

Community Lives Consortium

Addressing the Climate Emergency



February 2025

Introduction

The Consortium is committed to doing everything it can to address the Climate Crisis.

We will be proud to play our part to follow Welsh Government's intention of ensuring that [social care in Wales is net Zero by 2030](#)

We also applaud the Welsh Government's commitment to explore how Wales can be supported to [speed up its transition to net zero from 2050 to 2035](#).

This will not be easy, but it is necessary to protect the essential support that we provide for the people we serve, but also the quality of our lives as citizens of Wales over the course of the coming century.

The impact of the Climate Crisis on the people we support

The people we support will be especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change over the coming years especially from flooding, water shortages, heatwaves, changes to air quality, disruption of food systems and changing patterns of infection and disease.

We are very proud that we were able to protect the people we support through COVID effectively, however it showed that these people were most vulnerable from the effects of COVID on the people they rely on such as their staff.

Ensuring that the lives of their staff remained stable was critical to the security of tenant's lives. This will only become much more critical as the effects of the climate emergency intensify with all the issues that will come with it.

Thus protecting the people we support will require us doing everything we can to ensure that the staff that we employ and the communities in which we all live are resilient and well organised to both decarbonise and manage the challenges that will come from the climate change that will only intensify over the coming years.

This cannot be something that we do alone, this can only happen if we work together with authorities, organisations and groups in the communities where we support people.

Our 3 priorities

1. Decarbonise



The Consortium appears to produce about 65 tonnes of carbon per year. These concern only the emissions from things the organisation provides, or pays for, thus this does not include the carbon from the tenants' lives, homes and vehicles, or mileage that staff incur that we do not pay mileage for.

60% of our emissions come from the fuel that we use in the vehicles provided for our respite and day services and the mileage that we pay to staff and managers.

This is where we will start, thus over the next year we are:

- Work with the staff who receive mileage payment to look at how we can support and encourage them to travel differently or use less carbon intensive forms of transport.
 - We are currently organising training closer to people live and work
 - Finding ways to encourage people to using public transport and bicycles where possible.
 - Looking at supplying shared small EV vehicles in our sessional services.
 - Looking at our essential car users and seeing if we can support them to move to leased or second-hand EV vehicles.
- Look at reorganising the transport in our respite and day care services, we may need to look at a range of options including electric vehicles, or people using their own vehicles.
 - We are currently working with the commissioners to review the funding for this fleet and then are exploring how we can move this to electric vehicles charges by solar panels on the day service site.

However, we will also look at our office building and consider whether it meets our needs and helps us to be as sustainable as possible. We are looking at alternative ways to provide us the offices and training spaces that we need while helping community resilience and reducing our climate impact.

2. Engage with people across the organisation to work together

- We will create simple ways that we can effect change at a personal, community and organisational level. We are currently promoting [Take the Jump](#) as a framework for shared action involving tenants' relatives and staff. Take the Jump is organised around 6 change agendas. Individuals and groups across the organisation are being encouraged to engage with these agendas. The organisation's decarbonisation work is starting to be presented and organised through these themes.



We don't want us to be the only people promoting this, but will work to get other groups and organisations working on this, this will include people like Local Area Coordinators.

We have signed the [Swansea Bay Healthy Travel Charter](#) this will help us change so that we encourage and support sustainable transport options for the organisation and the people who rely on it. We will be sending out a Travel Survey shortly so that we can understand how we can help staff and tenants to travel more sustainably.

3. Community Climate Adaptation

We have a contractual responsibility to have response plans for any issues that can impact on our ability to meet people's needs. These can include; floods, power loss, or periods of extreme heat. The climate crisis increases the scale of these challenges. Whereas in the past we could have managed flooding to a single home, the flooding of an area containing multiple tenant's homes would be beyond us, also we need to consider that if disruption stops staff getting to work, the consequences of this will be multiplied.

We think an effective response will mean networks of authorities, community groups and organisations with shared plans to prepare and respond together. We will need to support citizens to develop their skills and become more resilient, potentially growing more of their food, and getting better at sharing, repairing, reusing their resources, as well as responding together in a crisis.

We have discussed this with our commissioners and they agree that organisations like ours can play a vital role in supporting and enabling this community climate adaptation and this will form an important part of the Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies the Council has a responsibility to develop.

This is where we will start, over the next year we will work with the Swansea Environment Centre to establish a community of practice for local support organisations and community groups to develop the tools and resources to support these Community Adaptation plans. These can then be used as part of the wider Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies being developed around us.