

Bwletin Rheoli Adnoddau Naturiol

Natural Resource Management Bulletin

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Llywodraeth Cymru
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Nature Fund

Nature Fund – applications rolling in

Following last month's announcement of the first two projects approved under the Nature Fund, more proposals have been rolling in. We are delighted with the response - we have now formally received 36 proposals ready for assessment. We're continuing to discuss and support the development of a number of other proposals and new collaborative ideas. There are some really interesting projects in the mix, many of which we are pleased to see have emerged from the Nature Action Zone Events we held in June and July, but also many other new ideas still coming forward. Watch out on our website for a list, coming shortly, of approved proposals which we will keep up to date. You will also be able to find details of attendees at the Nature Action Zones events so that you are all able to stay in contact and continue to work collaboratively where possible. If you have already submitted a proposal we may have already been in touch with you, or we will contact you soon. There is still time to submit new proposals, don't forget the closing date is the 1st November so if you have any potential proposals please get in touch so we can help you and provide clarity on how to apply.

For more information on how to apply visit [Nature Fund](#) or contact us at: NaturalResourceManagement@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Environment Bill

Following the consultation on *Towards the Sustainable Management of Wales' Natural Resources*, the Welsh Government's White Paper consultation on proposals for an Environment Bill, work is continuing to prepare the Bill for introduction into the National Assembly for Wales in 2015. Alongside this, we are reviewing the way we gather and report evidence and set strategic commitments for natural resource planning and management across Wales. Natural Resources Wales is intending to produce an interim report on the developing approach to State of Natural Resources reporting, and a discussion document to inform strategic natural resource planning will be published in spring 2015. Both documents will inform the first statutory State of Natural Resources Report and National Natural Resources Policy scheduled for 2016, pending successful passage of the Bill.

Further information on the Environment Bill and the White Paper can be found on the web links below:

Research into Payments for Ecosystem Services

The Welsh Government has commissioned research into how Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) can support delivery of our policy aims with respect to sustainable management of natural resources. Ecosystem Services are the often undervalued social and economic benefits that we derive from our natural resources, and approaches to PES can encourage land managers and others to undertake actions that increase the resilience of ecosystems and sustain the services they provide.

The research was carried out to help us understand market opportunities, barriers and constraints and to identify areas for future work in relation to the role of PES to support sustainable management of natural resources. The final report by Cascade consultants and their partners Eftec is available on the Welsh Government website: [Payment for Ecosystem Services](#)

Alongside this, separate work was commissioned into the role that the third sector could play in facilitating and supporting the take up of PES. Consultants Resources for Change with their partners URSUS were tasked with investigating opportunities and barriers that limit third sector organisations from engaging landowners, businesses and industry in the delivery of ecosystem services.

Their final report identifies opportunities for the third sector to take forward ways of working that develop the social and economic benefits the natural environment provides. An executive summary is attached and the full report is available on request. Meanwhile, we will be developing a PES road map that will detail our next steps in the coming months.



Business and Ecosystems Final Exe

Other areas of interest

Agricultural Sector (Wales) Act 2014: Consultation on the Agricultural Advisory Panel for Wales

The Agricultural Sector (Wales) Act 2014 places a duty on the Welsh Ministers to establish an Agricultural Advisory Panel for Wales with the aim of providing further support to the professional functioning of the agricultural industry. A consultation seeking views on the constitution and functions of the Panel was opened on 7 August 2014 and will close on 30 October 2014.

The Panel will carry out functions related to the operation of the agricultural sector, including promoting careers and advising the Welsh Ministers on other issues which may affect the future of the agricultural industry in Wales. The Panel will need to build upon the work of the former Agricultural Wages Board, helping to increase the number of well-educated and well-trained new entrants into the industry. Young people and other potential new entrants must see an agricultural industry that is welcoming and that values and rewards skills, experience and qualifications and provides opportunities for personal and professional growth.

The consultation can be found on the Welsh Government website here:
[Agricultural Advisory Panel for Wales](#)

Deputy Minister launches plans to raise animal health and welfare standards in Wales

Deputy Minister Rebecca Evans has unveiled her plans to improve animal health and welfare standards across Wales.

The new Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework is a ten year plan to increase partnership working with the industry and create a more outcome focussed approach. This will include better monitoring and evaluation and will form part of the Welsh Government's ongoing work to strengthen the food chain and support the rural economy.

The Deputy Minister launched the framework with the team of experts who were appointed to support its implementation. The appointed panel members are from a range of backgrounds and advise the Welsh Government on animal welfare and the prevention, management and eradication of animal disease in Wales.

More details on the Framework are available here: [Animal health and welfare framework](#)

Tidy Towns Initiative

John Griffiths, the Minister for Natural Resources, Culture and Sport, has announced £2,209,292 of funding as part of the *Tidy Towns* initiative. The funding will support 75 projects to help communities improve their local area and tackle problems such as littering, fly tipping, dog fouling and vandalism. Projects will help transform unused land right across Wales into areas such as nature reserves, community gardens, allotments and recreational areas that can be enjoyed by the entire community.

£1,172,826 was provided to local authority-led projects and £259,922 was awarded to community-led projects. The Welsh Government is also providing £35,000 to each of Wales' local authorities for local environment improvements. A full list of all the projects will be available on the website in the near future: [Tidy Towns](#)

St David Awards

Nominate for a St David Award now

The First Minister, Carwyn Jones opened the nominations for next year's St David Awards 2015 at noon Monday 21 July 2014 at the Royal Welsh Show and called on everyone to take the opportunity again to recognise the exceptional people in their sectors and communities.

Of the 8 Awards categories the following are especially relevant to exceptional individuals, groups or teams working in the environmental and associated sectors in Wales:

- Citizenship
- Enterprise
- Innovation & Technology

- International
- The First Minister's Special Award

Awards nominations close on 28 October 2014.

Go to www.stdavidawards.org.uk (or Twitter @stdavidawards) for all information. We would be very grateful if you could support the Awards again and post or circulate this information within your organisation and to any external stakeholders who might be interested. Nominate now!
[St David Awards](#)

Ways to keep updated

To learn more about the Natural Resource Management Programme please visit:
www.wales.gov.uk/naturalresourcemanagement

The web pages include [frequently asked questions \(FAQs\)](#), an [information pack](#) and some [case studies](#).

You can also keep up to date with developments on Facebook and Twitter by following @WG_NatResMin and liking the Welsh Government's Facebook page.

If you have any questions or if you want to join the mailing list, please email us at naturalresourcemanagement@wales.gsi.gov.uk