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**Climate Cymru / Race to Zero Briefing**

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**REASON FOR THE REPORT**

1. To provide the Committee with a briefing from Climate Cymru about Race to Zero, a global campaign to halve global emissions by 2030. Climate Cymru want Wales to be the first Race to Zero nation.
2. Climate Cymru want to explore how this global framework can support a just transition to net zero specifically in Cardiff.

**STRUCTURE OF THE PAPERS**

3. Attached to this report is:
  - Appendix A - Presentation to follow
  - Appendix B – Race to Zero Senedd Briefing
  - Appendix C - Race to Zero Senedd Briefing [Welsh]

**BACKGROUND**

4. [Climate Cymru](#) is a movement of thousands of individuals, and a network of hundreds of organisations from all sectors in Wales. They recognise that the climate and nature emergency require urgent, fair action. They believe that action should be guided by science and the voices of people across Wales.
5. Their mission is, as urgently as possible:
  - Net zero Wales
  - Nature positive Wales
  - Climate justice both in Wales and internationally
  - Welsh Society to embrace the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.

The transition to achieving these goals should be just and equitable, and properly take into consideration the diversity of voices and needs of the people of Wales, and more broadly, the most vulnerable around the world.

6. [Race to Zero Cymru](#) is a new initiative set up to catalyse action across non-state actors and accelerate the Race to Zero in Wales.

7. They:

- Connect existing members of Race to Zero in Wales to support high ambition and to multiply impact by working together.
- Encourage new members to join Race to Zero in Wales.
- Identify practical needs and pursuing resources and to enable Race to Zero membership and delivery.

They want Wales to be the first Race to Zero Nation with coordinated, robust Paris Agreement-aligned action across all of Wales' key institutions and organisations. Race to Zero Cymru has been set up to grow Race to Zero membership in Wales in order to accelerate Welsh action to limit global temperature rises to 1.5 degrees.

8. Joining 'the race' requires organisations to:

- *Pledge* – To take action toward or beyond a fair share of the 50% global GHG reduction needed by 2030, and to reach net zero by 2050 at the latest.
- *Plan* - Within 12 months develop an evidence-based emissions reduction plan in line with the pledge.
- *Proceed* - Take immediate action towards meeting the pledge.
- *Publish* - Commit to report data and actions in relation to meeting the pledge, publicly and at least annually – feeding into the UNFCCC Global Climate Action Portal.
- *Persuade* - Align lobbying and advocacy activities with net zero by proactively supporting climate policies consistent with the Race to Zero criteria.

9. Cardiff Capital Region has joined the race although no Local Authorities in their own rights have joined, and Powys is the only Public Service Board to have joined.

10. Locally Cardiff University and the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama have joined the movement.

11. The Senedd briefing paper attached at appendices B and C provide further back ground information although the reference to ‘What Senedd members can do’ will differ for Local Authorities.
12. Further detailed information can be found at <https://racetozero.cymru/en/> and FAQ’s can be at <https://racetozero.cymru/en/frequently-asked-questions/>
13. The Council need to continue to take action as a climate emergency has been declared and the One Planet Cardiff Strategy<sup>1</sup> and Action Plan<sup>2</sup> developed as a response.

## **ISSUES**

14. As Members will recall during the update in relation to the One Planet Cardiff Strategy last month<sup>3</sup> one of the things that was preventing progress being made in some areas was that availability of sufficient resources, although it was recognised that this is not just a local issue.

## **WAY FORWARD**

15. Representatives from Climate Cymru / Race to Zero have been invited to make a presentation to the Committee and to answer Member’s questions.

## **Legal Implications**

The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not making policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to the Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the

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<sup>1</sup> [One Planet Cardiff Strategy](#)

<sup>2</sup> [One Planet Cardiff Action Plan](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Environmental Committee 14/03/2024](#)

Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

### **Financial Implications**

The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee is recommended to:

- i. Consider the information in this report, and the presentation and any further information presented at the meeting; and
- ii. Determine whether they would like to make any comments, observations or recommendations on this matter to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change / Director of Planning Transport & Environment, Head of Climate Emergency Response.

**LEANNE WESTON**

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**12 April 2024**