

## Report of Head of Decarbonisation

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**Subject: Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Carbon baseline and Partnership work report**

### **Purpose of Report**

To provide members with a review of the work Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority has undertaken in relation to a Carbon Baseline report for the National Park and work with partnerships both locally and nationally to achieve net zero.

### **Introduction/Background**

As Members will be aware, the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority has a target of being carbon neutral as an Authority by 2030 and to achieve carbon neutrality for the National Park as a whole as near as possible by 2048. These are built into the National Park's well-being objectives. These targets are in accordance with Welsh Government strategic aims for Wales.

In July 2022, the Auditor General for Wales published the Public Sector Readiness for Net Zero Carbon by 2030. The report sets out five calls for action for organisations to tackle the common barriers to decarbonisation in the public sector. These barriers included improving data quality and monitoring.

In 2022, Small World Consulting (SMC) were commissioned to provide a carbon baseline report for Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. This document was funded by WG Sustainable Landscapes, Sustainable Places.

The report contains a consumption-based assessment of the greenhouse gas emissions attributable to residents and visitors, including travel to and from the landscape and a set of Paris Aligned target recommendations for transitioning to a low-carbon economy.

The same consultant SMC also completed similar baseline reports for all the other UK National Parks and some AONBs.

A synthesis report for Welsh National Parks has also been produced. This information is considered to provide a helpful data set to assist in monitoring progress to carbon net zero status for the wider National Park. The Authority itself is already making good progress towards achieving carbon net zero as evidenced by most recent Welsh Government returns, largely due to the significant carbon sequestration involved within its own land holdings. Achieving net zero for the wider National Park, is however a significantly greater challenge.

## Activity Undertaken

A workshop with National Park Members ran in March 2023, where the report was presented and discussions and key issues drawn out.

The study provides some recommended pathways for the National Park as a territory to get to Net Zero – looking at transport, agriculture and food, industry etc. We are working closely with other Designated Landscapes in Wales and the 15 UK National Parks who have also received a similar report at how we can influence, support and lead on this target of creating Net Zero Designated Landscapes.

The UK National Parks Climate Change & Energy Group meetings are attended monthly and in May this year, all UK National Parks were accepted as members of [Race to Zero](#) - the first National Parks in the world to join.

Race to Zero is a UN-backed global campaign, rallying non-state actors – including companies, cities, regions, financial, educational, and healthcare institutions – to take rigorous and immediate action to halve global emissions by 2030 and deliver a healthier, fairer, net zero world.

The Expert Peer Review Group (EPRG) of the UN Climate Champions who assessed the application were impressed with the rigour of our carbon footprint analysis, and they see UK National Parks as *genuine climate leaders in our strategic approach* and that *designated landscapes could become exemplars in dealing with climate change and biodiversity loss, inspiring other landscapes in Wales, across the UK and around the world to do the same.*

The National Park as part of the UK NPs Climate and Energy Working Group will now focus on work with the 5 Ps (Pledge, Plan, Proceed, Publish, Persuade) framework:

- Plan: Within 12 months of joining Race to Zero (May 2024), we will develop a climate action plan aligned to the pledge.
- Proceed: We will share best practice and look for opportunities to work together to fundraise or to create economies of scale across the National Park family.
- Publish: We will work together and with CDP and Small World Consulting to make reporting as efficient as possible and for the process to support learning.
- Persuade: We can also support each other in how best to engage local stakeholders.

The next phase is to raise awareness of the commitment we have made, working with existing partnerships i.e. Nature Decarbonisation and Climate Adaptation PSB Sub-Group and identify new ones.

On 27 July, a UK wide media launch was actioned to publicise our approved application to Race to Zero and pledged commitment.

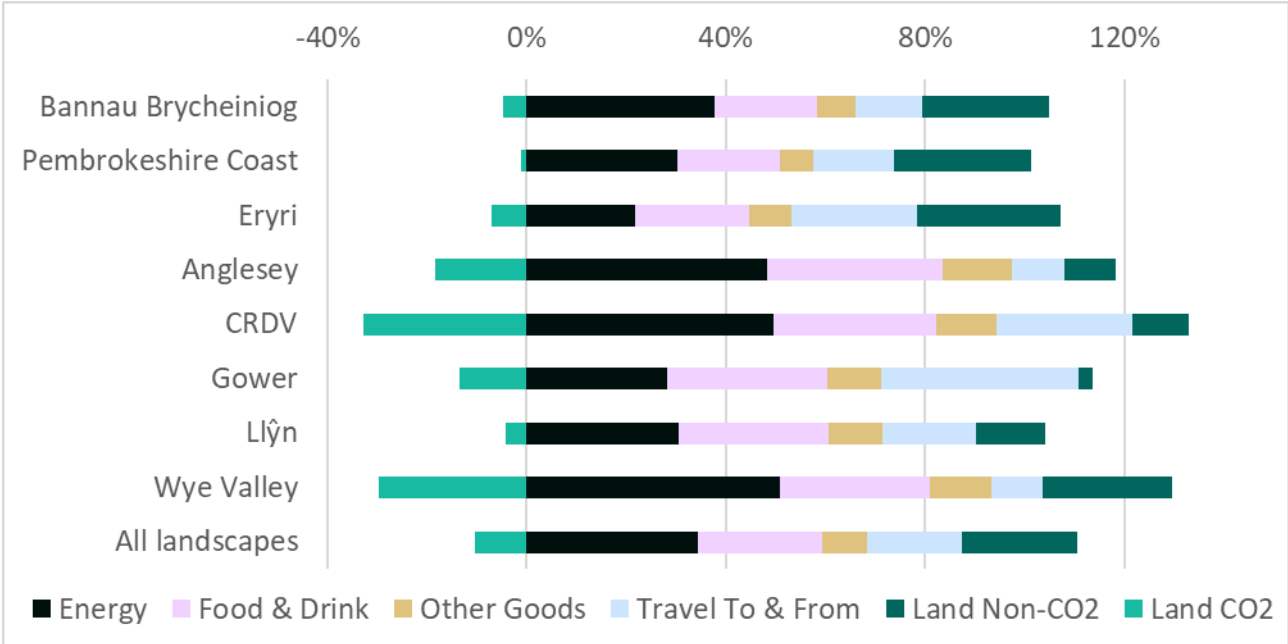
This is a significant milestone in the successful programme of coordinated work across our Parks. It shows what we can do when we work together committed to a common goal and share our expertise and insights as a community of practice.

A tracker tool has been developed with Small World Consultants which will provide each National Park annual progress updates with our budgets and hopefully enable efficient reporting.

We will continue to work with partners to support community decarbonisation through the Sustainable Development Fund and greening agriculture pilot, as well as working closely with colleagues both internally and externally to support low carbon choices in transport, buildings, regenerative tourism and other assets.

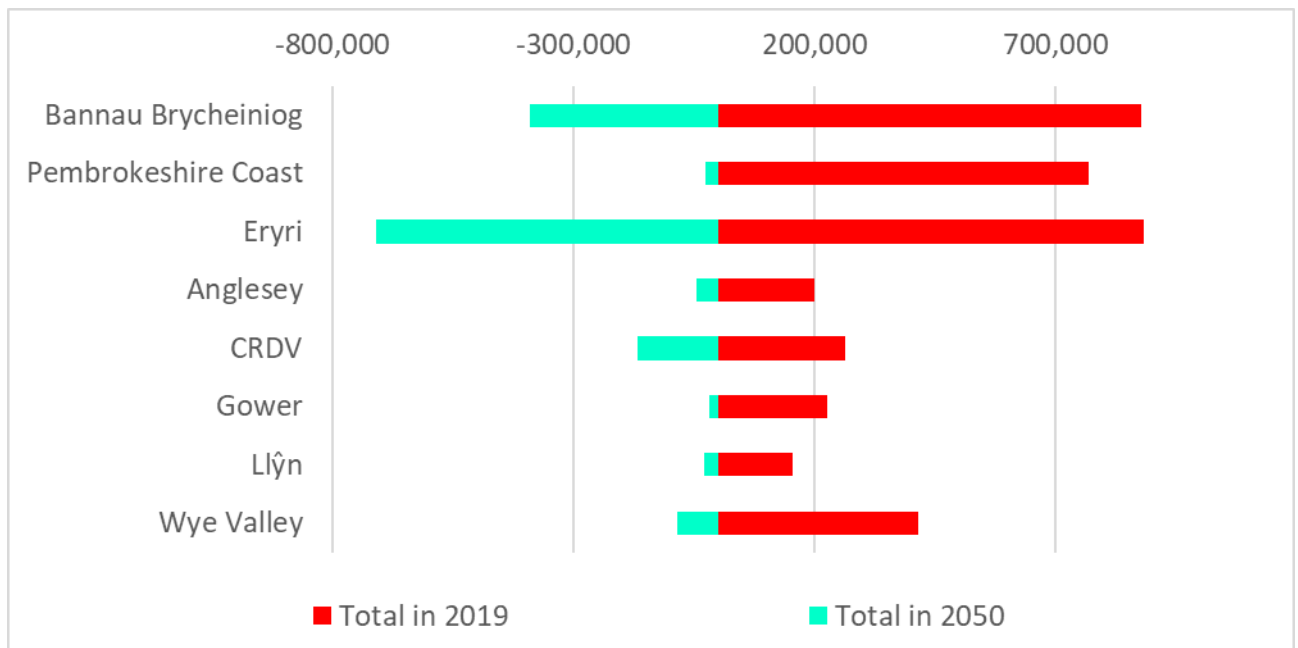
**Comparisons**

Breakdown of the estimated total (net) emissions for the Welsh designated landscapes in 2019 across the six priority areas, expressed as % of the 2019 total for each landscape.



NOTE: Negative values imply that land-based carbon sequestration outweighs land-based CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Estimated net GHG emissions in 2019 (baseline year) and projected net GHG emissions in 2050 for the Welsh designated landscapes. Units: tCO<sub>2</sub>e per year.



### **Financial considerations**

Staff commitment and work in partnership as well as an annual reporting mechanism. Potentially a nominal fee for Small World consultant to update annual data for tracking base line reporting (quote of £500 pa).

Partnership work; staff resource.

SDF is only funded until March 2025 with SLSP funding, likewise Greening Agriculture.

Further studies to identify opportunities to build on sustainable transport projects currently do not have funding streams identified.

### **Risk considerations**

The SWC report provided a focus and some recommendations on the steps needed to get to net zero as a National Park. It's important to remember that many sources of emissions in our landscapes will be outside of our control, including emissions from businesses, visitor travel, agriculture, and individual choices.

We have committed to working towards our net zero goal but are relying on partnership and behaviour change to make this happen. This makes it even more important for us to work collaboratively on a local level and as a landscape family to look at ways to work with all our communities on this, those who live and work in and travel to our National Park.

### **Compliance**

Respond to the climate and ecological emergencies

Contribute to meeting Wales and UK's 2050 Net Zero target

Prosperity for All – A low carbon Wales (2019)

The Future of Land Management Wales (2017)

6<sup>th</sup> carbon budget (2020)

The Welsh Government has set out emissions reductions targets in The Environment (Wales) 2016 Act and updated this in 2021 to include a legal commitment to reaching net zero territorial emissions by 2050.

## **Human Rights/Equality issues**

We will take account of the Welsh specific policy context when developing our climate action plan in support of the pledge, ensuring we align with the Welsh Government's Just Transition Framework as it is developed, and the Just Transition approach set out in Net Zero Wales Carbon Budget 2 (2021-25). This will involve taking account of the following:

“Achieving a just transition requires us to approach decarbonisation as a means to deliver our commitment to social and economic justice, consistent with our commitment to fair work and Social Partnership. It recognises the technological, social, and economic challenges of decarbonisation, and works to identify ways in which we can redress existing inequalities across communities and the Welsh workforce and prevent new ones from forming. It adopts the spirit of the Paris Agreement and the Silesia Declaration, with regards to collectively finding a way to fairly transition to a greener future.”<sup>1</sup>

Interventions such as SDF fund have shown how decarbonisation projects can benefit wider community projects, helping mitigate energy costs through supporting organisations with renewable energy provision.

It is important for us to consider what impact proposed interventions will have on people across protected groups and those facing socio-economic disadvantage. The action plan will be subject to an integrated assessment.

## **Biodiversity implications/Sustainability appraisal**

The activity will have a positive impact on Nature Recovery. Land use removals and emissions will be monitored via Net Zero reporting – this will influence wider Nature Recovery Delivery Plan actions.

## **Welsh Language**

Promotion and engagement activities around Race to Net Zero will comply with the Welsh Language Standards.

The action plan will be subject to an integrated assessment.

## **Recommendation**

Receive the report and note for future consideration.

## **Background Documents**

YouTube video, Decarbonising the National Parks by Small World Consulting, organised by Designated Landscapes <https://youtu.be/hE2ZWGKlw8s>  
[Land Use Emissions Baselines and Targets for UK National Parks Report](#)

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-10/net-zero-wales-carbon-budget-2-2021-25.pdf>