rapid habitat loss. Our roads and country lanes are getting noisier. Planning decisions and lack of regulation and enforcement are making "staying local" less pleasant and even causing people to move away. So why are local places for nature, green spaces only to be found in towns?

There are lots of fuzzy words but little content reflecting the enormity of changes that must be made to our consumption, life-style, travel, waste-production activities. What does 'sustainable and regenerative options to meet renewable energy needs' actually mean in practice? The vision needs to identify a realistic, achievable and measurable goals towards which the measures outlined in the strategy will contribute.

Powys should face up to the fact that we do not live in a pretend, rosy win-win world. Carefully balanced courageous choices must be made with long-term goals instead of short-term expediency in view. It would be useful to set out those areas in which a local authority has the powers to act.

We would hope for co-ordinated action with NRW, other LPAs, stakeholder organisations and cross border bodies. Disappointingly, the NRW Mid-Wales Area Statement has not even begun to shape a sustainable vision for the future of MidWales.

7. The mission statement

CPRW are pleased to see that the mission statement refers to important concepts such as 'efficiency', 'restoration of ecosystems', 'decreasing our contributions' to climate change, 'assessing climate risks' and 'climate resilience'. Unfortunately, not all these ideas are found in either current Council practice or developed further within the document.

8. The six objectives

Objective 1 is irrelevant. WBFGA is obligatory, overarching Welsh legislation.
Objective 2: Objective 2 – there are barriers to RE dev across county e.g. social/environmental/landscape/cultural heritage damage which should be respected. Potential validity of 'barriers' must be acknowledged by ref for example to RE dev in appropriate sites only where habitat/biodiversity interests allow.

Objectives 3 & 4: relevant and important

Objective 5 is redundant - goes without saying Powys should maximise benefits

Objective 6: funding programs for RE is part of Objective 2.

Objective 6: prioritising energy efficiencies and savings is an important objective on its own.

Replacement objectives 1 and 5:

There should be a further objectives recognising the need to reverse biodiversity loss and restore ecosystems,

For our rural county, It is huge omission that 'Mid Wales Energy Strategy' Key Priority 5: 'Help develop and harness the potential of agriculture to contribute to zero carbon goals' (quoted in Appendix 2) is completely missing.

BACK

SAVE & CONTINUE

9. The publication - "[Net zero carbon status by 2030 - A route map for decarbonisation across the Welsh public sector](#)" suggests five priority areas of Buildings, Procurement, Mobility and Transport, Land use and Governance.

How much do you agree or disagree that these areas are suitable for the public sector to reach net zero by 2030?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Buildings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mobility and transport	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Procurement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Land use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Council and governance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10. Buildings

We have provided some top areas of focus for our key areas for change, please let us know how you rank these (where 1 is top priority and 4 is lowest priority):

Energy efficient housing - including social housing and affordable warmth using a whole building approach to optimise retrofitting

21st Century net zero schools – schools modernisation programme to provide new high energy efficient buildings

Deploy renewable energy where possible at our sites and on our buildings

Use timber and other locally available natural building materials where possible

11. Would you add a different are of focus to this list? Add your priority area:

These are all important parts of an INTEGRATED plan for the future and so it does not make sense to prioritise.

New priority areas:

intensive livestock and bio-digestion etc. facilities: consider the full range of impacts on air/water/soil and global impacts.

Insist on net biodiversity gain for all development.

This section should recognise that the council not only manages its own buildings but through its planning responsibilities has capacity to decide whether or not building developments should be permitted across the county. Climate and biodiversity considerations should be given priority in these decisions.

Unless the document is restructured to reflect Development Management as a separate 'key area for change', which would be preferable, this could be covered by adding a further area of focus committing the council to prioritise climate/biodiversity concerns in planning decisions for new development. including agricultural buildings and installations, waste facilities etc.

There should be an explicit obligation to consider wider impacts on air, water and soils for all development.

12. Mobility and Transport

We have provided some top areas of focus for our key areas for change, please let us know how you rank these (where 1 is top priority and 5 is lowest priority):

- Promote public transport
- Active Travel options will allow residents to make more positive choices
- Work with transport partners to improve transport infrastructure
- Provide opportunities for the electrification of transport (including school transport)
- Reduce the need for travel – opportunities for remote working

13. Would you add a different area of focus to this list? Add your priority area:

These are all important parts of an INTEGRATED plan for the future and so it does not make sense to prioritise.

This section presupposes that public transport and active travel are realistic options for the majority of residents. In rural areas in particular this is not so. This section should recognise the need to improve public transport as an urgent priority. Also within this section the Council should acknowledge the potential of its own planning decisions to result in greatly increased volumes of heavy traffic on country lanes with impacts on healthy outdoor activity, air quality, and safety. Currently this is not given any weight in planning decisions – this needs to change.

14. Procurement

We have provided some top areas of focus for our key areas for change, please let us know how you rank these (where 1 is top priority and 4 is lowest priority):

- Create opportunities for the use of more sustainable products and services to supply to the Council
- Build local supply chains and industries
- New frameworks that ensure that the most sustainable choice is clear to decision makers
- Help develop the circular economy in Powys

15. Would you add a different area of focus to this list? Add your priority area:

These are all important parts of an INTEGRATED plan for the future and so it does not make sense to prioritise.

New priority area: eliminate packaging and waste from food/drink outlets (this is not part of a Powys circular economy because few of these products are produced in Powys).

Discussion of the circular economy is confined to this section. The Council's planning decisions, in particular in respect of intensive livestock units, are hugely relevant here. Intensive livestock units depend heavily on imports from across the world of soy based feeds, which themselves have been shown to be linked to ongoing deforestation and biodiversity loss on a vast scale, in particular in the Cerrado region of Brazil.

Related to these nutrient imports into the county are a growing volume of exports, in the form of poultry manures, out of the county. This is exactly what a circular economy seeks to avoid. Currently, there is no recognition of this impact in planning decisions, a situation which has to change.

16. Land use

We have provided some top areas of focus for our key areas for change, please let us know how you rank these (where 1 is top priority and 4 is lowest priority):

Understand the environmental impact on our land and the opportunities available

Give our local communities a voice to help express local preferences through place-based planning

Support and encourage best practice including local sustainability and innovators

Encourage community groups to develop green spaces and other similar initiatives

17. Would you add a different area of focus to this list? Add your priority area:

All these are important.

This section needs to recognise the Council's own role in determining land use through the planning system and the climate/biodiversity impacts of its planning decisions. This is also where a commitment to 'Help develop and harness the potential of agriculture to contribute to zero carbon goals' (Mid Wales Energy Strategy' Key Priority 5) should be set out, and where strategies to 'restore ecosystems', 'assess climate risks' and work towards 'climate resilience' (Mission Statement) should be developed.

Powys Council could examine its own record.

"understand the environmental impact on our land and the opportunities available"

Powys voted not to declare an ecological emergency, with some Members saying there was no evidence for this (in spite of the State of Nature Reports and a host of National/UK/International sources).

"Give our local communities a voice to help express local preferences through place-based planning."

Powys is the LPA which refuses to publish public representations to planning applications, decides controversial environmentally damaging projects under delegated powers, has extended these delegated powers to EIA applications and, when applications go to Planning Committee, does not supply Committee members with public representations. Planning enforcement is evasive and weak.

Members of the public feel completely disenfranchised as they watch carbon footprints grow and their local environments degraded.

This form has been completed by the Brecon and Radnor Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural Wales.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss any of these issues with members of the Public Service Board, Powys Council Officers or County Councillors.

(NB there are no fields marked with an asterisk.)

Just Transition

All large changes have impacts, while climate change is referred to by some as an equality issue due to the impacts often hitting those least responsible and the poorest hardest. While the end goal benefits all, i.e. a safe climate, lower risks of flooding, storm damage, erosion, etc. There is also a lot of work on a “just transition” this means to make sure that changes are fair and we maximise opportunities for involvement including for those on low incomes and otherwise vulnerable. In Wales, we now have the socio-economic duty which also plays a part here.

18. How important is a just transition to you?

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Unimportant
- ☐ Very unimportant

19. The appendix has a range of content which might be useful, please rate your preference for each of the following:

	Adds important information to keep	Context that could be removed
Appendix 1: Building a vision	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Appendix 2: Integration	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

All fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required.

20. Would you like to be part of a stakeholder group?

☒ Yes

☐ No

21. If yes, please leave your contact details. Name:

Brecon and Radnor Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales (via secretary)

77/255

22. Email:

secretary@brecon-and-radnor-cprw.wales

23. Phone number:

01544260839

24. Which topic or topics would you be interested to talk on?

☐ Buildings

☐ Mobility and transport

☐ Procurement

☒ Land

☐ Governance

25. What is your level of expertise in climate change?

☐ Casual observer

☒ Long term interest

☐ Professional – new to field

☐ Professional - 2 years experience

☐ Professional - 5 years experience

☐ Professional - 10years+ experience

BACK

SUBMIT

Public Service Board Membership

Membership

- [Harris, Rosemarie](#) (Chair) (Powys County Council)
- Ann Weedy
- Caroline Turner (Powys County Council)
- Vivienne Harpwood (Powys Teaching Health Board)
- Carl Cooper (Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations)
- Carol Shillabeer (Powys Teaching Health Board)
- Dafydd Llewellyn (Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Commissioner)
- Christine Harley (Probation Service)
- Alison Perry (Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner)
- Iwan Cray (Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority)
- Gavin Bown (Natural Resources Wales)
- Jamie Burt (Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations)
- Superintendent Steve Davies (Dyfed Powys Police)
- Stephanie Evans (Brecon Beacons National Park Authority)
- Hugh Pattrick (One Voice Wales - Brecon and Radnor)
- Derrick Pugh (One Voice Wales - Montgomeryshire)
- Claire Rumsby (Department for Work and Pensions)
- Chief Inspector Jacqui Lovatt (Dyfed-Powys Police)
- Administrator (Secretary)
- [Curry, Kelvyn](#)
- Chief Inspector Andy Pitt

Contact information

Support officer: Email: steve.boyd@powys.gov.uk.