



Gofal Cymdeithasol **Cymru**
Social Care **Wales**

Our Board's climate emergency declaration

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Go to <http://content.socialcare.wales/about-us/our-outcomes/our-commitment-to-becoming-carbon-net-zero-by-2030/our-boards-climate-emergency-declaration> for the latest version.

We, the Social Care Wales Board, recognise that the climate crisis poses a significant threat to the health, well-being, safety and prosperity of our communities. We are deeply concerned about its potentially catastrophic impact on the future of our people and our planet.

As an organisation dedicated to promoting social care in Wales, we recognise our responsibility to address the urgent challenge of climate crisis.

We're committed to taking immediate and decisive action to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions to support the Welsh Government's Net Zero 2030 Pledge for public sector organisations.

In declaring a climate emergency, we will:

- develop a comprehensive 'Climate action plan' that sets out ambitious and measurable targets for reducing our carbon footprint and fosters a culture of sustainability across our organisation
- put best practices in place so we can be as efficient as possible with our resources, reduce our waste and have sustainable procurement across all our operations, including our supply chain
- encourage and support our staff, partners and stakeholders to adopt more sustainable practices in their personal and professional lives
- collaborate with other organisations, experts and leaders to promote the adoption of climate action by sharing knowledge, expertise and resources, and scale up our impact
- advocate for policy changes at local and national levels to speed up the transition to a low-carbon, sustainable and resilient future for social care in

Wales

- acknowledge the impact of the climate crisis in our planning and policies, and make plans for climate adaption, as well as preventing and reducing our carbon emissions, in recognition of the current climate projections.

We recognise that achieving our climate goals will need dedication, innovation and perseverance. But we're committed to playing our part in creating a sustainable and equitable future for all.



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Our 2030 net zero carbon action plan

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We've developed *Our 2030* net zero carbon action plan to help us minimise our activities' carbon footprint and to identify how we can support Welsh Government to realise its 'Social care decarbonisation route map towards net zero by 2030'.

The plan sets out how we will:

- decarbonise or minimise our activities' carbon footprint, and how we'll calculate our carbon footprint to help us monitor our progress towards net zero
- work with, influence and support other organisations to help them think about how they can decarbonise or minimise their activities' carbon footprint
- educate and influence the behaviours of our staff and the wider social care sector by thinking about decarbonisation at every stage in the planning and provision of our services, and by promoting good and innovative decarbonisation practises.

Our action plan has seven themes:

- strategy
- policy
- procurement
- managing our facilities
- information
- collaboration and initiatives to support the social care sector
- personal behaviours.



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Our carbon footprint for the financial year April 2022 to March 2023

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Our carbon footprint for the year was **870,107 KgCO₂e**.

This was an increase of **11.7 per cent** since the previous year, when our carbon footprint was **778,820 KgCO₂e** and it reflects the opening up of activity after the Covid-19 pandemic.

We remain on track with our longer-term goal of net zero by 2030, having achieved a **48 per cent** reduction when compared to our baseline year, which ended in March 2020.

Why did our carbon footprint increase during the year?

Show

The two main reasons our carbon footprint increased in 2022 to 2023 are:

- our staff count grew from **136 employees** in March 2022 to **201 employees** in March 2023.

We use Welsh Government's benchmark factors for some categories of spend and multiply these by the number employees we have to estimate our carbon emissions.

- we reopened our office space after the Covid-19 pandemic, so our commuting and office use increased.

What have we done to reduce our carbon footprint?

Show

We've moved most of our ICT systems to the cloud, making us more energy and carbon efficient.

We've formally adopted a hybrid way of working to allow our staff to continue to work from home, reducing the need to commute.

We've adopted new ways of working, which means people who use our services can now access all our services online and don't need to go to our offices.

We've also built decarbonisation and environmental sustainability into our procurement processes and our Social Care Wales Workforce Development Programme (SCWWDP) grants.

We now ask potential suppliers and beneficiaries about their approach to decarbonisation and how they're taking it into account.

What are we doing to support others to reduce their carbon footprint?

Show

We've been working with Welsh Government to develop their decarbonisation plans for the social care sector.

We fully support the need to include requirements for carbon reporting in the new [National framework for commissioning care and support](#) that's being developed by Welsh Government.

As part of our leadership role in social care, we're also working to influence and support decision makers to make sure organisations take environmental sustainability into account when they're making decisions and developing their policies and strategies.

Our carbon footprint in numbers

They are summarised below with comparisons to the previous year.

Our energy usage

In 2022 to 2023, our emissions due to energy use were:

- **641,635 KgCO₂e from electricity** (up 7.3 per cent from 641,635 KgCO₂e)
- **31,761 KgCO₂e from gas** (down 12.2 per cent from 36,190 KgCO₂e)

Staff transport and home working

This is the first year since we reopened our offices to all staff after the Covid-19 pandemic.

While the percentage increases shown here are large, our overall carbon emissions remain very small.

We survey our staff each year to find out how they travel to our offices and how often they visit them. We use our expenses system to analyse our business travel.

During the year, our:

- business travel emissions were **11,664 KgCO₂e** (up 468 per cent from 2,491 KgCO₂e)
- commuting emissions were **14,498 KgCO₂e** (up 188 per cent from 7,701 KgCO₂e)
- home working emissions were **121,298 KgCO₂e** (up 222 per cent from 84,617 KgCO₂e).

The resources we used

We separate and recycle our office waste, though we're unable to measure it. So we've calculated our carbon footprint in this area based on our staff numbers and by applying benchmark factors.

In 2022 to 2023, we used:

- **1,522 KgCO₂e from waste disposal** (down 33 percent from 2,284 KgCO₂e)
- **47,729 KgCO₂e from water usage** (up 12 per cent from 42,976 KgCO₂e).

Our supply chain

We've estimated our supply chain emissions using benchmark factors that are based on the amount we spent:

- **ICT: 279,457 KgCO₂e** (down 12 percent from 315,863 KgCO₂e)
- **office services: 51,265 KgCO₂e** (up 65 per cent from 31,020 KgCO₂e)
- **furniture and equipment: 3,480 KgCO₂e** (down 12 per cent from 4,439 KgCO₂e)
- **communications: 97,470 KgCO₂e** (up 44 per cent from 67,466 KgCO₂e)
- **professional advice services: 213,162 KgCO₂e** (down 51 per cent from 438,354 KgCO₂e)
- **HR activities: 366 KgCO₂e** (down 99 per cent from 25,429 KgCO₂e)
- **food and drink: 1,951 KgCO₂e** (up 3,982 per cent from 49 KgCO₂e)
- **building services: 20,046 KgCO₂e** (no change).



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Our next steps

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We're building decarbonisation and environmental sustainability into our work plans. Here are some of our planned initiatives for 2023 to 2024:

Our energy use and office space

From July 2023, all our electricity will come from 100 per cent renewable energy tariffs.

From April 2024, we'll be reducing our office space by 50 per cent reflecting the success of our hybrid working policy.

Our travel and carbon offsetting

From July 2023, our new staff travel policy will prioritise greener forms of travel. Our unavoidable travel and subsistence carbon footprint will be offset by buying carbon credits to support Welsh woodlands.

In September 2023, we will launch a zero-carbon car leasing scheme for staff.

Our supply chain

We will finish moving all our ICT systems to the cloud and reduce our use of external professional advisors.

Our research work

To support the social care sector with decarbonisation and to provide evidence and data around how the sector is responding to the climate crisis, we're looking into potential research topics in this area.

These include:

- climate adaptation in social care
- how social care is responding to the challenges of climate change.



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Carbon neutral legislation and policy in Wales

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There are a number of laws and policies that support Welsh Government's aim to become carbon neutral by 2050.

Here's a guide to some of those laws and policies:

- [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#): Under the Act, public bodies in Wales must consider the long-term impact of the decisions they make on future generations. We'll come under the Act from April 2024. The Future Generations Commissioner has set out their long-term vision and the approach they intend to take over the next seven years in [Cymru Can](#). The plan includes making sure [all Welsh public bodies achieve their net zero and nature positive goals by 2030](#)
- [Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016](#): Under this Act, Welsh Ministers must set targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and set carbon budgets.
- [The Climate Change \(Carbon Budgets\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2018](#): These regulations set out the maximum net emissions in Wales for the periods 2016 to 2020 and 2021 to 2025.
- [Net Zero Wales](#): In March 2021, the Senedd agreed that Wales would become carbon neutral by 2050. The Welsh Government has also set out its plans for a [carbon net zero public sector in Wales by 2030](#).