

WALES GREEN PARTY

MANIFESTO 2021

TRANSFORM WALES



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INTRODUCTION

ANTHONY SLAUGHTER,
LEADER, WALES GREEN PARTY
WITH SIAN BERRY, CO-LEADER, GREEN PARTY



This election is taking place in challenging times. The ongoing Covid 19 crisis has exposed the serious structural and systemic faults in our society and highlighted the obscene and growing levels of inequality that are destroying our communities. The coming severe financial recession will be made all the worse here in Wales by the predictable negative impacts of the Brexit fallout. This will impact most heavily on poorer communities leaving them even more vulnerable. Meanwhile both the ever-present Climate Emergency and Nature Crisis become more urgent. Previous 'once in a lifetime' extreme weather events are happening with increasing regularity across the globe. Here in Wales, many communities now suffer severe flooding on an annual basis and a growing number of coastal towns are under threat from rising sea levels. Here in Wales, global warming, pollution and habitat loss are creating landscapes empty of wildlife, as highlighted in the 2019 State of Nature Wales report.

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THIS WAY.

Covid 19 and our society's response has challenged many long-held views of the way things could be and should be, starting with a recognition of who our economy and society really depend upon. We now realise that government can find the money when it is needed. We must learn from all of this and ensure that as we come out of this crisis, our recovery is both fair and green. No more 'business as usual', which would merely patch over the scars of this crisis.

This election is our opportunity to build a fairer, greener, more resilient Wales. A Wales committed to the urgent need to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2030, and to restoring nature. An equal Wales with secure lives for all, free of the poverty that has blighted our nation for too long.

This manifesto details our plans to build that Wales, starting with our bold and ambitious plans for a Green New Deal for Wales that will deliver the changes needed, providing safe, secure lives for all and ensuring carbon reduction targets are reached at the scale and pace needed to tackle the Climate Emergency.

These ambitious plans include the establishment of a Green Transformation Fund for Wales which will raise finance, through issuing bonds, to fund:

- building thousands of zero carbon new homes each year
- installing rooftop solar on every hospital
- converting thousands of houses to warm zero carbon homes each year
- replacing all diesel buses in Wales with electric buses assembled in Wales

Wales Green Party's Green New Deal will transform Welsh society, providing Green jobs in a genuine Wellbeing Economy, and better, healthier living through warm homes and reduced air pollution, creating a cleaner and greener world for future generations, for people and planet.

This year's election is also a crucial moment for Welsh democracy. While the election of the new Senedd Cymru with increased powers is an historical moment for Wales, the entire devolution settlement is at risk, threatened by a UK government intent on clawing back powers from the devolved nations. As a party that believes in the devolution of power to the lowest possible level, Greens in the Senedd would do all in our power to resist this attack on devolution, but defending devolution is not enough. Wales Green Party believes that independence is a vital and necessary step toward building a greener and fairer Wales, a diverse, cosmopolitan and internationalist nation, committed to equality.

At a time of climate crisis, health crisis and democratic crisis, Greens in the Senedd will make the difference that is needed. With your support we can, and we will, get those Greens elected this year. In recent times we have seen a wave of Green election successes across the globe. From Europe, where Greens are now part of the government in eight countries, to the fantastic results in New Zealand last year. People are electing Greens because they know elected Greens get things done.

WALES DESERVES NO LESS.

Wales Green Party have never been closer to winning seats in the Senedd.

Your vote can get us there.

Thank you.

Anthony Slaughter
Leader, Wales Green Party

OUR CANDIDATES

SOUTH WALES EAST



**AMELIA
WOMACK**

“ In Wales we are proud of our industrial past. We must now be leaders in the Green industrial future with investment in jobs, in clean energy, warm homes and public transport. We have the opportunity to genuinely support workers across Wales while ensuring we stay below 1.5 degrees of warming.”

SOUTH WALES CENTRAL



**ANTHONY
SLAUGHTER**

“ Our Green Transformation Fund for Wales will enable us to invest in the infrastructure needed to produce clean energy, warm homes and decent public transport, creating tens of thousands of green secure jobs where they are sorely needed, returning industry to areas devastated by cuts and closures.”

MID & WEST WALES



**CLLR EMILY
DURRANT**

“ 1 in 3 children are currently living in poverty. When did this become accepted as the norm? It's a scandal and it must be addressed now. We need to ensure that every decision we make contributes to bringing children out of poverty. I want families to have the time and resources to enjoy parenthood and to give their children a safe, comfortable home, healthy food and opportunities to learn and to thrive.”

NORTH WALES



**CLLR IOLO
JONES**

“ As a land use planner, much of my interest lies in the interaction between our natural and built environments. Strong urban design takes public opinion and environmental factors into account, both respecting the locality and enabling residents to live healthy and sustainable lifestyles.”

SOUTH WALES WEST



**MEGAN POPPY
LLOYD**

“ Housing is a human right. Every single person, regardless of age, sex, gender, ability, sexuality or finance deserves a safe home. Society flourishes when everyone is given a base from which to contribute.”



GREEN GUARANTEE: OUR TOP 10 POINTS

ONE

GREEN NEW DEAL & THE ECONOMY

Our ambitious Green New Deal and decarbonisation plans will be truly transformative delivering a just transition for a sustainable and resilient Wales, fit for future generations, creating tens of thousands of new Green jobs across Wales, and investing in carbon reducing infrastructure.

We believe that public spending to support the economy must prioritise new jobs for the climate and nature emergencies. Our Green Transformation Fund for Wales will raise the finance necessary for the urgent measures needed to tackle these twin crises.

We will ensure basic financial security for all by advocating for the immediate introduction of a Universal Basic Income (UBI). This directly shares prosperity across society, reduces inequality, boosts workers' rights, and ends the toxic and costly benefits system that leaves so many trapped in poverty.

TWO

CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND NATURE CRISIS

Tackling the climate emergency and restoring nature are at the heart of Wales Green Party policy. Our policies across every area will ensure that carbon emission reduction targets are met at the scale and pace needed, as demanded by the science.

We will deliver a Green vision for net zero by 2030, replacing fossil fuels with onshore and offshore renewable energy and making necessary upgrades to the electricity grid.

We will appoint a new Welsh Government Commissioner for Biodiversity and Animal Protection to reverse the decline of biodiversity in Wales. The Commissioner will develop a task force and set plans for the recovery of Welsh ecologies, landscapes, animals and plant life.

THREE

HOUSING

Housing is a basic human right. Everybody has the right to a secure, affordable, warm home that allows for a socially inclusive life. Wales Green Party will build 12,000 new homes every year, built to the highest environmental and energy efficiency standards. The majority of these new houses will be for social housing to meet the urgent need.

We will ensure sufficient, ongoing investment to enable the retrofitting of existing housing stock to the highest energy efficient standards, lifting thousands out of fuel poverty.

FOUR

HEALTH AND CARE

The pandemic has exposed the deep health inequalities within our society and highlighted the scale of our reliance on a dangerously overstretched NHS. We are committed to safeguarding the NHS as a free at the point of delivery, publicly funded body, and ensuring that health boards and local authorities have the funding needed to increase capacity across all areas of health and social care provision.

We will ensure neighbourhood access to all treatments that can be made available locally, for example adopting an All-Wales strategy for cancer treatment. Provision of social support for disabled people, older people and their carers will be given early and quickly, enabling all to live fulfilled lives.

FIVE

EDUCATION

We will put learning at the forefront of the adaptation and change needed for Wales to recover to a greener and fairer future. Schools are an integral part of our communities and we will stop the ongoing closure of small rural schools.

We will provide access to electronic devices for all children who need to learn from home, and access to structured programmes of work if they are unable to attend school.

We will widen access to higher and further education, ensuring that no fees are payable for initial degrees.

SIX **ENERGY**

Funded by the Green Transformation Fund for Wales, we will create an innovative green energy economy. While recognising that action is required at all scales, we will prioritise community scale renewable energy projects supporting job creation and opportunities for local communities.

We will support faster deployment of wave, tidal stream and tidal lagoon energy, onshore and offshore wind, solar power, hydropower, district heat networks, a new hydrogen economy and storage.

SEVEN **TRANSPORT**

We will create better, affordable, cleaner transport options for all including access to better walking, cycling /active travel options and affordable public transport. Our integrated national transport strategy will: reduce traffic and carbon emissions; improve health and well-being; improve air quality; and respond to the climate emergency.

We will resist any attempts to reopen the proposals for the cancelled M4 relief road.

EIGHT **WELSH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE**

We will ensure that the Welsh language continues to be a living language and that citizens of Wales can live their lives in the language. We will promote the use of Welsh to safeguard and create bilingual communities where the Welsh language can thrive.

We recognise and value the arts for their creativity and enhancement of life. We will ensure that the arts have a key place in all community economy plans, linking cultural venues to local economic recovery.

NINE **DEMOCRACY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

We will oppose the post-Brexit Westminster power grab and all attempts to recentralise control of development funds for Wales.

We will strengthen local democracy through increased citizen engagement through citizen's juries, people's assemblies, and similar bodies. Scrutiny and accountability will be extended across all levels of government.

We will update the election law of 2001 to meet the challenges and stresses of modern times in a digital age.

TEN **INTERNATIONAL**

Wales Green Party supports the aspiration for an independent and fully democratic Wales, bringing decision making to those people most affected by those decisions. We will campaign for Wales to secede from the United Kingdom in any future referendum. Independence would enable Wales to realise its full potential as a diverse, cosmopolitan and internationalist, green nation, committed to equality.

We will continue to work to strengthen our bonds with our European neighbours and allies at every level, promoting future positive opportunities and tackling the damage caused to Wales by Brexit.

OUR APPROACH



JOINED-UP THINKING AND POLICIES

To be effective we have to achieve social and environmental objectives at the same time. This is possible with **joined-up thinking** and a willingness to try new solutions. The first section of this Manifesto looks at the different themes of Work, Community, Government and Environment and how our policies can add up to real change in different areas of Wales.

LISTENING TO SCIENCE AND HONESTY WITH THE PUBLIC

We believe in the importance of listening to the science. When good evidence shows that we need to take action to prevent tragedies, we must act. The pandemic reminds us that if politicians ignore the real world then all of us will suffer. The same is true of climate change. Wales Green Party will **tell you the truth** about what we need to do to build a safer world.

RESPONDING AT SCALE

Some parties point to a few scattered initiatives or promises. Wales Green Party understands that the only appropriate response is to plan for change at **the scale required by the problem**. We are committed to finding the finance to make change happen at scale, in dealing with the crises in climate and nature and the inequality threatening our societies.

LEADING CHANGE THAT IS FAIR

The people and communities of Wales have experienced significant, destructive change. Wales Green Party proposes **just transitions** ensuring that no-one misses out and that new opportunities are created. We believe in a fairer society and will take a lead in promoting change processes that improve equality, a system of basic social support for all, and more and better jobs.

LISTENING AND LEARNING GOVERNMENT

Government needs to do more listening to all of us with our local knowledge for our societies to **adapt, survive and flourish** in difficult times. This means a new voting system making everyone's vote count and parties that learn to work together effectively for a better future.

A WALES THAT CAN REALLY WORK FOR CHANGE

We recognise that some of the actions listed below (e.g., Universal Basic Income) fall outside current Welsh Government powers and we are calling for greater devolution, leading eventually to an independent Wales taking our place in the world as a **small green nation**. Our policies respond to the current devolved settlement in Wales and the wider possibilities of more devolved powers we recommend.

FINDING THE FINANCE

Our strategy has two linked aspects: a massive Green New Deal investment in job creation and wider social investment to lay the basis for a Wellbeing Economy transition.

GREEN NEW DEAL

For the next session of the Senedd we propose immediate actions using a mixture of revenue streams and institutions. The current powers of Welsh Government can be used to put in place a truly impressive strategy that will pay for itself over time. The Wales Green Party has the political will to make this happen.

- Green Transformation Bonds encouraging organisations and individuals to invest in a massive roll-out of green infrastructure to secure modest returns from money saved
- Extending Community Development Finance Institutions (such as Robert Owen Community Banking) as vehicles for local energy finance
- Joining with other countries to push for a Carbon Tax that redistributes money gained to citizens and green economy initiatives
- Supporting a pandemic windfall tax to raise revenue for green recovery initiatives

WELLBEING ECONOMY

Not all necessary expenditure can provide financial return, but properly targeted it can result in public value. At a time of economic crisis, responsible spending involves government investment in the future of Wales, not a continuation of austerity and cuts. Such investment pays for itself when economic achievement is measured in wellbeing goals and not reduced to GNP, reducing social costs of illness, social problems, and costs in mitigating environmental damage.

- Understanding money as created through the licence that we give to banks
- Our proposals reflect a commitment to ensuring that money and finance help us to achieve the things we need to do as a society, to regenerate our communities and our natural environment on which we depend
- In the longer term we are seeking a **transition to new economy understanding** and practice (e.g., Modern Monetary Theory or MMT), increasingly taken up by international financial agencies and forward-looking governments.

GREEN WINDOW ON THE VALLEYS

HOW COULD GREEN POLICIES AND INNOVATIONS WORK FOR THE FUTURE OF THE VALLEYS AND OTHER POST-INDUSTRIAL COMMUNITIES?

Many areas of Wales have suffered from unjust transitions away from industries that shaped so many of our communities. The South Wales Valleys are the most obvious example, with coal mining, but these concerns apply across Wales, with the slate industry, and once busy ports exporting coal and steel.

The Broadband Revolution allows for better learning and employment opportunities with remote working. People move back into communities helping to support the local economy and more vibrant high streets. Subsidised and improved public transport helps people make careers whilst continuing to live in their community.

Scaled up Green New Deal action sparks a massive refurb of homes, creates warm and secure housing, attracting young families. Flooding defences are improved, including upland planting and eco-renovation soaking up increased rainfall. These green measures mean jobs for local people in housing refurb, environmental regeneration and green energy.

Universal Basic Income ends the trap of a toxic and punitive benefits system, freeing up community energies. High streets are brought back to life with schemes that offer low-cost rent and rates for creative local start-ups and social businesses offering community benefit. These develop the local economy but also create online sales across Wales and more widely. Local repair cafes and tool libraries support the community.

Learning and development hubs provide free broadband access and resources, host college and university provision, and link to high quality online learning.

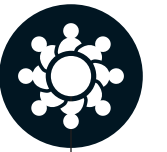
Health centres and other services co-locate with these hubs, making access easy for all within 15 minutes. Key workers in health and social support can access training and develop properly paid careers, delivering better services suited to local conditions.

Health centres and GPs are funded to develop positive health plans for all, leading to greater wellbeing and reduced costs for treating ill health. Local food growing and the development of local markets provides affordable quality food. Everyone has access to green space through revived and new pathways, mini-forests and local green spaces.

HOW IT FITS TOGETHER



- Tens of thousands of new green jobs across Wales
- Easy-access learning preparing for new opportunities across age groups
- Digital access, sport and culture for all in a truly bilingual nation



- Encourage good health & access to green space
- Make places where we want to live
- Ensure basic financial security and good housing for all



- Position Wales as a leading small green nation, supporting human rights and equality
- More local decision making and effective Welsh government that listens
- Build a fair tax system and a just nation



- Scale up action to tackle climate change, the nature crisis and pollution
- Make the transition to healthy food & farming systems
- Greening economy, industrial transition & circular economy

GREEN WINDOW ON RURAL AND COASTAL AREAS

Many rural and coastal areas of Wales suffer from poverty and lack of services. Communities become hollowed-out as young people leave for jobs and careers. Poor housing, inflated house prices and second homes have pushed families out entirely in some pockets of rural Wales. Absent or irregular public transport adds to rural isolation and lack of opportunity. Large, unsuitable developments have left environmental and social scars.

HOW COULD GREEN POLICIES AND INNOVATIONS WORK FOR THE FUTURE OF RURAL AND COASTAL AREAS OF WALES?

A massive expansion of rural jobs in green energy and environmental restoration, helps to revitalise the local economy and bring back life and hope to rural communities. Our major ports engage in a transition to sustainable operations. New jobs are geared for local people, with local hubs providing training and cultural facilities. With increased employment, wages spent locally boosts the local economy and demand for home-grown service industries.

Wales' family farms are at the forefront of the transition to sustainable farming and nature-based solutions. Our food and farming policies give local economies a boost including community-supported

food production, processing and retail. Improved broadband services extend career choice, with a mix of distance working and travel to work. Green tourism supports arts and creative industries and helps safeguard Welsh-speaking communities.

Green New Deal refurb provides warm and secure homes for all fulltime residents with reduced costs, and better physical and mental health bringing positive wellbeing and a safer/more secure future for communities. An improved public transport network links North and South Wales, helping people build careers, access services and cultural centres.

Local skills and technology contribute to develop state-of-the-art local renewable energy hubs, with co-operative and community ownership models. This is supported by Welsh universities investment in R & D, developing the skills needed for the energy future and connecting our schools and colleges with new energy developments internationally.

Universities, colleges and schools become even more of a key part of the rural and coastal economy, training for future careers and with R & D linked to regeneration of nature and local livelihoods for the future of our rural and coastal areas. Schools provide equality of delivery in the medium of Welsh at pre-school and primary age children across rural Wales.

OUR PLAN OF ACTION

ENVIRONMENT

SCALE UP ACTION TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE, THE NATURE CRISIS AND POLLUTION BY:

- Setting up a Green Transformation Fund for Wales (GTFW) to immediately finance ambitious decarbonisation and Green New Deal measures raising billions of pounds by issuing Green Transformation Bonds. This would meet the scale and urgency of the need to invest in carbon-reducing infrastructure, creating tens of thousands of new jobs across Wales.
- Advocating for a carbon tax to help reduce Wales's carbon emissions to net zero by 2030. A steadily rising price will be placed on all sources of greenhouse gas emissions, including agricultural emissions and those embedded in imports. Revenue goes to residents and to greening the economy.
- Delivering a Green vision to deliver net zero by 2030, replacing fossil fuels with onshore and offshore renewable energy and necessary upgrades to the electricity grid.
- Recognising that action is required at all scales, whilst prioritising community-scale renewable energy and decarbonisation projects supporting job creation and opportunities for local people.
- Making buildings and homes more energy efficient with efficiency measures in new buildings, homes and retro-fitting financed by the Green Transformation Fund for Wales to reduce energy demand and ensure warm healthy homes.
- Supporting clean, decentralised power networks – renewable energy schemes, low carbon heat networks, heat pumps and energy storage – maximising economic and community benefit, whilst minimising environmental and social impacts.
- Supporting faster deployment of wave, tidal stream and tidal lagoon energy, onshore and offshore wind, solar power, hydropower, district heat networks, a new hydrogen economy and storage.
- Creating better, affordable, cleaner transport options for all including access to better walking, cycling/active travel. An integrated national transport strategy will: reduce traffic and carbon emissions; improve health and well-being; improve air quality; and respond to the climate emergency.
- Reducing the need for private vehicle transport with our integrated transport strategy including better public transport, shared and on-demand mobility options, access to enjoyable walking, cycling/active travel routes and finding better ways of delivering goods.
- Proposing a bill to ban single use plastic and legislation to progressively reduce all non-recyclable packaging waste, with a goal for an overall reduction on packaging.
- Appointing a new Welsh Government Commissioner for Biodiversity and Animal Protection (BAP) to reverse the decline of biodiversity in Wales. The Commissioner will develop a task force and set of plans for the recovery of Welsh ecologies, landscapes, animals and plant life.
- Proposing that the BAP Commissioner will also strengthen animal welfare laws to ensure that both farmed and companion animals enjoy high welfare standards from the beginning to the end of their lives.
- Helping farmers to reduce the artificial-input-based agriculture that accounts for a large proportion of the pollution of watercourses with nitrates, phosphates and sediments from fertilisers, all of which pose threats to biodiversity.
- Supporting Marine Spatial Plans to reverse the decline of the marine and coastal environment of Wales, including: more Marine Conservation zones; an end to destructive forms of fishing; rewilding of the marine environment e.g., reinstating destroyed seagrass ecologies in Wales.
- Supporting sustainable fisheries in the transition to operation within biologically safe limits, and the development of local processing with communities in charge of the supply chain.
- Regulating pollution of all kinds – industrial, agricultural and consumer-based pollution will be subject to stricter regulation with an increase in monitoring capacity. Regulation will be rapidly phased in with support available to clean and improve industries.

SUPPORT THE TRANSITION TO HEALTHY FOOD AND FARMING SYSTEMS BY:

- Bringing in a Green New Deal for food and farming, designed by the farming communities and people of Wales, to deliver a 10-year transition to agroecological food production and nature restoration, helping farmers work with nature.
- Bringing an Agriculture Bill to the Senedd that has been developed with farmers, communities and food movements in Wales. This bill would set out a roadmap for MORE food and farming;
 - More opportunities for farmers and growers
 - More community involvement
 - More food produced in Wales that is consumed in Wales
 - More local food supply chains
 - More space for nature
 - More healthy environments (no net pollution footprint)
 - More stable climate (no net carbon)
- Holding a Citizens' Assembly on food and farming in Wales, to consult on our proposals and develop the policy so that it truly reflects what people across Wales want and need.
- Introduce statutory targets for local, public sector procurement in Wales, including a phasing-in period. This will incentivise an increase in horticultural production and processing in Wales and strengthen local supply chains.
- Supporting communities through the transition, and protecting and enhancing our Welsh culture and heritage. Ensuring a just transition, that strengthens the Welsh language, culture and rural communities and works for all communities.
- Promoting diversity in farming through a range of initiatives that will see better representation of people of colour employed in the farming sector and bringing a richer diversity of skills and experience to our land and dinner tables.
- Linking the Green New Deal with the right to food, fulfilling Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) No 2, recognising that everyone has the right to a sufficient supply of nutritious, affordable and safe food to lead a healthy life.

- Localising food systems so that control of production, distribution and access to food is increasingly in local hands. Progressively increase the proportion of our food grown in Wales year on year, improving food security and quality.
- Strengthening animal standards in abattoirs and ensuring effective monitoring systems are in place.
- Increasing the opportunities for urban food growing, including new community farms, orchards and allotments, through the revised planning system proposed in our policies.
- Maintaining Wales GM Free status including imported maize. Bio-security will be increased to ensure control of the import of animal materials preventing new diseases emerging which threaten both indigenous species and human health.
- Expanding the Glastir woodland management schemes to develop appropriate responses to local pressures and opportunities for wildlife to flourish in and around woodland in Wales.
- Recognising soil as the biggest pool of carbon stored in the land, as an important wildlife habitat, and as essential for human civilisation. We will ensure that all farming and land uses protect and enhance the soil. Achieving the net-zero goal demands action to restore soil in Wales.

GREENING ECONOMY, INDUSTRIAL TRANSITION AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY BY:

- Making it easier to regenerate high streets and communities with a mix of low rent and rates for existing small businesses and social and environmental start-ups to fill empty shops and bring back life to our high streets.
- Advocating for immediate Universal Basic Income (UBI) for all to support local economic recovery for small business, including farming.
- Democratising economy by bringing in local economic recovery forums where local people can discuss the economy they want. Reforming taxation so that big corporates cannot evade tax and undercut locally run businesses.
- Making good on Welsh Government sign up to the Wellbeing Economy Governmental (WEGo) alliance by bringing in real funding power for change through the Green Transformation Fund and carbon taxation.

- Developing the Wellbeing Economy promise that economic activity should directly contribute to public benefit and regeneration of nature. No public money for high carbon nature-destructive companies or those that practice corruption and tax evasion.
- Building on the strengths of the social and community enterprise sector in Wales by supporting the rise of not-for-profit businesses, directly delivering social and environmental benefit.
- Setting up a Wellbeing Economy governmental mission to communicate with business about the new deal with companies: opportunities for decarbonisation and investment in the green economy of the future, and new duties and goals of business.
- Developing transition plans for all industries to move towards public benefit and a regenerative economy for nature with community and worker-led just transition plans.
- Developing new innovative funds and local banks such as Banc Cambria, and social lenders to support social and environmental start-ups and the transitioning of existing industries.
- Supporting the Foundation Economy approach prioritising the economic power of properly funded public services to support strengthening local economy and small local business, including the cultural and service industries.
- Calling for immediate disinvestment of Welsh Local Authority funds in fossil fuels which is long overdue and is in direct contradiction to commitments to climate action.
- Giving an increased economic regulatory role to the Welsh Government, with democratic oversight at all levels, to reset economic frameworks and business models, prioritising not-for-profits and supporting everyone's involvement in new, creative kinds of economic development, not just those with existing capital.
- Strengthening existing Welsh Government commitments to Circular Economy and the opportunities to develop new forms of industry based in materials recycling, re-use and repair.

COMMUNITY

ENCOURAGE GOOD HEALTH AND ACCESS TO GREEN SPACE BY:

- Prioritising preventing rather than curing illness, enabled by improved housing, greater economic security, reduced stress, addiction, and ill health and involving all health services in working together for pandemic resilience, social prescribing and healthy lifestyles.
- Addressing the grave health inequalities further revealed during the pandemic with food security, decent housing, utilities and public services.
- Placing public safety at the forefront of NHS planning and response. Ensuring that health boards and local authorities have the funding to increase capacity across public health, primary, secondary and tertiary health care, social care and emergency services that are regularly and independently 'stress tested' to perform in a crisis.
- Safeguarding the NHS as free at the point of delivery, fully in public hands, and aligning social care with NHS provision. Establishing a Commission to integrate the health and care system to work with local government, the National Health Service, Community Health Councils and third sector providers, reporting in 6 months.
- Ensuring neighbourhood access to all treatments that can be made available locally, for example, adopting an All-Wales strategy for cancer treatment.
- Providing social support for disabled people, older people and carers, early and quickly so that all can have fulfilled lives.
- Valuing the additional expertise and advice offered by third sector specialist-condition and patient organisations. Ensuring that they participate in the review of care pathways for each specific clinical condition and overall service reviews.
- Reducing pollution, reducing avoidable deaths, increasing positive health and allowing our local wildlife a breathing space to recover for all to enjoy.
- Improving enjoyment of nature and understanding with learning studies that encourage eco-literacy and local involvement in nature protection and restoration activities.

- Enabling more local food production through the provision of growing spaces, community gardens and orchards using a reformed planning system. Enabling local community-supported growing schemes with affordable local good quality food for all.
- Ensure that menus in schools, colleges, universities, hospitals etc. include varied and nutritious vegan/plant-based options at all times.
- Supporting programmes to help people to become better connected with each other, particularly for toddlers and children to socially interact to make up for lack of opportunities during the pandemic.
- Revitalising youth services and community spaces as an investment in the future and neighbourhood recovery after the pandemic.
- Planning for local safe public spaces for children, youth and older people.
- Prioritising the accessible location and layout of housing areas and the design of pathways and green spaces and water features in the local environment. Extending place-making approaches with Green Pathways to Nature in all communities.

MAKE PLACES WHERE WE WANT TO LIVE BY:

- Bringing planning back to the people with a set of general commitments to planning for climate solutions and promoting wellbeing agendas for communities and nature.
- New positive planning approaches involving the local community in making decisions to create places with a distinctive identity with a statutory requirement for citizen engagement processes.
- Ensuring more local say in Town and Country Planning decisions including third party rights of appeal, increasing public participation exercises through events like 'planning for real' and forging links with local economic and community forums.
- Harmonise planning law and environmental law by integrating them into a new Planning and Environment Act linked to the Wellbeing of Future Generations legal framework and Wellbeing Economy commitments.
- Developing integrated approaches to place-making that bring together local Place Plans, Local economy forums and Environmental plans into one vision developed with communities.
- Recognising planning as a multi-level system and ensuring that National Development Plans are informed by Local Plans, and in turn community level

Place plans, to balance local views and needs and the needs of the wider community, especially with regard to housing.

- Developing varied and welcoming mixed-use neighbourhoods. Blending residential, commercial, cultural, institutional and entertainment activities within one area orientated around community and public transport hubs, resulting in reduced traffic and cleaner air.
- Ensuring planning's place-making role by community and expert co-design of places to be low maintenance and adaptable with well-integrated landscape, green spaces and sustainable drainage.
- Ensuring a presumption against development in areas at risk from river flooding and against development on previously undeveloped land, high quality agricultural land and important natural areas, for example ancient woodland, and against building on land directly adjacent to such areas.
- Supporting the Wales One Planet scheme and improving its accessibility with feedback from stakeholders and communities.
- Prioritising the use of planning to conserve, restore and where possible enhance, valuable landscape, ecological, geological, historical, archaeological, cultural and rural features. Planning authorities should support, among other things:
 - Carbon sinks (e.g., forests, peatlands) and countryside renewable energy sources
 - Low emission farming practices and preventing pollution from intensive agriculture
 - Reforestation and growth of native species
 - Development of Welsh forestry and wood products consistent with biodiversity
 - Increasing food security and connections between food production and consumption
 - Rewilding of land to help restore damaged and depleted nature in Wales
- Advocate a Land Value Tax and giving the public sector and not-for-profit housing organisations greater powers to buy land at agricultural prices will encourage developers to build houses rather than sit on land banks.
- Scrapping the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and replacing by direct public funding. Provision of essential infrastructure should not depend upon planning deals with private companies.
- Planning that promotes the local economic regeneration of damaged high streets and protects local heritage from destruction by encouraging repurposing of buildings for local economy uses.

ENSURE EVERYONE HAS BASIC FINANCIAL SECURITY AND GOOD HOUSING FOR ALL BY:

- Advocating for the immediate introduction of a Universal Basic Income (UBI). This directly shares prosperity across society, reduces inequality, and provides financial security, ending the toxic benefits system which is costly and not fit for purpose. UBI supports people to:
 - contribute to society through caring activity
 - choose work that is meaningful to them
 - take up educational and training opportunities
 - increase cultural and community activities,
 - have a share in any benefits arising from automation
 - enjoy greater leisure time
- Ensuring access to financial services by supporting the rise of local banks, mutual societies and credit unions. The pandemic has led many into financial insecurity and stress and made them prey to loan-sharks.
- Supporting good quality services as part of financial security and equality, especially for women who often take the burden of unpaid caring work. We will work for services that are free at the point of access, and are supported by positive health and quality of life measures.
- Front-loading a fair and inclusive economic recovery that also helps climate and nature is an essential part of creating future financial security for families and communities. Thriving local Wellbeing Economies with good job opportunities and scope for creative industries and services.
- Committing to affordable, accessible, secure and decent housing as a human right and the right of all the people of Wales to accommodation that allows for socially inclusive lives.
- Ending homelessness as a priority and giving those in need of housing a voice in planning processes, in conjunction with attention to removing the causes of homelessness e.g., better mental health, addiction services and financial inclusion support.
- Creating price stability in housing by regulating to make speculation in housing less attractive and to increase the housing supply. Returning to the principle that houses are homes and not primarily investments.

- Providing for 12,000 new houses every year through the National Development Plan, built in the right places to the right standards, with access to green space. The majority of these new houses will be for social housing to meet the demand and this measure will be supported by training for the jobs created in the industry.
- All new housing will be built to zero carbon standards, meaning lower bills and a better quality of life. The built environment is an important habitat for species and design of new housing and renovations will take this into account.
- Ensuring sufficient, ongoing investment, and collaborative funding schemes, to enable the retrofitting of existing housing stock to the highest energy efficiency standards through the GTFW Green Bonds issues and opportunities for local investment in community energy. Remove the 5% VAT currently charged on refurbishment materials.
- Ensuring that tenants are protected from the inequalities of the 'Bedroom Tax' by the use of Discretionary Housing Payments. Provide greater security for tenants by phasing out Assured Shorthold Tenancies in the private sector. Provide those struggling with mortgage arrears with security of tenure through a 'Right to Rent' scheme.
- Co-producing a comprehensive accessible housing register across Wales, regularly updated and monitored by a steering group comprising all sectors of stakeholders and providing detailed training for LA officers.

WORK

TENS OF THOUSANDS OF NEW GREEN JOBS ACROSS WALES BY:

- Using funds generated by the Green Transformation Fund for Wales, the Welsh Investment Bank and community investment to create tens of thousands of new worthwhile jobs across all areas of Wales to tackle the climate emergency.
- Creating thousands of new jobs across Wales in a house-building programme to address housing need.
- Advocating for a 4-day week to share work opportunities and respond to the greater automation and digitisation of manufacturing and services.
- Welcoming the proposed Welsh Government economic recovery expenditure for firms that 'reduce carbon and are fair employers', noting that this fails to engage the social and community business sectors. Extending this approach to develop opportunities for all to participate in the economic recovery of Wales.
- Bringing about a transition to greener production considering the distinctive needs of different areas and communities in Wales, linked to principles of just transition as supported by the Greener Jobs Alliance.
- Adapting working life with the flexibility to work from home and a broader definition of work so that domestic and other caring work is equally valued. Our economy depends upon care and support for healthy working lives and communities and this should be reflected in our economic arrangements and taxation.
- Recognising trades union as an important part of wider civil society and key stakeholders for the future economy. Bringing unions into local economy planning and providing workers with support for social and environmental business start-ups.
- Improving wages and working conditions for front-line workers, partly through UBI, but also through improved public service and care workers pay settlements, workers' rights in collective bargaining, employment rights and health and safety.

- Ending the 'gig' economy in Wales and exploitative zero hours contracts through UBI and the extension of worker's rights. We know that income support during the pandemic has been insufficient where workers earnings have been dependent on insecure and casual work.
- Mobilising for a just transition in a Green New Deal which protects and improves workers livelihoods and creates a more inclusive society. We welcome the commitments made by the Wales TUC to engage with the need to green our economy.
- Proposing transition plans for all sectors of the economy in Wales to move to a Green Wellbeing Economy (e.g., Green Steel). We see our commitment to just transition as part of extending democracy and equality of treatment in Wales.
- Democratising the workplace, creating new forms of business and adopting new ways of organising, including enhanced workplace representation and rights to information, influencing company plans and investment, and developing worker co-operatives.
- Promoting green tourism and associated jobs based on Wales' distinctive communities, nature and culture. Supporting the management of tourism for a long-term future for local host communities, with people who work in the industry properly paid. Planning for year-round facilities and jobs wherever possible to ensure continuity.

EASY-ACCESS LEARNING

PREPARING FOR NEW OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS AGE GROUPS BY:

- Putting learning at the forefront of the adaptation and change needed for Wales to recover to a greener and fairer future. We support school, college and university students questioning the role of learning in finding solutions to the pressing problems of climate change, nature collapse and inequalities in our society.
- Providing new economic solutions and new jobs proposed in the Green New Deal also requires more training and re-training opportunities, readily accessible to all with locally based delivery to supplement online learning.

- Re-investing in the Further Education sector and creating local learning hubs that can also link with school provision. Ensuring that the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) remains available for all young people who need it to continue their education.
- Advocating for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child to be brought fully into Welsh law. Ensuring that all children and young people in Wales have their rights respected in safe learning environments, where all pupils feel valued and are able to choose the pathway that most suits them.
- Proposing a new Learning Charter for Wales, co-created with teachers, other professionals, students and parents building on the Welsh approach of Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship (ESDGC). This would determine the best ways to ensure education that focuses on learning for the future economy, living environments and society of Wales.
- Working to deliver UN Sustainable Development Goal 4.7 in Wales including education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.
- Keeping small schools alive which are so often at the heart of our rural communities.
- Developing child-centred practice, creativity and cross-curricular activities.
- Ensuring that children with Additional Learning Needs will have the opportunity to learn in either mainstream or special units or special schools.
- Providing access to electronic devices for children who need to learn from home, and access to structured programmes of work if they are unable to attend school.
- Advocating for early years education that will focus on developing the whole child, including outdoor education such as Forest School. Assessments should be play based and focus on communication, thinking skills, creative and social skills.
- Proposing that from six years old numeracy, reading and writing will become more formal but children will continue to have regular access to outdoor play and creative activities. We will review the testing and exams system in Welsh schools from ages 7-18.

- Ensuring that all secondary schools should offer a wide and varied curriculum, accessible to all. Encouraging learning experiences outside school in the countryside and coasts. Supporting apprenticeships routes into work at the Further Education Stage. Academic achievement will also be encouraged for those that wish to take this route.
- Widening access to Higher Education, ensuring that no fees are payable for initial degrees and encouraging flexibility in degree pathways.
- Welcoming the recent efforts by the Welsh and Scottish governments to explore opportunities for our two nations to re-join the ERASMUS programme and working with all parties to maximise the international educational and cultural opportunities available to our young people.
- Mandating universities in Wales to assist with social and environmental focused economic recovery in their area, working with community economy forums and local business and linking internationally with similar efforts in other countries.
- Ensuring that the Welsh language continues to be a living language and that citizens of Wales can live their lives in the language. Promoting the use of Welsh to safeguard and create bilingual communities.
- Ensuring that teaching and learning in Welsh is recognised and valued as an integral component of Wales' education system from the early years through to post-compulsory provision. Extending investment in the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol.
- Ensuring that learning Welsh is free to do, and that full and part-time intensive Welsh courses are made available with the right to attend without loss of benefits.

DIGITAL ACCESS, SPORT AND CULTURE FOR ALL IN A TRULY BILINGUAL NATION BY:

- Providing equal access to the benefits of the broadband revolution for deprived communities in Wales. Supporting essential hardware, software and bandwidth at affordable cost for easier business and personal communication and local hubs linked to libraries and community settings.
- Engaging in a national debate about regulation of social media and internet to consider problems of the spread of misinformation, internet crime and freedom of expression, considering the need for forms of child protection in accessing material.

- Supporting the development of public interest not-for-profit provision of social media platforms as initially proposed by the BBC but disallowed due to internet company lobbying.
- Supporting public service media and broadcasting as a vital part of healthy, informed, democracy. Involving citizens in developing privacy laws that protect citizens rights, but could not be used to obstruct proper investigative journalism.
- Proposing that the Office of Communications (OFCOM) is reformed in line with the transfer of more regulatory powers to the Welsh Government, amending the remit to include more citizen participation.
- Providing access to sport for all with provision for playing fields and facilities, open to all sections of the community. Mandating local councils to ensure adequate provision of facilities such as sports centres, swimming pools and sports fields, in conjunction with local schools.
- Highlighting sports as part of a green positive health strategy and supporting a wider range of 'doorstep activities' such as skateboarding, rollerblading, and street games with facilities in local parks.
- Supporting the importance of sports internationally as helping in international understanding and exchange and the important part that sports play in cultural identity and community. Ensuring that international games continue to be available on free-to-air nationwide TV.
- Supporting Sports Wales Strategic Equality Plan and the equality of access of all to facilities and events.
- Ensuring support for museums and libraries at local and national levels with links to the promotion of grassroots culture, community radio and television, and community art schemes.
- Recognising the arts as living and changing and valuing arts for their spontaneity, creativity and ability to make life worth living. Making sure that the arts have a key place in all community economy plans, linking cultural venues to economic recovery.
- Recognising the importance of cultural industries to a green recovery and the need for support from Welsh Government to reinvigorate the arts in Wales after the pandemic. These efforts also need to be supplemented by linking the arts and creative industries to a green economic recovery based in local communities.
- Supporting the continued engagement of the Welsh creative sector in European touring and creative ventures. Another area where the Westminster government's ideological hard Brexit has impacted disproportionately on young people at the start of their careers.

- Supporting local creatives to gain access to closed and disused shops and premises on our High streets, with UBI as a basic support for many new creative small businesses and ventures to return life to our communities across Wales.
- Celebrating Welsh as a living vibrant language at the heart of many communities across Wales, and a major aspect of wider Welsh culture. Wales Green Party supports the Welsh language in everyday life and the unique nature of Welsh culture and important events such as Eisteddfodau and the Urdd.
- Supporting the Welsh language to thrive, to be the language of homes, workplaces, and public spaces across the country, working towards a truly bilingual nation. We will ensure that publicly funded organisations, and health and social service providers engage with the public in English or Welsh, according to the individual's preference.

GOVERNMENT

POSITION WALES AS A

LEADING GREEN SMALL

NATION, SUPPORTING HUMAN

RIGHTS AND EQUALITY BY:

- Supporting the aspiration for an independent and fully democratic Wales, bringing decision-making to those people who are most affected by those decisions. Voting for independence will give the opportunity to build rapidly on the innovative sustainability frameworks already established in Wales, and will mean that these can be fully implemented to ensure a viable future for Wales as a leading small green nation.
- Supporting moves towards a diverse and cosmopolitan, internationalist Wales, committed to equality. Voting for independence could rid us of the toxic British class system, support for oppressive regimes, international arms trade, nuclear power, corruption and tax avoidance, all of which are hugely damaging internationally as well as at home.
- Supporting immediate further devolution to best serve the people of Wales. Wales should have a settlement at least equal to that of Scotland in order to rebuild our economy and society.
- Continuing work to strengthen our bonds with our European friends and allies at every level with Wales for Europe, and highlighting the vital role for the next Senedd in promoting positive future opportunities in our relationship with Europe and tackling the damage to Wales caused by Brexit.
- Raising the legal status of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act, to ensure that more decisions are informed by wellbeing and environmental goals, consistent with Welsh Government commitments to a Wellbeing Economy.
- Supporting diversity and equality measures as a welcome response to the real and beautiful complexity of human society in Wales. Extending the existing policy progress made by the Welsh Government in equality legislation and supporting instruments, by putting more effort into implementation in practice, at the same time as continuing to engage in more innovation through co-production approaches.

- Welcoming the huge contribution made by social movements and groups which contribute to learning, debate, policy innovation and wider social understanding of equality. Ensuring these groups are more involved in governance, oversight and evaluation of equality and diversity policy and measurable outcomes in Wales.
- Recognising and responding to the needs of disadvantaged or marginalised groups (e.g., women, travellers, people of colour, disabled people, poor people, young people, LGBTIQ people, older people, asylum seekers and refugees), that have received insufficient consideration in economic and social policy-making and in shaping places for mobility, caring roles, public health and safe lives.
- Investing for equality as disadvantaged groups can be net contributors to society if they are released from their current imprisonment of attempting to live without the conditions for a decent life and without necessary support. This will require shifts in taxation policy in order to fund a more open and inclusive society.
- Bringing Human Rights legislation fully into Welsh Government and updating this in line with international developments. As an internationalist party that believes in localism, we will cooperate internationally on green policies and support Wales taking our place in the international community as a strong supporter of human rights, equality, democracy and open government.
- Cooperating internationally to scrap subsidies for air fuel and for the introduction of a frequent flyer tax.
- Supporting ratification of the United Nations' Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and opposing the replacement of Trident as an unnecessary escalation of the global arms race.
- Affirming Wales as a Nation of Sanctuary for refugees fleeing conflict and violence, building on past history of welcoming refugees to our communities. Taking a stand for international justice in the light of the history of Wales as a colonised nation, whilst recognising our involvement in British colonialism and slavery in also shaping who we are as a nation.
- Supporting the work of Academi Heddwch Cymru (Wales Peace Academy Network) in spreading awareness of peaceful alternatives to conflict, mediation processes and scholarly work on peace initiatives and theories and cooperation with other such institutions, particularly in other small nations across the world.

FOCUS ON EQUALITY,

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION BY:

- Ensure that the needs of all peoples in our society are proofed across service delivery through an improved robust remit for the Minister of Equality. From young people to older people, from sexual and gender equality to religious equality, equality for people with physical and sensory impairments, mental health issues or who are neuro-diverse, and embracing all our ethnic, religious and social groups in Wales.
- Establish a Race Equality Action Plan, tasked with tackling ethnic inequalities, covering housing, employment, education, health and other areas of systemic racism with clear measurements to show its effectiveness.
- Support the measures outlined by Race Alliance Wales in their manifesto for an Anti Racist Wales.
- Confront racism, antisemitism and prejudice, including from an early age through a broader and decolonialised curriculum in school, focussing on histories and role models from a diverse range of ethnicities and religions.
- Develop and implement a Wales-wide strategy to tackle gender-based violence, including domestic violence, rape and sexual abuse, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), and trafficking. This will include providing education across Wales on violence against women and girls to increase awareness.
- Ensure the effective delivery of the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015.
- Provide sustainable funding for domestic violence support centres, refuges and rape crisis centres, including funding to provide more safe and secure accommodation for women and their children.
- Increase funding for areas of the NHS heavily relied on by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex, Queer and Asexual (LGBTIQA+) people, including trans healthcare, HIV treatment and mental health provision.
- Work to ban conversion therapy across Wales and lobby for the ban across the UK.
- Train school staff in spotting and stopping sexual harassment and bullying, to ensure that schools are safe places for all to learn in with specific training on identifying racism, homophobia, transphobia, misogyny and attacks on disabled people.
- Fully embed the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled Persons (UNCPRD) into Welsh law. This will mean that the unacceptable practices of compulsory treatment, chemical and physical restraint, isolation, and seclusion are made illegal.
- Ensure that public bodies implement codes that ensure equality of access to public services for all disabled citizens. A programme based on a series of small initiatives such as improved street pavings and furniture, and visual or aural triggers in services such as public transport, would help make life better for disabled people.
- Commit strategic, long-term investment to community organisations that tackle inequality, poverty and discrimination against Deaf and disabled people and people with sight loss, including funding to expand advice, advocacy provision and hate crime support service.
- Reaffirm and highlight the contribution made by refugees, asylum seekers and those who move here to work and do more to ensure people are able to be fully included in their local community and economies.
- Commit to supporting the establishment of age-friendly communities throughout Wales and engage with international partners as part of the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing.

ENSURE MORE LOCAL DECISION-MAKING AND EFFECTIVE WELSH GOVERNMENT BY:

- Opposing the Westminster power grab post-Brexit, re-centralising control of development funds for Wales under the 'Levelling-up' agenda. These funds should be under the control of the Senedd and spent according to democratically decided Welsh priorities.
- Supporting multiple forms of democracy that all have their place in a complex modern society: Representative democracy, electing representatives to carry out a public manifesto; local assemblies to help identify and debate local issues; citizens' juries and people's assemblies to debate and explore contentious issues such as new technologies or taxation proposals; and so on.
- Developing a new dialogue with local government, negotiating adequate funding for their range of statutory duties with co-production involving citizens groups and not-for-profit local business.
- Exemplifying a new approach to democracy which means parties working together for the common good. We believe that voters want to see parties working in cooperation too and will seek to work with other progressive parties wherever possible, consistent with our principles.
- Extending scrutiny and accountability in government. In representative democracy we delegate power to our elected representatives and this trust must be accompanied by full accountability. Government requires scrutiny and clear processes whereby government decisions and actions are subject to questioning.
- Preventing corruption and misuse of power for private gain. Advocating for greater disclosure of the decision-making process at all levels of Government and not be reliant on an FOI process that has become more a game than a democratic information sharing process.
- Taking action against political corruption by increasing transparency. Stopping the awarding of crony contracts and the 'revolving door' of government and business lobbyists, making economic life more transparent and accountable.
- Updating the election law of 2001 for modern times and threats. We support the Fair Vote campaign calls for increased transparency; increased monitoring

and penalties for flouting electoral law; imprints on all digital advertisements; and the regulation of capacity to use personal data for hidden targeted messaging.

- Ensure that all regulatory bodies are appointed by democratic means. All senior appointments in Wales would be made by regulatory bodies, and where appropriate, scrutinised by the relevant committee in the Welsh Parliament.
- Replacing 'First Past the Post' with a proportional voting system in Wales. Wales Green Party welcomes the report 'A Parliament that works for Wales' published in November 2017 of the Expert Panel on Assembly Electoral Reform, chaired by Professor Laura McAllister, and supports its recommendations:
 - The Assembly should be expanded to between 80 and 90 members
 - Assembly Members should be elected from multi-member constituencies of between four and six members by a single-transferable vote or flexible list system
 - Gender quotas should be introduced
 - Candidates should be able to stand for election to the Assembly on the basis of transparent job- sharing
- Calling for the enactment of the recommendations of the Thomas Commission of October 2019 on the devolution of justice and policing powers to Wales, including the establishment of a Welsh legislature and courts, and the administration of the prison estate and non-custodial/probation services for Wales. Wales is the only devolved nation that does not have control of justice and policing.
- Adopting targets to reduce the prison population in Wales; supporting local prisons and other secure accommodation in learning and rehabilitation; and the establishment of a Welsh Probation Service.
- Supporting a review of policing in Wales with respect to communities of colour and other marginalised communities, particularly with regard to the question of deaths in, or following, custody. Reviewing the current accountability of police forces to elected Police & Crime Commissioners, with other community representation being considered.
- Gaining more support for the Welsh Government's strategy on Violence Against Women, Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence (VAWDVSV). Welsh control of justice and policing could more comprehensively support this strategy. Reclassifying misogyny as a hate-crime to help women feel safer in our communities.

- Prioritising moving to a realistic drugs policy that tackles addiction as an illness, not a crime. Supporting funding for Local Authority addiction centres.
- Restoring legal aid cuts, especially in areas of deprivation to uphold equality under the law.

ADVOCATE A FAIR TAX SYSTEM AND A JUST NATION BY:

- Promoting the vision of an economy that is free from fear and division, where people do not feel they have to accumulate wealth or do down others to be secure. Wales needs to detach from the Westminster neo-liberal project to create a European Singapore, with a race to the bottom on deregulation of working rights, environmental and food standards.
- Highlighting the great injustice of levels of economic & health inequality in Wales, worsened by Westminster-imposed austerity, contributing to the high number of deaths in Wales from the pandemic.
- Advocating a just taxation system for Wales where paying in means that support is always available when we need it, on the Nordic model. Higher tax rates for our wealthier residents need to go hand-in-hand with excellent and reliable public services and social support for all.
- Reforming the current tax band system, adapting the successful Scottish Greens' approach to the situation in Wales. Ensuring sufficient revenue with low earners paying less and high earners paying more towards the wellbeing of our society and environment.
- Supporting the vision of the Wellbeing Economy that a just nation supports all its diverse members to live fulfilled lives, and reduces inequality through robust Wellbeing Economy budgeting such as is being trialled in New Zealand for example.
- Recognising that no billionaire could gain their fortunes without the base of unpaid care, social cohesion of societies, and healthy life support ecosystems of nature. On this basis we support wealth taxes, such as the proposed Pandemic Windfall tax on companies that have had huge gains from the pandemic.

- Advocating for a reset of the tax system to redistribute wealth from the rich to the poor, and to more adequately reward front-line work essential for our society to function. Environmental health is also essential for us to function and tax should contribute to regenerating our natural environments.
- Dealing with the tax injustice highlighted by campaigners in Crickhowell for example, where huge companies agree their rates of tax in special deals with the Inland Revenue and can undercut local companies on the high street.
- Making it easy for people to invest in the future of Wales through the Green Transformation Fund and other forms of green and social investment, rather than in environmentally and socially damaging forms of corporate business.
- Strengthening the economic regulatory role of the Welsh Government and local authorities, with democratic oversight at all levels, to reset economic frameworks to deliver on commitments to Wellbeing for people and nature in Wales.
- Auditing of public expenditure to be strictly geared to assessing public and environmental benefit from every pound of our money spent.
- Proposing a Green Wellbeing Economy that is geared to directly contributing to social and environmental wellbeing, that supports small local vibrant businesses and the communities that sustain them and away from the old British system geared to corporate interests.
- Creating tens of thousands of new jobs for Wales and supporting the Foundation Economy approach means moving away from a reliance on jobs provided by companies that trash individuals, communities and environments and then reluctantly hand back a fraction of the profit, or hide their revenues in international tax havens.
- Supporting Tax Justice and Transparency International calls for the closing down of tax havens. Much of this hidden money is also linked to illegal economic activity such as logging, mining and international environmental crime. The world's dictators rely on the hidden banking system to steal from their people. We in Wales can do our bit to help stop these abuses and improve global economic standards.

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Cardiff, Wales, taken at sunset. The city is densely packed with buildings, and the sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. In the background, rolling hills are visible under the twilight sky. The title text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

GREEN WINDOW ON OUR CITIES AND URBAN AREAS

Cities and large urban areas in Wales show the hollowing-out of public services, social provision and youth services. The rise of homelessness shames our cities and towns, with vulnerable people on the street, and health inequalities increasing with many young people, pensioners and families in insecure, damp and poor-quality accommodation. Addiction worsens the impact of the pandemic on deprived communities. Cultural activity declines.

HOW COULD GREEN POLICIES AND INNOVATIONS WORK FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR CITIES AND URBAN AREAS?

Scaled-up climate response means more job opportunities immediately in renewable energy, district heating and warm-homes retrofit, with localised training and support for new careers. Air pollution in our cities is reduced dramatically, with investment in electric transportation and tough regulation. Healthy cities and urban areas combine green infrastructure, good housing, and access to good food for physical and mental health.

Local urban areas increasingly become mixed-use with key facilities accessible on foot in 15 minutes, reducing the need to travel. Public services taken back into local control or run by not-for-profit companies deliver better services for all, in co-production with service users, providing local quality

jobs and real careers. Learning for child and adult development is prioritised, supporting tolerance and celebration of diversity in culturally vibrant cities.

Our high streets and cultural industries are given a boost by the provision of cheap rates for new cultural and not-for-profit and community start-ups such as cafes and repair/re-use shops, upcycling and makers. Life is brought back into our high streets, providing advantages for the growth of the local economy and supporting young people starting businesses.

Cities and urban areas are redesigned with a future for children and young people especially in mind. Free accessible public transport, supports active travel. Children and youth have

access to safe spaces with child-friendly safe spaces to play and gather together. Revived youth services use school buildings. Community police, counsellors and youth workers as resources for children at risk of drug, sexual exploitation, homelessness and alcohol abuse.

More food is grown in and around our cities, with easier planning and provision for allotments/ community gardens, with all new development having access to green space and/or growing land. Green spaces available for all locally, with green trails to country outskirts and support for city and urban wildlife and biodiversity. There is more local engagement in greening schemes and parks, including clean river and water courses.

NOTES

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**I DDARLLEN Y MANIFFESTO
HWN YN GYMRAEG, EWCH I:**

**[https://wales.greenparty.org.uk/
manifesto/](https://wales.greenparty.org.uk/manifesto/)**

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