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Mae Cymru Gynaliadwy (Rhif cofrestru 1200330).  
Sustainable Wales is a charitable incorporated organisation  
(registration number [1200330](#)).

Founded in 1997 as an unincorporated charitable trust.

## Sustainable Wales



Sustainable Wales is a grassroots charity involving volunteers.

It seeks a zero-carbon future, protection of biodiversity and encourages passion for sustainable living. Progressive and internationally aware, its aims are to enhance environmental security, social progress and community well-being.

It creates opportunities for people to get involved in the green and ethical agendas, and advocates 'good practice' by citizens, producers, business and politicians.

The NGO encourages local ownership and self-help, seeing this as a practical way to 'mainstream' sustainable development.

Its projects are replicable, involving the community, artists, scientists, businesses and government.

In this way we can foster a fairer, and more exciting future for Wales, that doesn't cost us the Earth.

## Cymru Gynaliadwy

Mae Cymru Gynaliadwy yn elusen llawr gwlad sy'n cynnwys gwirfoddolwyr.

Mae'n gweithio tuag at ddyfodol carbon isel, amddiffyn bioamrywiaeth ac yn annog angerdd am fyw'n gynaliadwy. Yn flaengar ac yn ymwybodol o'r cyd-destun rhyngwladol, ei nodau yw gwella diogelwch yr amgylchedd, cynnydd cymdeithasol a lles cymunedol.

Mae'n creu cyfleoedd i bobl gymryd rhan yn yr agendâu gwyrdd a moesegol, ac mae'n cefnogi 'arfer da' gan ddinasyddion, cynhyrchwyr, busnesau a gwleidyddion.

Mae'r corff anllywodraethol yn annog perchnogaeth leol a hunangymorth, gan weld hyn fel ffordd ymarferol o 'brif ffrydio' datblygu cynaliadwy.

Gellir efelychu ei brosiectau, sy'n cynnwys y gymuned, artistiaid, gwyddonwyr, busnesau a'r llywodraeth.

Fel hyn, gallwn feithrin dyfodol tecach a mwy cyffrous i Gymru gyda'n gilydd, heb i ddyfodol y Ddaear fod yn bris am hynny.

## The Context

### The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals



represent the global goals that governments, civil society organisations, and businesses around the world have agreed to achieve together by 2030.

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>



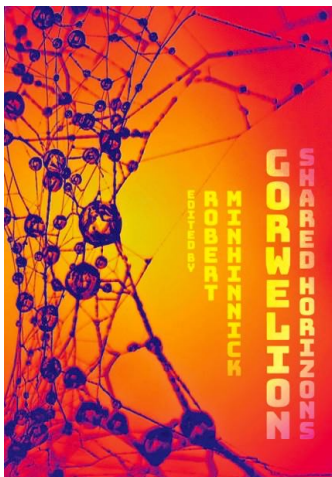
### The Welsh Government's

- **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act May 2015**  
<https://www.futuregenerations.wales/about-us/future-generations-act/>
- **The Environment (Wales) Act 2016** is a commitment to position Wales as a low carbon, green economy, ready to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Act  
<https://gov.wales/environment-wales-act-2016-factsheets>
- **Prosperity For All – Economic Action Plan 2019**  
<https://www.gov.wales/prosperity-all-economic-action-plan>
- **Net Zero Carbon Budget** <https://www.gov.wales/net-zero-wales-carbon-budget-2-2021-2025>
- **Successful Futures** - Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship (ESDGC) The developing curriculum seeks to give learners at all stages of education an understanding of the impact of their choices on other people, the economy and the environment. To be introduced in schools from **2022** <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-03/successful-futures-a-summary-of-professor-graham-donaldsons-report.pdf>

## Chairperson Report

Like most of society, Sustainable Wales' (SW) activity during this report's period was still curtailed by the continuing Covid-19 pandemic. Trustees and other meetings were predominately held on Zoom. This period allowed some time for Trustees and advisors to review and update the charity's Terms of Reference, Governance arrangements and Policies.

New advisors were added onto our website. [www.sustainablewales.org.uk/meet-the-team](http://www.sustainablewales.org.uk/meet-the-team) and we also continued the process - started with a Governance review supported by the Wales Co-operative Centre - of changing our constitutional status from an unincorporated charity to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This new status gives greater accountability and security to the Trustees and allows SW to move forward with a more appropriate structure to secure and manage a variety of funding streams. Tara King, our chairperson, had helped this review move forward, however, she found with her work and family commitments that she had to withdraw. We all thank her for her contribution to the charity.



This was the year we successfully achieved the publication of *Gorwelion Shared Horizons* in time for November 2021, when the UK COP 26 (Climate Change - Conference of the Parties in Glasgow) was chaired by the UK. Many countries wanted to keep the prospects of limiting the rise of global temperatures to 1.5 degrees alive. However, while COP 26 did make some headway in terms of global commitments, it also widely disappointed many of us because the setting of targets beyond 2030, 2040, or 2050 does not respond urgently enough to the fact that the next 10 years are critical in turning global carbon emissions around. All countries need to take concerted action now.

February 2022 saw the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issue [its starkest report](#) to date about the state of the climate. It concluded that climate breakdown is accelerating and that many of the impacts of global heating are now already irreversible. We are seeing extreme temperatures, wildfires, floods and drought already with huge human costs and rapidly growing financial costs.

So, the global context is more urgent than ever, and the local response that SW continues to work on reflects the focus on the near future, as well as the here and now. This year also saw SW start to work in partnership with the University of South Wales to launch a new 'competition of ideas' for local young people, which we hope to build on to inform and engage with the 'global citizens of the future'.

The work of our charity has never been more necessary than now. We thank all those who are involved and who help in whatever way they can, and especially SUSSED for their significant and valuable 'in-kind' help.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Thomas', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Richard Thomas (Acting SW Chairperson)**



## Director's Report

### Gorwelion: Shared Horizons

Significantly this year has seen the publication of SW's Gorwelion Shared Horizons by Parthian books in time for the COP 26 held in Glasgow. The book contained contributions from 5 Indian, 2 Scottish and 9 Welsh authors. Their commission, during the pandemic, was to write a piece which expressed how they pictured their local area in 10 years-time. [www.sustainablewales.org.uk/gorwelionhome](http://www.sustainablewales.org.uk/gorwelionhome)

It was produced because of the generosity of our supporters, Merryn Hutchings and Christine Eynon.

An [international launch on Zoom](#), in Fairtrade Fortnight 2022, was also a feature involving poet Chris Meredith; the editor, poet, Robert Minhinnick and Sampurna Chatterji one of the key contributors from India. The event was supported, chaired and introduced by Elen Jones, Jenipher's Coffee Co-founder. <https://jenipherscoffi.wales/>

Later we began a wide promotional strategy throughout the network magazines to draw attention to the publication.

### Global Citizenship Award

After some exploration with the Welsh Joint Education Committee (WJEC), SW developed a relationship with A-level Welsh Baccalaureate students in Porthcawl Comprehensive, and a partnership with University of South Wales (USW).

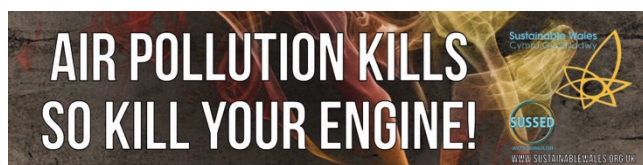
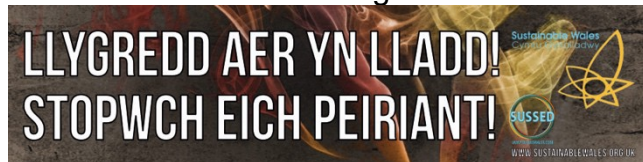


Together, we developed a “competition of ideas” that included a visit by 120 Year 12 pupils to the USW Treforest campus to join in taster lectures on topics like “sustainable fashion”, or “transport solutions for urban environments”. This was the launch of a competition for the ‘Global Citizenship Awards’ – which invited the Year 12 cohort to submit written entries based on their Welsh Bacc. projects and which linked to one of the key themes of sustainable development that SW had designed.

We planned the competition and the two awards to be made to the winners, in memory of two of our oldest and most important contributors – [Alwyn Jones](#) and [Steve Harris](#). A judging panel was agreed, made up of Dr. Stewart Eyres, University of South Wales, writer Robert Minhinnick as one of our founding members, and Professor Merryn Hutchins. The panel look forward to receiving the final competition entries before the summer school break, and the winners will appear in our next annual report.

## Local Air Pollution

Air pollution from particulates can cause lung cancer, worsen asthma and heart and lung disease. Research has found there is no safe limit of exposure. The fumes also contribute to climate change.



SW supported our sister organisation, SUSSED's concern regarding local air pollution gases coming from cars parking just outside our premises with drivers leaving engines running ("idling").

SW organised banners, information, street demonstrations in the town centre and later workshops. ITV arrived and Sarah Murphy MS, our former chairperson and now a Member of the Senedd, also spoke on camera. (The banners and leaflets were funded by a grant from BAVO). Information resources were made available on our website <https://www.sustainablewales.org.uk/air-pollution> .

Children are disproportionately affected by poor air quality thanks to their higher breathing rate and greater levels of physical activity compared to adults. Later, the charity then began to suggest local schools may like to get involved.

## Regeneration Porthcawl – Salt Lake

Opportunity arose for SW to respond to the Bridgend Borough's Consultants re: [Regeneration of Porthcawl](#) 'Place-making Strategy', where we introduced our expectation of informed community involvement as well as the need for all development to be low carbon and ecologically sensitive.

After a visit to the open-day of the Skyline project in Treherbert, we organised a Zoom meeting with Sarah Murphy MS, Gemma Christie, Jamie Strong (A Vision for The Future of Porthcawl) and Chris Blake (Green Valleys CIC). This was a chance to discuss with Chris how the Skyline project worked with the statutory agencies, politicians and the local community to develop a 10-year community-based sustainable land management plan for their forest. <https://futureforestvision.co.uk/> Our aim to illustrate how planning decisions need to change from tick-box consultation to informed community involvement.

Concerns for the regeneration of Porthcawl as a low carbon community and a desire for a participatory planning process remain ongoing.

## Renew Wales Contract [www.renewwales.org.uk](http://www.renewwales.org.uk)

The Director maintained the contract with Renew Wales where she was able to offer support to local groups requiring help to reduce their carbon footprint. e.g. Tanio, in Bettws, a community arts charity, had help to develop new sustainable development policies and practices, with a live staff workshop and action plan.



Volunteers in SUSSED and the Porthcawl Chamber of Trade were helped, to firstly obtain support from Bridgend Borough Council, develop an action plan to organise and then position a series of planters aiming to improve the public access from Hilisboro car park in Porthcawl.



**SUSSED Community Cooperative**  
SW's office space and general administration costs are supported by SUSSED. The mantra 'Act Local, Think Global', ethical consumerism, local and fairtrade is central to both organisations. The charity continues to support [SUSSED community cooperative](#), with information, ideas and some shared activities.

## Other

Our Director was also asked to become the acting president of the Porthcawl Chamber of Trade and she accepted.

## Networking

Various network Zoom or Teams meetings were attended throughout this period (e.g. Fairtrade Wales, Community Energy Wales, Renew Wales, Sustainable Development Forum for Wales, IWA, Climate Cymru, Bridgend Association Voluntary Organisations, Bridgend Coastal Forum, Wales Centre for International Affairs and the Well Being of Future Generations Office.)

## Communications

We also took opportunity to promote activity or comment locally in Seaside News, in joint newsletters with SUSSED, on the website, email and widely via social media – facebook, twitter, etc.

## AGM 2021

Gareth Clubb, who was the Climate Resilience Manager for Bridgend Borough Council was our guest speaker. He gave a talk entitled “The Secret of the Complete Transformation of Society” which led to some debate regarding the metaphysical aspects of humanity in context of the universe and history, before the volunteer’s social began.

## Grants, contracts and sponsorship

Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisation (BAVO) Youth-led GRANT provided £1452 for bilingual air pollution banners, leaflets, Apple laptop and case, plus volunteer hospitality and charity insurance.

Wales Council for Volunteer Action (WCVA) supported with £1227 which included buying a new Mac mini office computer.

Gorwelion donation £1000.

Renew Wales contract gained SW £4079 in the period.

Paperclip, based in Cardiff launched a reuse app selling donated items on our behalf for a few months, which raised £145. The Paperclip company changed ownership and the charity contributions ended.

## SUSSED support



In this period the community cooperative founded by Sustainable Wales, SUSSED supported SW with direct and in-kind contributions. Fundraising for SW contributed just over £1000 for SW, with Green Room hire (above SUSSED) for Art Classes raising £194 of the monies transferred to SW. Office and building costs for the shared premises were carried by SUSSED across the period.

Events and campaigning continued to be operated in partnership with SW – such as the Air Pollution campaign ( <https://www.sustainablewales.org.uk/air-pollution> ) involving volunteers from SUSSED and SW. Green Room monthly events were continued over the period. <https://www.sustainablewales.org.uk/green-room> . Audio and video recordings of the Green Room events are available <https://www.sustainablewales.org.uk/podcastindex>



## Sustainable Development Policy Statement



The charity continues to operate alongside SUSSED an environmental and ethical management policy: keeping final waste disposal and energy use to a minimum, using recycled paper products, reducing and reusing, purchasing renewable energy (we are powered by Good Energy), local goods and services when possible, banking with the Cooperative Bank at the local Post Office and also selecting fairtrade and biodegradable products.

We aim to give the same rigour to our social and environmental impact as financial returns.

The policy and practice is reviewed and updated regularly.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Minhinnick'.

**Margaret Minhinnick,  
Director**

## Treasurer's Financial Summary

The 2021/22 financial year for Sustainable Wales (SW) saw a return profit, with a net profit of £2,046.

This signifies a movement towards 'business-as-usual' again, after challenging couple of years in which pandemic drastically impacted the whole sector.

A steady loosening of restrictions following the vaccine rollout, meant income through fundraising and services such as room hire increased, composing of around 21% of all incoming resources (compared with 0% during the pandemic).

Moreover, the charity was able to access a number of grants, including a £1,227 Covid Relief/Recovery grant from the WCVA, which offset large but necessary purchases, such as IT equipment and insurance.

The charity was also able to decrease expenditure during the period: whereas premises costs (overheads) remained broadly stable compared with the previous period (4% lower year-on-year), staff costs were also virtually nil, as SW returned to a 100% voluntary model.

SW was also awarded a £1,452 BAVO Youth-Led grant, to fund new spending on equipment and advertising materials for a campaign to reduce air pollution.

Lastly, the board also elected to earmark a £1,000 donation to fund additional contributions to the "Gorwelion: Shared Horizons" anthology book, of which the proceeds now provided an additional, steady stream of income.

It is also notable from the balance sheet that SW has a value under the 'tangible fixed assets' heading for the first time in many years, as the charity has purchased/renewed its own IT equipment, as opposed to being solely reliant on the office sharing agreement with sister organisation, SUSSED Wales, for capital. Nonetheless, the long-term agreement with SUSSED Wales remains a key factor in the financial sustainability of the organisation, as this allows SW to operate out of the Porthcawl office at a peppercorn rent, whilst also sharing costs for vital IT services to the running of both organisations (e.g. Dropbox, Zoom subscriptions).

With over £27,600 in cash, persistently low overheads and a positive cash flow, the charity remains in a secure financial position for the foreseeable future, remaining comfortably above the threshold for reviewing the reserves limit (currently at £10,000). Therefore, the trustees are able and eager to reinvest these reserves in the coming years, in projects to further their charitable objectives whilst securing the long-term sustainability of the organisation.

**Luke Evans,  
Treasurer**