

# Interlink

Your local county voluntary council

## 2. Running your organisation

### 2.13.1 Where to go for help on action on climate change

Cefnogi gweithredu gwirfoddol  
yn Rhondda Cynon Taf



Supporting voluntary action  
in Rhondda Cynon Taff

## Introduction

This information sheet is aimed at organisations and groups working in Wales who want to take a first step towards sustainable working practices and who want to find out more about climate change and how they can make a positive contribution towards tackling it.

This information sheet aims to summarise organisations and agencies that have help, advice, information and in some cases funding available to third sector organisations to help tackle climate change – this guidance is by no means exhaustive and there will be many more organisations who are making a positive contribution to climate change through their work.

This information sheet will be updated regularly – please let us know if you are aware of any other relevant information that could be added to this guidance by emailing: [policy@wcva.org.uk](mailto:policy@wcva.org.uk)

## Sources of help (listed alphabetically)

### Ageuk

Age Concern's mission is to promote the well-being of all older people and to help make later life a fulfilling and enjoyable experience.

Tel: Advice Line 0800 169 65 65

## Big Green Switch

This website aims to be an easy guide to greening up your lifestyle by making small, simple, everyday changes. It has a huge amount of information and includes green tips and tools in the areas of greener travel, green workplaces and waste reduction.

## Communities First

Community Action Eco-Guidance Pack Pilot for Merthyr Tydfil

This pilot pack was developed for the county of Merthyr Tydfil, but some information will be useful for other areas. Depending upon the take up and feedback from the pilot pack there are plans to role this product out across Wales. The pack provides advice on practical projects your community can benefit from. It includes information on organisations who might be able to help you with a whole range of environmental issues. For example, how you can improve your local park, get involved in community gardens and much more.

National enquiry line: 0845 1306 229  
[enquiries@ccw.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ccw.gov.uk)

## Countryside Council for Wales

The Countryside Council for Wales is the Government's statutory advisor on sustaining natural beauty, wildlife and

the opportunity for outdoor enjoyment in Wales and its inshore waters.

CCW champions the environment and landscapes of Wales and its coastal waters as sources of natural and cultural riches, as a foundation for economic and social activity, and as a place for leisure and learning opportunities. We aim to make the environment a valued part of everyone's life in Wales.

Tel: 0845 1306229  
[enquiries@ccw.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ccw.gov.uk)

## **Cylch – Wales Community Recycling Network**

A membership network that aims to promote sustainable waste management in Wales through education and practical action. It offers advice on best practice, funding and networking opportunities.

Tel: 029 2064 9750  
[mail@cylch.org.uk](mailto:mail@cylch.org.uk)

## **Cynnal Cymru/ Sustain Wales**

Cynnal Cymru-Sustain Wales is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that promotes sustainable development and provides practical information to help people live sustainably. Cynnal Cymru plays a key role in communicating and promoting sustainable development across Wales. Operating at the boundary between government, business, and civil society, Cynnal Cymru is uniquely positioned to assimilate the views of each group and generate communication between them that will result in positive action for sustainable development.

Check out the Sustainable Living Guide and sign up the E-Newsletter - GloballySusDCymru to find out top tips for communities.

Tel: 02920 19 20 21  
[enquiries@sustainwales.com](mailto:enquiries@sustainwales.com)

## **DIRECTGOV**

The official UK government website for citizens. Easy access to the public services you use and the information you need, delivered by the UK government. Find quick and easy ways to save money, calculate your carbon footprint and simple tips for greener living.

## **Energy Saving Trust**

The Energy Saving Trust is an independent not for profit UK-based organisation focused on promoting action that leads to the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions. Funded by the UK government, devolved governments and the private sector we are the source of free advice and information for people across the UK looking to save energy, conserve water and reduce waste.

Help & advice line: 0800 512 012  
General enquiries: 020 7222 0101

## **Community Action for Energy (CAfE)**

Advice, training, technical support and information to help and support for community groups from making community buildings more energy efficient and bringing renewable energy to a community, to helping local people save money on their fuel bills.  
[www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/cafe](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/cafe)

Energy Saving Trust advice centres – Our advice centres provides impartial advice on saving energy in the home and can advise on locally available grants towards installing measures, call 0800 512 012 to speak to an advisor. Completing a home energy check from the Energy Saving Trust advice centre or at [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/) will provide you with a personalised report of how to save energy.

Housing Programme – Support and an extensive library of technical guidance for house builders and designers as well as briefing notes and case studies on sustainable energy and transport.

## **Just Act**

JustAct is a website that supports community & third sector organisations to help each other create, implement and review their action plan on climate change

Tel: 0207 833 1772  
[info@environment-wales.org](mailto:info@environment-wales.org)

## **Environment Agency Wales**

Environment Agency Wales is an Assembly Government Sponsored Body (AGSB), while also being part of the corporate Environment Agency for England and Wales.

The Environment Agency is currently developing environmental guidance for Community First partnerships across Wales, to find out more please contact the Policy Officer dealing with Communities First work.

Tel: 08708 506 506  
[enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk)

## **Environment Wales**

Environment Wales supports voluntary action that contributes to sustainable development by protecting and improving the Welsh environment. It is a partnership of organisations in the voluntary sector, funded by the Welsh Assembly Government. Since 1992 it has supported over 700 projects across Wales to provide cleaner, healthier and more diverse environments.

The Development Officer Team work to provide community and voluntary groups with advice and support. Each project supported by Environment Wales is allocated a dedicated Development Officer who remains a constant point of contact.

Environment Wales also operates five grant streams to support voluntary organisations and community groups undertaking practical projects that promote one or more of the following objectives:

- to achieve sustainable improvements to the Welsh environment through practical projects;
- to increase understanding of sustainable development and the environment through information, education and advisory services;
- to help create new environmental initiatives which also allow communities and voluntary organisations to contribute to their social and economic needs;
- to support and train staff and volunteers engaged in these activities.

Tel:029 2043 1727  
[info@environment-wales.org](mailto:info@environment-wales.org)

## Envirowise

Envirowise is a Government-funded programme dedicated to putting the sustainable use of resources at the heart of UK business practice. It offers Welsh businesses and public sector organisations a wide range of free, independent and practical advice designed to genuinely improve their processes, profitability and competitiveness.

General Enquiries: 01295 819 900  
Advice Line: 0800 585794

## European Commission Climate Action

This website provides information about how to get involved in lessening Europe's collective impact on the environment, including sections on 'What's happening near you', and 'What's already been tried and tested'.

It also has information about what the EU can offer in terms of different kinds of funding for environmental and energy related projects - mainly through "calls for proposals" and public tenders for small businesses, NGOs and research.

Information is also available on EU's energy and climate change policy, including ambitious new targets for 2020

## Wales Africa Community Links

Climate Change is not a 'single country issue' – it needs global effort to reduce emissions. The third sector in Wales already has unique experience of helping countries in other parts of the

world tackle environmental problems through its work.

The Wales Africa Links project develops excellence in community linking between Wales and Africa to build peace, prosperity and understanding, through mutual development. Gold Star can provide advice and support on how to set up a community link between Wales and Africa, including a grants scheme to support groups to do so.

Telephone: 0800 2888329

[goldstar@wcva.org.uk](mailto:goldstar@wcva.org.uk)

## Green Dragon/ Y Ddraig Werdd

All organisations now need to take care of the environment through the actions of their business and many are now required to prove their environmental credentials.

Green Dragon is an Environmental Management System and official accreditation of the system which helps organisations to achieve this.

Other benefits include:

- financial savings
- compliance with legislation
- increased competitiveness
- improved environmental performance

Green Dragon is run by [Groundwork Wales](#), a charity which helps people and organisations make changes in order to create better neighbourhoods, to build skills and job prospects, and to live and work in a greener way.

## Greenpeace (UK website)

Greenpeace is an independent global campaigning organisation that acts to change attitudes and behaviour, to protect and conserve the environment and to promote peace. The website includes a downloadable booklet – [How to save the Climate](#) – packed with tips.

Tel: 020 7865 8100  
[info@uk.greenpeace.org](mailto:info@uk.greenpeace.org)

## Home Heat Helpline

The Little Book of Energy has been launched to provide people – particularly those most at risk of fuel poverty - with practical tips and advice that can help them cut their energy bills.

The Little Book of Energy is intended to make people more energy efficient around the home so that they use less and save more. And this can be achieved through simple steps such as making sure radiators are not blocked by furniture or covered by curtains and only boiling as much water as you need.

The book also highlights the range of support services available from the Home Heat Helpline which include:

- Advice on social tariffs – typically a 20 per cent saving
- The Priority Service Register which provides extra services for people who are elderly or disabled including bills in large text or Braille, security passwords and an annual gas safety check
- Grants for free home insulation
- Flexible payment options for customers in fuel debt
- Benefits entitlement checks

The Little Book can be obtained by calling the Home Heat Helpline on 0800 33 66 99.

## NEA Cymru

NEA Cymru is the Welsh arm of NEA (National Energy Action); the UK's leading fuel poverty charity. In Wales, as in the rest of the UK, it campaigns for an end to fuel poverty through affordable warmth for all. The website includes information on available funding, guidance on making energy efficiency improvements to community buildings and a host of practical tips focused on energy efficiency.

Tel: 07971 005578

## Sustainable Wales

Sustainable Wales is an independent charity passionate about encouraging sustainable lifestyles at a community level, achievable by thinking globally while acting locally. It seeks to foster behavioural change, offering practical solutions and guidance that are replicable, to support that change. Sustainable Wales can offer the following services:

- A consultancy and training service on sustainable development issues
- A number of publications on a wide range of topics related to Sustainable Development
- Events management of community based sustainability events
- Practical advice and solutions to how you can be more sustainable everyday, including [top tips](#) in the areas of waste, transport, water, food, energy and purchasing

- Sustainable Wales has also set up a 'community businesses' called SUSSED which is a retail company focused on 'fair trade, eco-friendly and Welsh products.

Tel: 01656 783405

[info@sustainablewales.org.uk](mailto:info@sustainablewales.org.uk)

## The Carbon Trust

The Carbon Trust is part of the UK's Climate Change programme. It encourages and promotes the development of low carbon technologies. It offers support for UK businesses and the public sector through funding, supporting technological innovation and by encouraging efficient working practices. Although aimed at the private and public sectors, third sector organisations can also make use of the many tools, services and initiatives offered by the Carbon Trust (please check with them directly if you are unsure).

Useful sections of the website include:

Information on [climate change](#)

[Carbon saving advice for your organisation](#)

[Employee awareness posters and stickers](#)

[Loans for energy saving equipment](#)

[Enhanced Capital Allowances](#): tax relief when investing in energy-saving equipment

[Carbon Footprinting](#) - getting the measure of your organisation's emissions

[customercentre@carbontrust.co.uk](mailto:customercentre@carbontrust.co.uk)

Telephone: 0800 085 2005

## The Centre for Alternative Technology

The Centre for Alternative Technology is an environmental charity aiming to 'inspire, inform and enable' people to live more sustainably. CAT offers mail order publications, consultancy and residential courses.

CAT's [free information service](#) offers advice and information on all aspects of sustainable living which can help you choose what measures are the most useful for you to take to reduce your environmental impact and lower your carbon footprint (and save money too!) There are also a range of information sheets to download on topics such as Energy Efficiency, Renewable energy and Transport and Travel.

Tel: 01654 705950

## The Energy Advice Line

This website provides a free and impartial energy advice service as well as top tips to save energy. Switching business electricity or business gas supplier is an easy way to reduce your overheads and save money. With the Energy Advice Line you can view and evaluate prices from leading business gas and business electricity suppliers simply and quickly. It also star rates all of the suppliers terms and conditions against a defined criteria so that you compare the contract "small print" in an easy to understand bite sized format. This way you will gain a good understanding of what the business electricity or business gas supplier is offering and make a well informed decision.

Tel: 0800 915 1800

## The West Wales Eco Centre

The ECO Centre is a registered charity and non-profit business based in Newport, Pembrokeshire working to promote the issues surrounding energy use and its impact on sustainability and the environment. This includes projects that focus on fuel poverty, renewable energy and environmental education. It can provide [free and impartial advice](#) on a range of energy related issues.

Tel: 01239 820235

## Welsh Assembly Government: Help Wales Reduce its Carbon Footprint

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges facing the world today and the Welsh Assembly Government is determined to play its part in tackling it. This dedicated website is divided into sections aimed at the individual, young people, communities and businesses. Particularly useful resources include:

- [Community action pack](#); a huge amount of information broken down into bit sized thematic chunks on what you can do, successful projects and where you can get help with your community project.

- [Calculate my footprint](#); Use the carbon calculator to work out your individual footprint. You'll also get your own action plan with advice about how you can help tackle climate change and you'll save money on your bills too.

If you are thinking of improving your home then the Welsh Assembly Government has drawn up a guide. This [Climate Change Guide](#) suggests projects and 20 measures that you can do to make these improvements help tackle climate change - from converting your loft to changing the lights. Whatever your DIY skills, budget or project, this Guide tells you what will make the biggest impact on cutting carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), cutting your bills, and improving the comfort and safety of your home.

### Disclaimer

The information provided in this sheet is intended for guidance only. It is not a substitute for professional advice and we cannot accept any responsibility for loss occasioned as a result of any person acting or refraining from acting on it.

### For further information contact

#### Interlink

6 Melin Corrwg, Cardiff Road, Upper Boat, Pontypridd, Rhondda Cynon Taff, CF37 5BE  
Registered Charity 1069044

Tel: 01443 846200

info@interlinkrct.org.uk

Fax: 01443 486107

www.interlinkrct.org.uk

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Tel: 0800 2888 329

www.wcva.org.uk