

RACE TO ZERO CYMRU

Senedd briefing. March 2024

Risk and opportunity

Big changes are coming. The global and local impacts of climate inaction are clear, significant and intensifying.

There is another risk that we would like Members of the Senedd to consider very carefully. As the world transitions to a net zero world, industries of the past will be left behind, and others will take their place. With the urgency of the climate crisis coupled with advancing technology and clean energy costs plummeting, and already far cheaper than fossil fuels, the transition is inevitable. Wales has lived through big transitions before, and we know only too well what happens if we don't do it with the needs of the people of Wales in mind.

Race to Zero Cymru offers an opportunity for us to get it right this time - for the people of Wales to determine our own future and to soak up the benefits that come with leadership.

What is Race to Zero?

Race to Zero is a United Nations-backed global initiative to deliver a healthier, fairer, greener world. Rallying non-state actors to take immediate action to halve global emissions by 2030, and meet the commitments in the Paris Agreement, involving communities and with a just transition.

A global coalition of climate leaders with over 11,000 members including cities, businesses, regions and local authorities, collectively representing 722 million. Driven by a commitment to a fairer, greener and net zero future, the leaders are modelling radically inclusive approaches of allowing communities to shape their own transition to a net zero future.

This is a relevant framework for UK climate action, it is an effective, transparent, tried and tested model. Two-thirds of the FTSE500 are Race to Zero members - the industries of the future - and 50 British local authorities, including both urban and rural areas.

Race to Zero Cymru: Wales becoming the world's first Race to Zero Nation

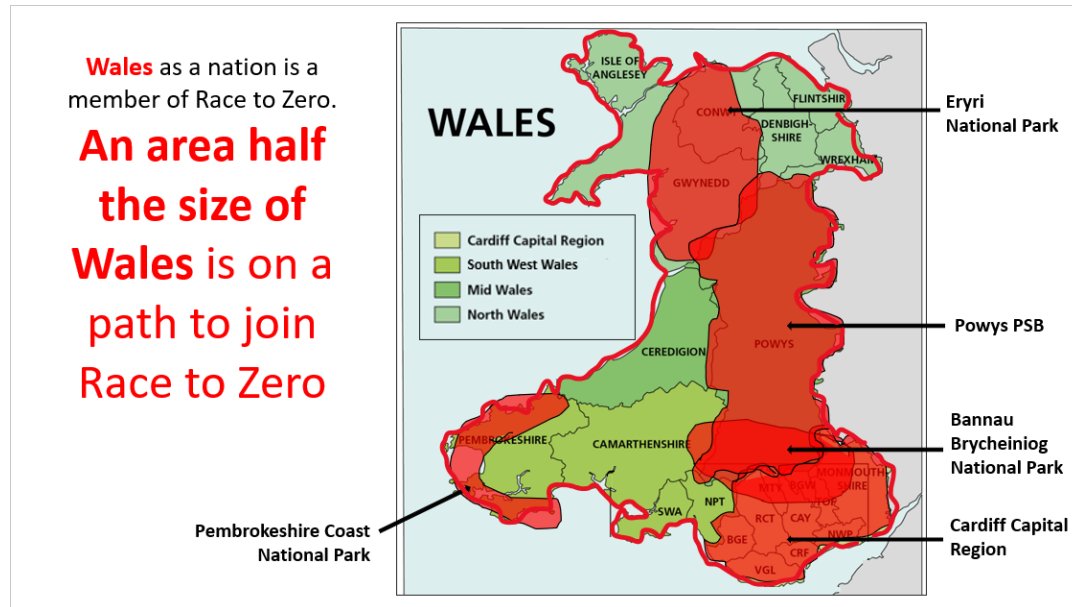
Wales as a nation is a member of Race to Zero which is a strong foundation. What is needed is coordinated leadership in joined-up action *across* Wales.

[Race to Zero Cymru's vision](#) is for all Corporate Joint Committees, local authorities, national parks, businesses and major institutions in Wales to join Race to Zero and to work together, planning and proceeding with action to help grow society-wide action for a healthier, fairer, greener net-zero Wales.

A coherent and efficient approach to coordinate climate action across different administrative levels, parts of society, and geographical areas – using the same metrics and accounting methods, with no loopholes, and no double counting. A joined-up approach will cut bureaucracy, increase

transparency, deliver effective, fair action and make Wales a very appealing investment landscape for Race to Zero-aligned industries of the future.

Race to Zero is gaining momentum in Wales with leaders across different administrative levels seeing the value and starting the process of joining and meeting the 5Ps membership criteria. In addition to the map below, three of Wales' universities and Dŵr Cymru are members of Race to Zero.



The benefits of Race to Zero for Wales

A just transition – involving and enabling communities to transition to a net zero future in a way that plans for their local social, economic and health needs.

A plan to attract investment - a pipeline of fundable projects to meet the needs of communities across Wales, and to boost nature's ability to draw down carbon.

A globally responsible Wales - leadership in action distributed across Wales in line with the Paris Agreement.

A compelling local-to-global vision to galvanise action – within member organisations and with stakeholders and communities.

Robust data, consistency and transparency enable public **trust** for the transition we need.

Access to a huge wealth of knowledge and resources including resources on community engagement aligned with the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act ways of working.

Collaboration, innovation and problem-solving with other signatories in Wales and globally.

Formal recognition of effort by the UN.

How Race to Zero works

Being a member of Race to Zero involves meeting five criteria known as the '5Ps':

- **Pledge:** to maximise effort toward or beyond a fair share of halving global greenhouse gases 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, contributing to global tipping points.
- **Proceed:** scaling up immediate action towards meeting the pledge.
- **Publish:** report climate data and actions publicly feeding into the UNFCCC global carbon stocktake.
- **Persuade:** proactively advocate for climate policies and actions consistent with the pledge.

As a member of Race to Zero you become part of a highly connected global network focused on innovating and learning from each other so they can move at the pace of the fastest and leapfrog mistakes.

Coordinated place-based action brings additional benefits

The Climate Change Committee, the independent UK and Welsh Government advisors, found that more than half of the emissions cuts needed rely on people and businesses taking up low-carbon solutions – decisions that are made at a local and individual level.

Many of these decisions depend on having supporting infrastructure and systems in place. Local authorities, combined with new Corporate Joint Committee regional structures, have powers or influence over roughly a third of emissions in their local areas.

In Wales, public sector action on climate change has been focused on the Public Sector Net Zero by 2030 goal relating to each organisation's operational emissions. This is very important but it is *only part of* the wider area-based leadership and enabling role the public sector needs to play.

Public bodies coordinating systematic action to make doing the right thing the easy thing in local communities is vital to achieving Wales' climate goals.

Joined up local strategic planning is also critical to ensure communities and stakeholder organisations have a real say in a just transition to net zero.

What Senedd Members can do

Help raise awareness and make the case for Wales to become a Race to Zero nation.

- **Find out more about Race to Zero:** Visit www.racetozero.cymru. Talk to national parks, local authorities, PSBs and CJs already on the path to joining. Talk to Climate Cymru who is running a Race to Zero campaign involving local people around Wales.
- **Champion Race to Zero in your constituency:** talk to local authorities, Corporate Joint Committees, Public Services Boards, businesses and universities.
- **Champion Race to Zero in the Senedd:** take part in debates, ask questions, and feed into evidence-gathering.

For more information or to contact us visit www.racetozero.cymru

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