Act Now, Change Forever: How Climate action will help people in Caerfyrddin

30,716
Number of poorly insulated homes

23
Neighbourhoods with unhealthy polluted air

96,016
Hours of sewage spills in 2024

People across Caerfyrddin care deeply about their local area and the people in it. We want Wales to be a place where both people and nature can thrive. Climate change and nature loss are already negatively impacting our health, driving up costs, and threatening nature and landscapes that we cherish and depend upon. And it's not just here in Wales - all around the world people are being impacted, with some disproportionately harder hit.

Across Wales people are already stepping up. But we can't do it alone. That's why we need the UK government to do more to help us tackle the growing impacts of our changing climate in Wales particularly providing Wales with a fair share of finances so the Welsh government can do more to support those most affected by climate change and develop the industries and jobs of the future[1]. The MPs we've elected in Wales need to press the UK government on climate change and nature loss. 64% of people in Caerfyrddin said environment and climate change policies are important to them.

Cut Bills, Back UK Jobs, and Secure a Greener, Fairer Future

The UK government is legally obliged to write a new Climate Plan by October 29th. This is a crucial moment for Welsh MPs. Your influence will help secure stronger and fairer legislation that delivers climate justice in Wales and across the rest of the UK. Fairness must be at the heart of the plan - lower energy bills, energy security, better public transport, new job opportunities, and healthier homes.

- **Warmer homes** - 71% of homes in Caerfyrddin are poorly insulated (rated EPC band D or lower) and many of these will be in the rented sector. Upgrading these could save residents £250 or more per year. According to the latest UK government data there were 196,000 (14%) households in fuel poverty in Wales. The UK government sets the standard for rental homes in Wales and stronger standards are needed.

[1] Many of the issues in this briefing are devolved to the Senedd, but as our representatives in Westminster it is still crucial for Welsh MPs to understand the impact that climate change is having on Welsh communities. Decisions made in Westminster also have an impact on us here in Wales, so Welsh MPs need to demand that climate justice is at the heart of new policies on reserved matters and that Wales gets a financial settlement that enables it to deliver a more resilient and just country.

- Cleaner air - In Caerfyrddin, levels of the harmful pollutant PM2.5 are above WHO guidelines in 23 neighbourhoods. The UK sets the pace of the transition to electric cars. A rapid transition – alongside better public transport - will reduce air pollution and health impacts.
- Better buses - Bus services have declined by almost 60% in Wales since 2010. In Caerfyrddin bus services have declined by 51% according to research by the University of Leeds. 14% of households in Caerfyrddin don't have access to a car. The Welsh government controls buses in Wales but a larger block grant to the government from the UK would enable bus services to be funded better.
- Greater energy security – Wales already produces 4,410 GWh of energy from onshore wind and solar farms. The more renewable energy we produce, the more resilient we are to global spikes in the price of oil and gas and the less dependent on energy imports. Upcoming UK auctions for new renewable power, which guarantee prices for developers, must ensure Wales is able to develop its fair share of clean, green energy.
- More jobs - the green economy already supports 749 jobs in the constituency and has grown faster than other sectors. A recent report by CBI Economics said Wales's net zero economy generates £3.1 billion in Gross Value Added (GVA) and says "the Welsh net zero economy is particularly strong".

Restore Nature to Build a Safer, Healthier Future

Restoring nature improves health, builds our resilience to climate impacts, and supports community wellbeing.

- Reduce sewage spills – in Caerfyrddin there are 155 storm overflows, which spilled 10,845 times totalling 96,016 hours in 2024. Less than half (44%) of rivers in Wales are in good ecological condition.

Deliver Vital Funding to Communities Hit Hardest by Climate Change

To tackle the climate crisis fairly and effectively, the UK must provide finance to those on the frontlines — in our communities and around the world.

In Caerfyrddin, 7,935 people are currently at risk from flooding from rivers and seas and 10,843 people at risk of flash flooding from overwhelmed drainage systems during periods of intense rainfall. Many of these households will need financial support to make their homes resilient to flooding. This will require a larger block grant to Wales from the UK government.

50% of the UK public support climate aid for poorer nations while only 34% oppose this. Climate finance needs to be increased, particularly through making the biggest polluters pay given many have made vast profits over recent years. More than 3 billion people globally are highly vulnerable to climate change, and more extreme weather could push up to 132 million more people into extreme poverty by 2030. Addressing unsustainable debt that is holding back countries already hit hardest by climate breakdown is also essential.

Join us in standing up for real solutions that work for people and planet.

Let's Act Now and Change Forever.

This briefing was prepared by Friends of the Earth / MySociety on behalf of The Climate Coalition and Climate Cymru. For detailed data sources or further inquiries, contact data@foe.co.uk.

Friends of the Earth