

Session 6 summary:

Staying on track:
accountability and reaching
net zero targets

Net Zero Leader presenter: Wales

Watch the session here ([in English](#)) and here ([en Español](#)).

Net Zero Futures.



Key takeaways

Wales' carbon budget

- In 2016 Wales set an 80% reduction target by 2050, with interim targets every decade and carbon budgets every 5 years. **This helps break down long-term climate neutrality goals to be digestible and implementable.**
 - Setting 5-year carbon budgets provides **flexibility to adjust policies to reflect the latest science**. Wales is now aiming for net zero by 2050.
 - If the budget has not been met, **a plan of action for how to make up for the shortfall must be given within 3 months.**
- Every year **emissions data from the Welsh GHG inventory is broken down by sector** to understand whether policy actions are effective.
- Monitoring (using legislative requirements) and annual reporting are key in tracking progress. To provide a holistic view, the Welsh government employs a **3-tier system, tracking:**
 - 1) *GHG emissions*: real emissions data
 - 2) *Activities*: assessing whether emissions-reducing activities are effective
 - 3) *Specific policies*: assessing whether emission-reducing policies are being implemented as intended



Q&A with Wales

1) What are the benefits of having a carbon budget?

Having a carbon budget helps us keep focus on our long-term target through regular monitoring and reporting. Setting carbon budgets 5 years in advance means that evidence must be updated regularly to assess where we currently are and where we have come from, taking the latest science into account along the way. It also helps link to government – one of the first tasks when a new government comes to power is to present a plan of action to reach our climate targets. The carbon budget helps with this.

2) How is the emissions data collected and updated? Is it done in-house by government staff or is this outsourced?

Our GHG inventory is held by the UK government and is fed into by the four countries that make up the Union. Wales' Tier 2 and Tier 3 information is gathered in-house, and we assess proxy indicators and relevant data across each emissions sector every year. Our evidence team is made up of 3 people but we link with people and resources across government departments. This ensures that the same dataset is used across sectors and with external stakeholders. For more information on Wales' emission data, please [click here](#).

3) How did you develop your Tier 3 policy-specific indicators and do they evolve over time?

Our indicators are reviewed regularly to ensure that policies remain relevant and fit for purpose. Most policies from the first plan were transferred to the second ([Net Zero Wales Carbon Budget 2](#)), but some changed. For example, previously indicators were very qualitative, so now we're trying to make them more specific to make monitoring easier.



Key takeaways

Under2 Pathways Framework

- The three final steps of the [Pathways Framework](#) focus on **implementation of a selected pathway to guide actions and monitor progress towards a specific target.**
- The three steps include:
 - 1) *Designing a monitoring framework:* existing reporting systems can be used as a basis for monitoring, but they **must be robust.**
 - 2) *Designing an implementation plan:* must include **financing mechanisms and institutional arrangements to carry out implementation.**
 - 3) *Reviewing and updating:* **pathways should be updated at least every 5 years**, in line with the Paris agreement stock take, especially as new data and information is made available.
- Developing a pathway fulfills the ‘plan, proceed, and publish’ criteria for joining the UN Race to Zero campaign. For more information on how to join, please [click here](#).
- Together with our partners at [Climate TRACE](#), Climate Group is launching a pilot project using satellite imagery to track emissions data. For more information, please contact Valeria Correa at vcorrea@theclimategroup.org.





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“ Wales is proud of its commitment to tackling the climate emergency and has placed a net zero target in law to be met no later than 2050. Only by working with others can we build a stronger, greener and fairer future.

Julie James MS,
Minister for Climate Change, Welsh Government



Scottish Government
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