

Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil

Your local county voluntary council



2. Running your organisation

2.13.1 Where to go for help on action on climate change

Introduction

This information sheet is aimed at organisations and groups working in Wales who want to take a first step towards sustainable working practices and who want to find out more about climate change and how they can make a positive contribution towards tackling it.

This information sheet aims to summarise organisations and agencies that have help, advice, information and in some cases funding available to third sector organisations to help tackle climate change – this guidance is by no means exhaustive and there will be many more organisations who are making a positive contribution to climate change through their work.

This information sheet will be updated regularly – please let us know if you are aware of any other relevant information that could be added to this guidance by emailing: policy@wcva.org.uk

Sources of help (listed alphabetically)

Awel Aman Tawe

Awel Aman Tawe is a community energy project working to make a difference to the lives of people at the top of the Swansea and Amman Valleys. It aims to bring clean electricity, jobs and regeneration to the villages near the Mynydd y Gwrhyd. It has planning permission to build a two-turbine community wind farm high up on the Gwrhyd, a £6million asset that will bring low carbon energy and construction contracts to the area, together with an annual income stream from the sale of electricity of some £200,000 that will help to fund local projects.

It works to raise awareness of the importance of clean energy in the fight against the threat of climate change through a sustained programme of information, communication and consultation and, more recently, through an innovative range of arts activities related to climate change that often reach people at a deeper level.

Tel: 01639 830870

aat@awelamantawe.co.uk

www.awelamantawe.org.uk/

Climate Outreach

Climate Outreach is a UK registered charity established in 2004 which dedicates itself to helping people to communicate climate change. Their aim is to facilitate the process by which people: overcome denial about climate change; act collectively to cut greenhouse gas emissions; and offer democratic legitimacy to elected leaders to negotiate successfully for strong regulation at a national and international level. Climate Outreach is committed to trialling new methods of peer-peer communication and action and reporting on what we learn. They hope, in this way, to assist the wider climate change movement to adopt effective strategies derived from evidence-based research.

Tel: 01865 403334

info@climateoutreach.org

<http://climateoutreach.org/>

Co-Cymru

Co-Cymru provides expert consultancy and development support to a range of organisations and sectors in 'holistic regeneration' and 'sustainable investment'. The vision of Co-Cymru is to help create sustainable, attractive and inclusive neighbourhoods, which foster the talent and diversity of local people.

Every community has the potential to excite and inspire. They work with clients and communities to unlock their unique assets and opportunities and drive forward successful regeneration and recovery.

Warm Wales–Cymru Gynnes, and its subsidiary, **Co–Cymru**, propose to deliver a wide range of measures, in the area of sustainable energy and regeneration, in support of Assembly policies.

As a regulated Community Interest Company, Warm Wales-Cymru Gynnes, bring a community centred approach to economic, social and environmental sustainability.

Tel: 01639 825 960

admin@warmwales.org.uk

<http://www.warmwales.org.uk/>

Cynnal Cymru/ Sustain Wales

Cynnal Cymru-Sustain Wales is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that promotes sustainable development and provides practical information to help people live sustainably. Cynnal Cymru plays a key role in communicating and promoting sustainable development across Wales.

Operating at the boundary between government, business, and civil society, Cynnal Cymru is uniquely positioned to assimilate the views of each group and generate communication between them that will result in positive action for sustainable development. Check out the Sustainable Living Guide and sign up the E-Newsletter - GloballySusDCymru to find out top tips for communities.

Tel: 02920 19 20 21

enquiries@sustainwales.com

www.cynnalcymru.com/

Development Trusts Association Wales

The Development Trusts Association Wales (DTA Wales) is an independent practitioner based membership organisation promoting the work of and supporting the growing network of development trusts in Wales.

DTA Wales is part of the UK wide [Development Trusts Association](#), the leading community enterprise and regeneration network and fast growing movement of 500 development trusts and more than 43 in Wales, with community owned assets worth £560 million. Development Trusts are community owned and led organisations operating as community or [social enterprises](#).

Development Trusts unlock potential, develop skills and deliver practical and sustainable local solutions. They are engaged in trading and provide local services, grow enterprises and own and manage community assets investing surpluses back into communities.

Tel: 029 2019 0260

www.dtawales.org.uk/about-dta-wales/

DIRECTGOV

The official UK government website for citizens. Easy access to the public services you use and the information you need, delivered by the UK government. Find quick and easy ways to save money, calculate your carbon footprint and simple tips for greener living.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topics/climate-change>

Eco Dyfi

Ecodyfi is the local regeneration organisation for the Dyfi Valley, in Mid Wales.

Tel: 01654 703965

enquiries@ecodyfi.org.uk

www.ecodyfi.org.uk/index.htm

Energyshare

Energy affects everyone's lives, and pockets, and the way we think about energy here in the UK is changing fast. Up and down the country there are already hundreds of people getting together and setting up renewable energy projects. They're proving that there really is an alternative way to do things. But at the same time only 2% of people are on green tariffs.

They've learnt from [other projects](#) (like [River Cottage](#), [Hugh's Fish Fight](#), [Chicken Out](#) and [Landshare](#)) that when you bring together people, communities, organisations and the media, something really BIG can happen.

So **energys**share brings people together in person and online to turn the system on its head. It gives everyone the opportunity to source, use and (when you're ready...) even generate your own 100% British renewable energy - and save money doing it.

www.energyshare.com

Energy Saving Trust

The Energy Saving Trust is an independent not for profit UK-based organisation focused on promoting action that leads to the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions. Funded by the UK government, devolved governments and the private sector they are the source of free advice and information for people across the UK looking to save energy, conserve water and reduce waste.

Help & advice line: 0800 512 012

General enquiries: 020 7222 0101

www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/wales

Environment Agency Wales

Environment Agency Wales is a Welsh Government Sponsored Body, while also being part of the corporate Environment Agency for England and Wales.

The Environment Agency is currently developing environmental guidance for Community First partnerships across Wales, to find out more please contact the Policy Officer dealing with Communities First work.

Tel: 08708 506 506

enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency>

European Commission Climate Action

This website provides information about how to get involved in lessening Europe's collective impact on the environment, including sections on 'What's happening near you', and 'What's already been tried and tested'.

It also has information about what the EU can offer in terms of different kinds of funding for environmental and energy related projects - mainly through "calls for proposals" and public tenders for small businesses, NGOs and research.

Information is also available on EU's energy and climate change policy, including ambitious new targets for 2020

http://ec.europa.eu/climateaction/index_en.htm

Every Action Counts

The Every Action Counts website has a range of tools and advice to help community organisations reduce their own carbon emissions and encourage other neighbourhood groups and individuals to do the same (though please note that the programme has now closed and no longer provides direct support)

www.justact.org.uk/

Global Action Plan

The UK's leading environmental behaviour change organisation with over 18 years experience in sustainability communications, staff engagement and training. They work with businesses, communities and schools and their programmes are the only ones in the UK to be supported by the United Nations Environment Programme.

Tel: 020 7420 4444

www.globalactionplan.org.uk/

Green Dragon/ Y Ddraig Werdd

All organisations now need to take care of the environment through the actions of their business and many are now required to prove their environmental credentials.

Green Dragon is an Environmental Management System and official accreditation of the system which helps organisations to achieve this.

Other benefits include:

- financial savings
- compliance with legislation
- increased competitiveness
- improved environmental performance

Green Dragon is run by Groundwork Wales, a charity which helps people and organisations make changes in order to create better neighbourhoods, to build skills and job prospects, and to live and work in a greener way.

<https://www.groundwork.org.uk/Sites/wales>

Greenpeace (UK website)

Greenpeace is an independent global campaigning organisation that acts to change attitudes and behaviour, to protect and conserve the environment and to promote peace. The website includes a downloadable booklet – [How to save the Climate](#) – packed with tips.

Tel: 020 7865 8100

info@uk.greenpeace.org

www.greenpeace.org.uk/

Groundwork Wales

Groundwork Wales is a charity which helps people and organisations make changes in order to create better neighbourhoods, to build skills and job prospects, and to live and work in a greener way.

It is part of [Groundwork in Wales](#), a leading local, regional and national environmental regeneration network building sustainable communities across Wales.

<https://www.groundwork.org.uk/Sites/wales>

Home Heat Helpline

The Little Book of Energy has been launched to provide people – particularly those most at risk of fuel poverty - with practical tips and advice that can help them cut their energy bills.

The Little Book of Energy is intended to make people more energy efficient around the home so that they use less and save more. And this can be achieved through simple steps such as making sure radiators are not blocked by furniture or covered by curtains and only boiling as much water as you need.

The book also highlights the range of support services available from the Home Heat Helpline which include:

- Advice on social tariffs – typically a 20 per cent saving
- The Priority Service Register which provides extra services for people who are elderly or disabled including bills in large text or Braille, security passwords and an annual gas safety check
- Grants for free home insulation
- Flexible payment options for customers in fuel debt
- Benefits entitlement checks

The Little Book can be obtained by calling the Home Heat Helpline on 0800 33 66 99.

www.homeheathelpline.org.uk/

Household Energy Service

Helping all kinds of people cut carbon and fuel. They work in Welsh and English towns and valleys around Bishop's Castle, Knighton and Presteigne, Montgomery and Newtown. They train volunteers from these areas to make visits and gather data on your energy use. You can also choose to complete a data gathering form and submit it to them yourself. The Energy Team, led by a professional Energy Officer, then provides you with your free energy survey report giving you:

- Recommendations for energy saving measures you can take at home and on the move - including no cost / low cost energy saving tips
- Independent technical and grant advice on insulation, renewables, low impact transport etc.
- Signposting to other information sources.
- Ongoing support to take action.

Tel: 01588 630683

info@h-e-s.org

www.h-e-s.org/page/home/

Keep Wales Tidy

Keep Wales Tidy works to maintain a beautiful Wales that can be cared for and enjoyed by all. They work in close partnership with local authorities, schools and community groups to encourage participation and input from the public. Keep Wales Tidy currently run numerous programmes, from helping local communities to improve their area, to educating children on the importance of respecting the environment. They tackle more than just litter and waste: their aim is to encourage the public to take responsibility for their environment by providing them with the utensils and the education to do so.

Tel: 02920 256767

south@keepwalestidy.org

www.keepwalestidy.org/index

Locality

Locality is the leading nationwide network of settlements, development trusts, social action centres and community enterprises. They believe that every community is a place of possibility. They help people to set up locally owned and led organisations. We support existing organisations to work effectively through peer-to-peer exchange of knowledge and best practice on community asset ownership, community enterprise, collaboration, commissioning support, social action, community voice, community rights and regeneration.

Locality also works to influence government and others at national and local level to build support and investment for the movement.

Tel: 0845 458 8336
info@locality.org.uk
<http://locality.org.uk>

NEA Cymru

NEA Cymru is the Welsh arm of NEA (National Energy Action); the UK's leading fuel poverty charity. In Wales, as in the rest of the UK, it campaigns for an end to fuel poverty through affordable warmth for all. The website includes information on available funding, guidance on making energy efficiency improvements to community buildings and a host of practical tips focused on energy efficiency.

Tel: 07971 005578
www.nea.org.uk

Severn Wye Energy Agency

Working in partnership with local authorities, health authorities, government agencies, regional bodies, the private sector, a range of voluntary agencies, and other energy agencies across Europe, they have developed a portfolio of projects and services in energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable transport.

. They aim to help everyone within the communities they serve to enjoy the benefits that energy can bring without reducing the ability of future generations to do the same.

Severn Wye Energy Agency offers the following services:

- Strategy development, including energy, affordable warmth, and climate change
- Project management and development
- Training for professional staff and advisors
- Awareness, advice and information
- Educational programmes
- Research

Tel: 01982 551006
www.swea.co.uk/index.shtml

Sustainable Wales

Sustainable Wales is an independent charity passionate about encouraging sustainable lifestyles at a community level, achievable by thinking globally while acting locally. It seeks to foster behavioural change, offering practical solutions and guidance that are replicable, to support that change.

Sustainable Wales can offer the following services:

- A consultancy and training service on sustainable development issues
- A number of publications on a wide range of topics related to Sustainable Development
- Events management of community based sustainability events
- Practical advice and solutions to how you can be more sustainable every day, including [top tips](#) in the areas of waste, transport, water, food, energy and purchasing
- Sustainable Wales has also set up a 'community businesses' called [SUSSED](#) which is a retail company focused on 'fair trade, eco-friendly and Welsh products.

Tel: 01656 783405

info@sustainablewales.org.uk

www.sustainablewales.org.uk/

Sustrans Cymru

Sustrans makes smarter travel choices possible, desirable and inevitable. A leading UK charity enabling people to travel by foot, bike or public transport for more of the journeys we make every day. Working with families, communities, policy-makers and partner organisations so that people are able to choose healthier, cleaner and cheaper journeys, with better places and spaces to move through and live in.

Tel: 0845 113 00 65

info@sustrans.org.uk

www.sustrans.org.uk/

TCV

The charity was set up in 1959, and has a successful history of environmental conservation volunteering throughout the UK and around the world.

Working with and supporting TCV can be a rewarding experience for corporate partners, the Government, Big Lottery Fund, local authorities, government agencies such as English Nature and individual donors.

Its mission is to create a more sustainable future by inspiring people and improving places

Tel: 01302 388 883

information@tcv.org.uk

<http://www.tcv.org.uk/>

The Carbon Trust

The Carbon Trust is part of the UK's Climate Change programme. It encourages and promotes the development of low carbon technologies. It offers support for UK businesses and the public sector through funding, supporting technological innovation and by encouraging efficient working practices. Although aimed at the private and public sectors, third sector organisations can also make use of the many tools, services and initiatives offered by the Carbon Trust (please check with them directly if you are unsure).

Useful sections of the website include:

Information on [climate change](#)

[Energy saving advice for your organisation](#)

[Employee awareness posters and stickers](#)

[Loans for energy saving equipment](#)

Enhanced Capital Allowances: tax relief when investing in energy-saving equipment

[Carbon Footprinting](#) - getting the measure of your organisation's emissions

Tel: 0800 085 2005

customercentre@carbontrust.co.uk

www.carbontrust.co.uk/Pages/Default.aspx

The Centre for Alternative Technology

The Centre for Alternative Technology is an environmental charity aiming to 'inspire, inform and enable' people to live more sustainably. CAT offers mail order publications, consultancy and residential courses.

CAT's [free information service](#) offers advice and information on all aspects of sustainable living which can help you choose what measures are the most useful for you to take to reduce your environmental impact and lower your carbon footprint (and save money too!) There are also a range of information sheets to download on topics such as Energy Efficiency, Renewable energy and Transport and Travel.

Tel: 01654 705950

www.cat.org.uk/index.tpl?refer=index&init=1

The Energy Advice Line

This website provides a free and impartial energy advice service as well as top tips to save energy. Switching [business electricity](#) or [business gas](#) supplier is an easy way to reduce your overheads and save money. With the Energy Advice Line you can view and evaluate prices from leading business gas and business electricity suppliers simply and quickly. It also star rates all of the suppliers terms and conditions against a [defined criteria](#) so that you compare the contract "small print" in an easy to understand bite sized format. This way you will gain a good understanding of what the business electricity or business gas supplier is offering and make a well informed decision.

Tel: 0800 915 1800

www.energyadviceline.org.uk/

The Green Valleys

The Green Valley's mission is to create carbon neutral, financially secure and sustainable communities. Their principle means of achieving this is to help communities realise the benefits of Feed-in Tariffs through micro-hydro generation. Feed-in Tariffs offer a 20 year guaranteed, indexed linked revenue stream for renewable generation. They focus on hydro power because it is reliable and proven technology, that has minimal environmental impact, raises no major planning obstacles, and is well suited to the topography and climate of Wales.

TGV also provides advice and support on community engagement, specific support to enable local woodlands to be managed as a source of wood fuel, plus the ability to share the experience of other communities with other carbon reducing initiatives.

Tel: 07969 137719

info@thegreenvalleys.org

<http://thegreenvalleys.org/>

UKCIP

UKCIP helps organisations to adapt the way they work in order to deal with the impacts of a changing climate. Since 1997, they have been providing resources, for free, to help organisations to understand what changes to the climate might mean for them, as well as offering guidance on how to prepare. UKCIP works with stakeholders in the public, private and voluntary sectors to develop resources that can enable robust, evidence-based adaptation.

Tel: 01865 285717

enquiries@ukcip.org.uk

www.ukcip.org.uk/

Utility Aid

Established in 2002, Utility Aid has helped hundreds of charitable organisations make better use of their budgets by offering simple, clear and impartial advice on how to save money and make better energy purchasing decisions. Their staff have many years industry experience and work in partnership with major energy suppliers to ensure your utilities experience is as pain free as possible!

Tel: 0808 1788 170

enquiries@utility-aid.co.uk

www.utility-aid.co.uk/index.html

Wales Cooperative Centre

The Wales Co-operative Centre helps co-operatives, social enterprises, community groups and voluntary organisations. They offer a guiding hand to emerging and established organisations by providing responsive, reliable and flexible support.

Mainly funded by the European Regional Development Fund and the Welsh Government, they are dedicated to working with organisations and communities to tackle social, digital and financial exclusion in Wales. They help communities develop businesses or projects that value people and the environment as much as profit.

Tel: 0300 111 5050

info@walescooperative.org

www.walescooperative.org

Welsh Government: Help Wales Reduce its Carbon Footprint

The Welsh Government recognise climate change is one of the biggest challenges facing the world today and the Welsh Government is determined to play its part in tackling it. This dedicated website is divided into sections aimed at the individual, young people, communities and businesses.

Particularly useful resources include:

[Community action pack](#); a huge amount of information broken down into bit sized thematic chunks on what you can do, successful projects and where you can get help with your community project.

[Calculate my footprint](#); Use the carbon calculator to work out your individual footprint. You'll also get your own action plan with advice about how you can help tackle climate change and you'll save money on your bills too.

[Third Sector Action Highlights: Climate Change Strategy for Wales](#)

It includes:

- an outline of the role of the third sector in supporting action to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change;
- an overview of emission reduction targets and how the third sector and community organisations can support emission reduction; and
- an overview of how the sector is expected to support the adaptation of Wales to a changing climate.

The Welsh Government produces a range of strategies, guidance, and other documents related to climate change. Please click [here](#)

www.walescarbonfootprint.gov.uk/?lang=en

WRAP Cymru

WRAP Cymru works in partnership to:

- Develop Wales' infrastructure for recycling and reprocessing its waste
- Work with manufacturers to help increase recycled content of their products
- Drive down packaging and food waste, and associated carbon, through the Courtauld Commitment
- Reduce construction waste through Halving Waste to Landfill
- Increase the diversion of biodegradable waste into quality products such as compost and digestate and create demand for these products

Switchboard: 01295 819 900

Helpline: 0808 100 2040

www.wrap.org.uk/index.html

Disclaimer

The information provided in this sheet is intended for guidance only. It is not a substitute for professional advice and we cannot accept any responsibility for loss occasioned as a result of any person acting or refraining from acting upon it.

For further information contact

Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil

Voluntary Action Centre, 89/90 High Street, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 8UH

Registered Charity: 1060242

Tel: 01685 353900

enquiries@vamt.net

Fax: 01685 353909

www.vamt.net

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