

**Welsh Liberal
Democrats**



**Democratiaid
Rhyddfrydol Cymru**

MOTION AGREED AT AUTUMN CONFERENCE 2018

A Forward-looking Environmental Policy for Wales

Conference notes:

- A. The 2016 Welsh Liberal Democrat Policy Paper Towards a Greener Tomorrow.
- B. The obligations set out in Wales' landmark Future Generations Act to improve the environmental wellbeing of future generations.
- C. The importance of the UK's membership of the EU in protecting Wales' natural environment and the profound environmental implications of Brexit.
- D. The need to include in Wales' environmental policies provision for Brexit, in view of the high risk that it will take place.
- E. President Trump's decision in 2017 to withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement.
- F. The crucial role played by farmers as custodians of the natural environment.
- G. That air pollution is estimated to contribute to 2,000 early or premature deaths a year, around 6% of annual deaths in Wales.
- H. That 3 areas in Wales reported unsafe levels of air pollution in 2018, identified by the World Health Organisation as a risk to public health.
- I. The UK Government's regrettable decision to reject the Swansea Tidal Lagoon.
- J. The damage done by plastic to biodiversity and the scale of plastic waste on beaches and in oceans.
- K. That Wales has the highest rate of recycling in the UK and 2nd highest in the world.

Conference reaffirms the Welsh Liberal Democrats commitment to:

- i. Fulfilling Wales' legal and moral obligations to substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions to fight climate change.
- ii. Internationalism and the need for Wales to contribute to the UK's participation in global frameworks to tackle climate change, protect the natural environment and maintain biodiversity.
- iii. Preserving Wales' outstanding natural environments for future generations
- iv. Promoting renewable energy generation, including wind, solar and tidal power and both large-scale and community energy projects.
- v. The growing circular economy and its potential to reduce waste if utilised effectively.

Conference calls on Welsh Government to:

1. Maintain environmental protections returning from the EU.
2. Support a UK-wide Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) and establish a Wales-wide DRS if a UK-wide scheme is not feasible.
3. Support a UK- wide single-use plastics tax and where possible, use the proceeds to fund recycling services and promote the creation of recyclable alternatives.
4. Set targets for large public organisations to reduce their use of plastic and find alternatives.
5. Ban non-recyclable single-use plastics with affordable alternatives; with a target for their complete elimination within a 3-year period.

Conference also calls on Welsh Government and Local Authorities to:

- I. Substantially increase their investment in active travel with an eventual target of £10 per person per year cycling investment.
- II. Ensure future transport investment and transport schemes support integrated travel that facilitates increased cycling and use of public transport.
- III. Increase investment in electric car charging points to promote the increased uptake of electric vehicles.
- IV. Increase their own purchase and usage of electric vehicles;
- V. Work with Public Health Wales and Health boards to make improving air quality a public health priority and ensure appropriate resources are available to support this priority.

Conference calls on the Welsh Liberal Democrats to bring forward, in 2019, a policy on tackling air pollution in Wales, including measures to improve public transport, active travel, placemaking and planning, infrastructure, and Clean Air Zones.