



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government



WLGA • CLILC

Our Ref/Ein Cyf: 10.06.03/JP
Your Ref/Eich Cyf:
Date/Dyddiad: 21/11/05
Please ask for/Gofynnwch am: Jim Prosser
Direct line/Llinell uniongyrchol: 02920-468631
Email/Ebost: jim.prosser@wlga.gov.uk

To :-

Chief Constables, Police Authorities
Chief Fire Officers, Fire and Rescue Services
Chief Executives of National Parks

Dear Colleague

Re The Welsh Declaration on Climate Change and Energy Efficiency

Climate Change is a global issue, now widely accepted, which will have significant consequences for us all in Wales. We have seen the effects of climate change in recent years with the huge increase in flooding, severe storms and ever warmer summers with threats of drought with associated subsidence. David King, the Government's chief scientific advisor has stated that climate change is an even greater threat to our future than terrorism. Only if everyone responds to these challenges, can Wales truly play a leading role in global efforts to protect our environment and our future.

The Welsh Assembly Government has recognised the vital role that local authorities, police authorities, fire services and national parks can play in the fight against global change. WAG and the WLGA have been considering how best to tackle the problems of climate change and in particular, the role that our WLGA member authorities can play. Following initial work by the WLGA, we have finalised a "Welsh Declaration on Climate Change and Energy Efficiency" (a copy of the text is enclosed). Signing up to the declaration will be a signal of intent to take action to mitigate the effects of climate change.

The purpose of the declaration is to demonstrate a commitment by individual authorities to tackle greenhouse gas emissions and lead

Steve Thomas
Director
Cyfarwyddwr

Welsh Local Government
Association
Local Government House
Drake Walk
CARDIFF CF10 4LG
Tel: 029 2046 8600
Fax: 029 2046 8601

Cymdeithas Llywodraeth
Leol Cymru
Tŷ Llywodraeth Leol
Rhodfa Drake
CAERDYDD CF10 4LG
Ffôn: 029 2046 8600
Ffacs: 029 2046 8601

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onto the development of longer term, local strategies in support of the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations' Climate Change Programme. In England over eighty authorities have signed up to the similar Nottingham Declaration. This has led to action to improve energy efficiency of building services, purchasing green fuels and electricity and improving building design to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Leaders of the WLGA at the Co-ordinating Committee and the Welsh Assembly Ministers fully support the proposal. As you will see, the Ministers for Environment, Planning and Countryside and for Economic Development and Transport, Leader of the WLGA and our Environmental Spokesperson will be co-signatories to the Declaration. The proposal was fully supported by the WAG/WLGA Partnership Council. The Declaration was also introduced at the WLGA Environmental Conference at Llandudno in the summer.

We would welcome you signing-up to the declaration on behalf of your service or authority. You will clearly be demonstrating your level of commitment to local stakeholders in playing your part to address the issue of climate change. Your authority will benefit in the long term by reducing energy costs, through introducing mitigation measures reduce insurance costs and demonstrate your authority's green credentials.

To publicise the commitment it is our intention to hold an official "signing ceremony" for those authorities that wish to be involved with this initiative from the outset. A professionally designed certificate will be prepared and presented to each local authority's leader that signs up to the declaration. Both Ministers will be in attendance with the Leader of the WLGA. The event will be held in Cardiff, hopefully in February. If you would like to be part of this, could you let us know by the end of January, 2006.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Richard Parry-Hughes
(WLGA Environmental Spokesperson)

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And on behalf of

Mr Carwyn Jones AM, (Minister for the Environment, Planning and Countryside)

Mr Andrew Davies AM, (Minister for Economic Development and transport)

The Welsh Declaration on Climate Change and Energy Efficiency

..... Borough/City/County Council recognises that Climate Change is likely to be one of the key drivers of change in our communities this century

We recognise that

- There is growing evidence that damaging climate change is occurring and that it will have long lasting effects on the UK's economy, environment and society
- Carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel use are a prime contributor to climate change. Improved energy efficiency and green sources of energy will therefore play a fundamental role in combating climate change.
- Local authorities need to play their full part at local level, leading and delivering the Welsh response to climate change within the UK Climate Change Programme

We welcome the

- Emissions targets and programmes for delivering change agreed by central government and the national Assembly as set out in the UK Climate Change programme
- Social, economic and environmental benefits likely to derive from combating climate change
- Recognition of a need for change by many sectors especially government and business
- Opportunity for local authorities to lead the response at local level by helping
 - encourage local residents and businesses to reduce their energy costs
 - reduce transport congestion
 - improve the local environment
 - deal with fuel poverty within our communities
- Additional powers under the Local Government Act 2000 that will allow us to address the social, economic and environmental well being of our communities
- Opportunity to improve the energy efficiency of our housing stock and public buildings

We commit our Council to

- Work with the National Assembly and central government at local level to deliver the UK climate change programme in Wales.
- Include consideration of climate change issues within Community Strategies
- Make a public declaration, in line with agreed targets with the WAG, to :-
 - deliver a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions
 - improve energy efficiency in council buildings and homes
 - increase the use of "green" energy from renewable sources
- Encourage local residents and businesses to take action to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and where appropriate publicise their actions
- Work with key building operators e.g. health authorities, businesses and development bodies to seek ways to adapt to potential effects of climate change on our communities
- Encourage the development of practical, economically viable, sustainable energy
- Encourage production of combined heat and electricity from these sources eg bio-mass
- Encourage local manufacture of energy efficient equipment for producing heat & power
- Monitor the progress of our plan against the actions needed and publish the results
- Take the necessary action to rectify any deviation from the plan where required

Leader of the Council

WLGA Spokesperson for the Environment	Leader of the Welsh Local Government association	Minister for the Environment Planning and the Countryside National Assembly for Wales	Minister for Economic Development & Transport National Assembly for Wales
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