

Sustainable Wales
Cymru Gynhaliol



Annual Report & Accounts

6th April 2015 - 5th April 2016

www.sustainablewales.org.uk



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www.sustainablewales.org.uk

Sustainable Wales Annual Report & Accounts 2015/16



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Sustainable Wales

Cymru Gynhaliol

Our Mission

Our mission is to encourage solutions for the unsustainable way we live and to ignite passion for sustainable living practices.

Our Aims

- To be an organisation that helps revitalise the local economy, promotes social progress, and is enterprising, creative and internationally aware.
- We are committed to society, artistic creativity and the natural world. We work with communities, voluntary groups, businesses and government. We believe in this way we can foster a fairer, and an exciting future for Wales that doesn't cost us the Earth.

Our Purpose

Stated by its *charitable objects* (Charity No.1065789/0) are:

To advance the education of the public in subjects relating to sustainable development and the protection, enhancement and rehabilitation of the environment and to promote study and research in such subjects provided that the useful results of such study are disseminated to the public at large.

To promote sustainable development for the benefit of the public by:
(a) the preservation, conservation and the protection of the environment and the prudent use of resources;

b) the promotion of social and cultural welfare and wellbeing for the benefit of present and future generations;



(c) the promotion of sustainable means of achieving economic improvement and regeneration.

Sustainable development (SD) means “development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”, from the Brundtland Report, 1987 (Our Common Future).

Our Community & Strategic Engagement Themes

1. **Active Citizenship** - empowering communities, building capacity, increasing participation and sustainable outcomes including jobs and skills for local people.
2. **Healthy living and quality of life** - increasing well-being, creativity, diversity and reconnecting with nature, creating opportunities to improve life chances.
3. **Food and Drink** – supporting local sourcing of food, biodiversity, ethical purchasing, fair trade and food growing and producing, good diet, cooking and baking.
4. **Energy Concerns and Climate Change** - advocating and helping enable resilience to the impacts of climate change and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
5. **Waste and resource use** – encouraging circular economy, systems & design thinking and LCA, encouraging reduce, re-use, recycling and promotion of more durable goods.
6. **Support responsible business** – encourage a sharing economy, considerate consumerism, purchasing local, organic, ethical and fairly traded goods.



Officer

Margaret Minhinnick Director

Trustees

Richard Thomas Chairman
Philip Marks
Bruce Kennedy
Peter Morgan

Advisors

Robert Minhinnick
Frank O'Connor
Martin Little
Martin Fitton
Kris Evans
Rhodri Thomas
Melanie Johnson
Nigel Oanea Cram
Judith Cook

Other Volunteers

Luke Evans
Val Lea
Gaynor and John Hanson
Sian Williams
Eamon and Lucy Bourke
Peter Adamson
Rhys Felton
Lucy

Catrin Dalton
Melanie Johnson
Hilary Williams
Pierre Nicolas
Hannah Perkonigg
Jareth Kale
Allison Felton



Partners include

Bridgend Fairtrade Partnership (includes Co-op Store, Parc Prison - Bridgend, local Churches, Schools, Quakers), Tools For Self-Reliance, Porthcawl Chamber of Trade, WCVA, Environment Wales, RENEW Wales, Community Energy Wales, BAVO, Cynnal Cymru, Fairtrade Wales, Hub Cymru Africa, Park6Productions (<https://park6productions.com>), SUSSED – our community cooperative founded by Sustainable Wales.





Patrons

Jonathon Porritt Writer, broadcaster, environmentalist, former chair UK Sustainable Development Commission

John Barnie Former editor 'Planet' magazine and writer

Dafydd Iwan President Plaid Cymru, writer, musician, broadcaster

John Humphries Former editor 'Western Mail'

Angharad Tomos Writer

Hilary
Llewellyn-Williams Poet





Chairman's Report 2015/16

The Welsh Government's *Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act* is legislation that has now come in to force to create a unique statutory duty on public services in Wales to deliver sustainable development. All Welsh public services need to work towards delivering outcomes under 7 Well-being Goals. Also, where the UK Government had signed up in 2000 to the United Nation's International Millennium Development Goals to eradicate extreme hunger and poverty and reduce child mortality overseas, new 2015 Sustainable Development Goals have been added to protect the environment and address climate change.



More information: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>.

The challenges are mighty. Globalization is an economic model that is suffering continued shock waves as the world grapples with social inequality, conflict, resource depletion, population rise and increasing rates of migration. The continuing rise in global temperatures is creating climate instability and the commitments made by most nations of the world at the United Nations Climate Conference in Paris in 2015 underlined the urgency for action as never before. The success of these commitments depends upon strengthening leadership at all levels of society. There remains a significant gap between aspiration and action, between the political rhetoric and the grass-roots reality of how we all live and work.



As practitioners in the field SW are well equipped to assist these government responsibilities with our focus to build capacity, provide mentoring, develop awareness and deliver practical projects within communities. Our watchword is 'resilience' and with an eye on tomorrow's world our activities are replicable, offer stability, social justice and retain local identity. Current projects: <http://www.sustainablewales.org.uk/current-projects>

Our main new campaign this year, *Shine a Light?* is a series of films and resources now available on our website and youtube, which profile community renewable energy solutions. Dedicated Shine a Light? webpage: <http://www.sustainablewales.org.uk/shine-light> .

Importantly, our campaign joins Community Energy Wales, and others, in proposing that all UK political parties commit themselves to locally owned renewable energy schemes. Wales and the UK lag far behind our European neighbours and some states in the USA regarding local energy production. The dangerous ongoing gap between rhetoric and reality demands that in every community calls for change are heard. This remains our focus.

All this activity is undertaken by volunteers and I express my continuing admiration for them and my fellow Trustees and offer a sincere thanks to all those involved. My particular thanks are to retiring Trustees, Philip Marks and Bruce Kennedy and I look forward to working with the new members of the Board.

Richard Thomas, Chair.



Chairman Sustainable Wales



Director's Report

Finances

We thank Luke Evans, who has maintained the finances, with the help also of Advisor Martin Little.

In the financial year 2015/16, Sustainable Wales made a loss of -£3,374, or a loss of -£8,323 including restricted expenditure, carried forward from the 2014/15 period. Primary sources of income include Renew Wales (£3,000), donations (£834), room hire (£522) and general fundraising activities, including the Green Room (£1,104).

Overhead costs have broadly remained the same, or lower, compared with previous years, as sister organisation SUSSED Wales, continues to provide free access to office space, materials and other in-kind support.

However, this year has seen the charity take on additional labour costs (-£3,457), creating a part-time Development Officer role, mentioned above, in order to help achieve our strategic and organisational aims and objectives.

Owing to the strong growth seen in previous years, Sustainable Wales retains a healthy level of reserves (£22,342) from which to invest in new projects, and currently operates solely without the support of any restricted grant funding. One such new investment, includes supporting the creation of a new development officer role for SUSSED (£1,000/month), intended to drive increased sales, and enable SUSSED to become more self-sufficient, and better equipped to support the Sustainable Wales, both financially, and in achieving its wider, long-term objectives.

Grants and Contracts



The **DTA Wales' Renew Wales** contract has continued, allowing opportunity for us to work with community groups helping reduce their carbon footprint.



This has been a rewarding experience for all.

Applications were made to the new funding pot from the **Welsh Government Environment Division re: Core Funding and Project Funding** (6 x Regional workshops re: community renewables) but both failed. Also another for encouraging '**pollinators**' in Porthcawl re: the plan to upgrade the flowerbeds on the Eastern Promenade (Parks department in favour only to be refused permission at the eleventh hour by the Holdings department Bridgend Council).

Personnel

Philip Marks a long standing Trustees resigned in the Autumn 15, due to family commitments, and former chairman, Bruce Kennedy, departed in Spring 16 because of health reasons. As a group we thank them for all their contributions over the years.

Advertisements for additional trustees were placed in WCVA's Network Wales, with our local Bridgend voluntary sector as well as our own websites.

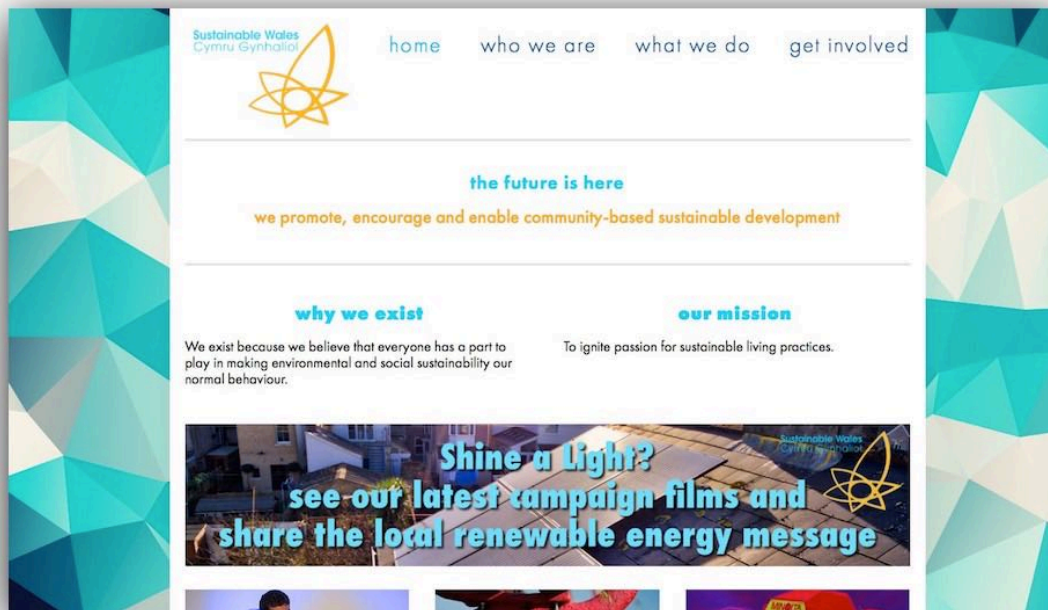
Trustees have a much more 'hands-on' role than in the past. As such we have reorganised to have team meetings, broadly once per month, where areas of interest, ideas and actions are discussed and commitments start being made.

The group organised a part-time contract to employ a Development Officer, but unfortunately within a couple of months he had to resign due to ill-health.

In February 2016 we decided to support the development of SUSSED with a part-time post, hoping to advance our financial stability.



Website & Communication



Trustee, Peter Morgan, continues to take an extremely important role with IT/ web and digital development and management.

Our website www.sustainablewales.org.uk is an ideal platform for presenting many Welsh projects - solar, renewable energy, hydro, responses to climate change. It is also where ethical trade, culture and artistic performance can be viewed, offering local illustrations of sustainable development.

We also now have our own You Tube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmlFd3JhZon9p6GhdeW3Rkg>

Peter also provides from time to time website analytics and reviews their potential effectiveness, including also our many social networking achievements. He also creates many of our event posters.

We have a strong social media presence with over 4,500 followers on facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/sustainablewales/> and an active twitter



channel <https://twitter.com/SusWales> (@SusWales)

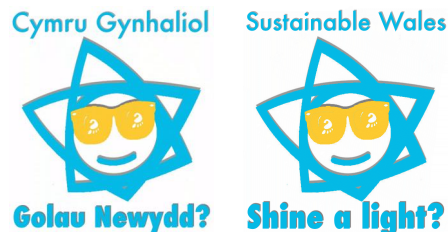
Networking

Sadly, the WCVA's Environment Wales initiative was closed down this year (our Chairman and Director were both Grants Committee members). However, we maintained our links with a number of other organisations in Wales by attending appropriate launches or training events. e.g. 'The Well-being and Futures Generation Act' launch, Community Energy Wales and also RENEW Conferences, plus locally the ERDF rural development Reach launch in Porthcawl.

Activities

Campaigns

Shine a Light?



Launched in the Centre of Alternative Technology, 3 short films show community groups **Transition Bro Gwaun near Fishguard(1)**, which now has a wind turbine; **Awel Aman Tawe in the Swansea Valley(2)** with planning for 2 turbines, and **Friends of Taff Bargoed Country Park (3)** developing a hydro power scheme in Treharris near Merthyr.

The fourth, **Shine a Light?** Is a 20-minute film supporting the idea of democratising our energy supply whilst reducing climate change. The film is more than an observation of the obstacles to progress. It's a rallying call for people to demand democratic local energy production.

<http://www.sustainablewales.org.uk/shine-light>



Filmed by Park6 Productions though produced by Sustainable Wales, it features former MP Alan Simpson, Professor Calvin Jones and local energy groups. It is backed by a superb soundtrack from chaired bard, Twm Morys.



Politicians should acknowledge that such schemes are becoming significant in combating climate change. These schemes also build more resilient communities, creating local jobs.

Wide distribution has been undertaken: to all Assembly Members, throughout Community Energy Wales and also via Renew Wales networks, a Cinema launch is due in Chapter, Cardiff, in the UK Green Film Festival in May.

Bilingual questions for parliamentary candidates were drafted and posted to RENEW and CEW membership via newsletters and placed onto our website in advance of the Welsh Assembly Elections.

Fairtrade

Bridgend Fairtrade Partnership

The Bridgend Fairtrade Partnership have continued to meet and have completed their report and renewal action plan for Fairtrade Foundation.

The link we had with the Bridgend Council Officer responsible for Fairtrade work with schools was dissolved this year reducing now our awareness of school activity.

A letter was sent to the new AWEN Trust supporting Carnegie House, Bridgend, expressing concern regarding the lack of fairtrade refreshments at



this venue. It was sent to the local media and also copied to the Bridgend Council. (We have not received a reply).

Our annual fundraising Christmas Ethical Feast was held at the new tapas bar, 19 Mary Street, in Porthcawl.

During Fair Trade Fortnight the theme was '*Sit down for breakfast, stand up for farmers!*' Members of the partnership all held events. Press work covered most of these activities. The charity held a well-attended Breakfast, in the Green Room, and SUSSED offered freebies during the fortnight and supported a number of school stalls.

Plans are for an open Fairtrade Evening later in April 2016 with the Fairtrade Wales Coordinator.

SUSSED Wales



The charity maintains support and management to its social enterprise, [SUSSED Wales](http://www.sustainablewales.org.uk), retailing new local, fairly traded and green goods. An aim to mainstream ethical consumption. Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship, (ESDGC) is central the work of our charity.



Joint newsletters to the membership have been produced to convey the current often unfair practices towards producers of some of our everyday products and illustrate some of the fair commodities available in the shop.

SUSSED also has an ebay shop with a 10% donation going to the charity.



SUSSED provides office, event, meeting space, IT and administration costs. This allows us to operate with a 'pop-up' style - whether organising a small café, frock swap, debate, poetry, presentation or talk.



One Time Alive playing above SUSSED at the Green Room

Green Room



"Sustainable Wales is magic. And in the Green Room magical things happen."

Helena Nelson ([Happenstance](#))



"Genuine and progressive people forming a great team based on passion and beliefs. As an outlet they have given us the opportunity to market our physical product in our home town, also showcasing the band at the intimate setting of the wonderful Green Room. Long may they prosper in offering a diverse and engaging community experience."

Ed Rees, Musician, [One Time Alive](#)

Robert Minhinnick has made significant additions to the website's cultural content and the Green Room activities. Some were held in Carnegie House Arts Hub, Bridgend.

- Rian Evans, daughter of John Ormond spoke about his time and work in Cortona.
- Cary Archard, founder of Seren Books, and editor of Alun Lewis's 'Collected Poems' and 'Collected Stories', led a full event on Lewis' work.
- Robert, Lucy Bourke and Peter successfully launched a 'Limestone Man' Live Performance' – readings and music, held in Carnegie House, Bridgend.
- Launch of 'Unleaving', the first collection of poems by Kristian Evans. With Nell Nelson of Happenstance Press.
- A Cerdd Dant – a very successful Welsh language music and literary evening was held.
- Poet, Twm Morys, performed his original versions of the ancient Glamorgan verse form the 'triban' in Carnegie House to a large audience.
- Samantha Wynne Rhydderch read to a full audience in January

Talks held have been on Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon updates, and the development of a Marine Wildlife Voluntary Code.

The space is being hired by the local Surfers, the Green Party, Friends of the Earth Cymru - this opportunity is slowly developing.

The Green Room is explained in more detail here:

<http://www.sustainablewales.org.uk/green-room>

Our latest events can be found on our listings pages:

<http://www.sustainablewales.org.uk/events>



Welsh Assembly Elections Hustings

Robert Minhinnick organized hustings in the Y Centre, Porthcawl, with representation for all political parties, which attracted c.60 people. The event was lively and was chaired brilliantly by our chairman.

Sustainable Development Policy Management System

The charity operates an environmental and ethical management policy: keeping final waste disposal and energy use to a minimum, using recycled paper, purchasing renewable energy (we are powered by Good Energy, the UK's only 100% renewable electricity supplier), local goods and services when possible, banking with the Cooperative Bank, also selecting fairtrade and biodegradable products.



Thanks

Many people contribute over the year to support the work of this charity, without this support the work outlined, only briefly, above would not be possible. My thanks go to them.

Margaret Minhinnick, Director Sustainable Wales

Our thanks to you!



From: Margaret Minhinnick, Richard Thomas
Robert Minhinnick, Martin Little, Peter Morgan