



Helpu Cymru i leihau
ei Hôl Troed Carbon
Help Wales reduce
its Carbon Footprint



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

One Wales: One Planet

The Sustainable Development Scheme
of the Welsh Assembly Government

May 2009





The paper is Revive Pure Silk 100 % recycled and the inks use bases are formulated from sustainable raw materials.

ISBN 978 0 7504 5169 7
© Crown Copyright May 2009
CMK-22-01-163
D6840809

Contents

Ministerial Foreword	4
1. Introduction	7
2. Our Vision of a Sustainable Wales	16
3. Sustainable Development - the central organising principle	24
4. Sustainable Resource Use	31
5. Sustaining the Environment	43
6. A Sustainable Economy	51
7. A Sustainable Society	58
8. The Wellbeing of Wales	66
Annex A: Key supporting documents	73

This is the Welsh Assembly Government's Sustainable Development Scheme, made under section 79 of the Government of Wales Act 2006. It sets out how the Welsh Assembly Government intends to promote sustainable development in the exercise of the Welsh Ministers' functions.

Ministerial Foreword



I am delighted to present the Welsh Assembly Government's Sustainable Development Scheme, One Wales; One Planet. I am proud that the Government of Wales Act 2006 places the promotion of sustainable development at the heart of the Welsh Assembly Government's work. We remain one of the few administrations in the world to have such a statutory duty, and it gives us an opportunity to develop Wales, as a small, smart nation, in ways which contribute sustainably to people's economic, social and environmental wellbeing.

We received over 90 responses to our consultation on the draft Scheme for Sustainable Development. In addition, people also provided detailed comments at the consultation events we held, in Swansea, Llandudno and Aberystwyth. I would like to thank everyone who responded. Your comments have strongly influenced the final Scheme. In particular, there was very strong support for:

- Our new vision of a sustainable Wales, based on using only our fair share of the earth's resources, and becoming a fairer and more just nation;
- Sustainable development as the overarching strategic aim of all our policies and programmes, across all Ministerial portfolios;
- Sustainable development as the central organising principle of the Welsh Assembly Government and of the public sector in Wales.

This Scheme, therefore, provides an opportunity for us to confirm that these three elements are central to our approach to sustainable development. Embedding sustainable development into everything that we do, through making sustainable development our central organising principle, is the only way in which we can develop Wales as a sustainable nation.

This Scheme is for the Welsh Assembly Government. It sets out 18 Actions, across Ministerial Portfolios, to confirm our intent. The Actions are not separate to the strategic approach that this Scheme describes, nor are they the only actions we are taking in support of sustainable development - they represent a limited number of high level actions that exemplify our commitment to sustainable development.

We know that we are very far from living sustainably. Our Ecological Footprint, which is one of our headline indicators of sustainable development, shows us that, if everyone on the earth lived as we do, we would use 2.7 planets worth of resources. Unchecked, this could increase to 3.3 planets worth by 2020. Climate change is the clearest example that our current lifestyles are unsustainable, but wherever we look - the amount of waste we generate, the amount we travel - we know that we are living beyond the environment's means to sustain us.

There is a clear parallel with the difficult economic circumstances that we face: that of living beyond the economy's means to sustain us. Sustainable development provides us with the route to developing a sustainable and strong economy that operates within environmental and financial limits, which meets the needs of all our citizens now and in the future, and is resilient to future change.

Continued unsustainable development, globally and locally, will have a profoundly negative impact on our economic, social and environmental wellbeing. Those who are the least well able to cope are likely to be hit the hardest. Sustainable development, as the process by which we must become a sustainable nation, is therefore as much about social justice as it is about securing economic resilience and living within environmental limits.

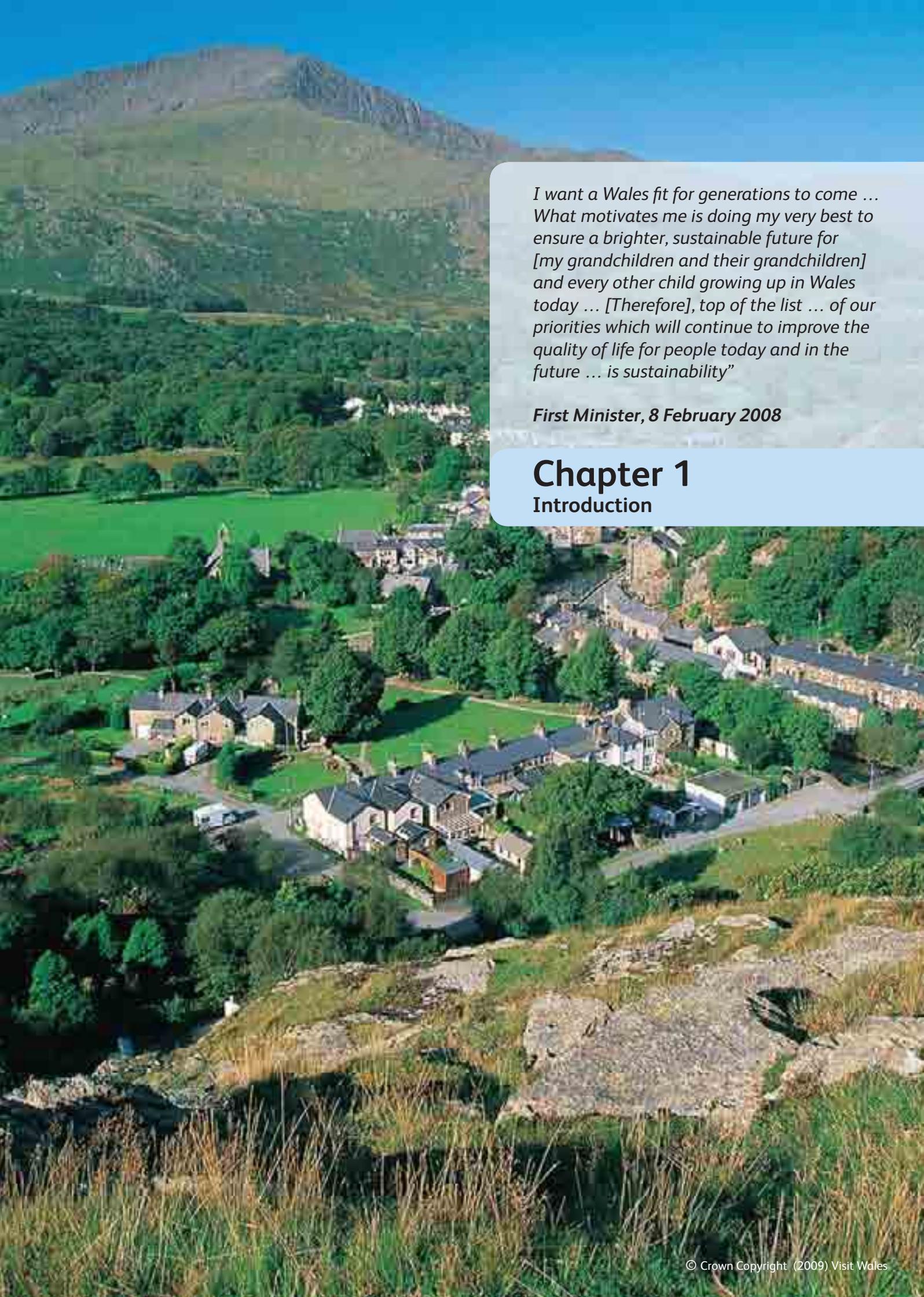
Our Scheme for Sustainable Development gives Wales an opportunity to show leadership and ambition, and to learn from the past. It gives us the opportunity to show how we are playing our full role as a global citizen, within the context set by the UN Millennium Development Goals.

The goal of sustainability requires everyone to play a part, and we shall be setting out, in two supporting documents, guidance and advice on the role that others can play in this.

This Scheme for Sustainable Development sets out what we will be doing on the first stage on the journey to sustainability. I hope that you will be able to support and join us in this endeavour, so that together we can transform Wales into a sustainable nation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rhodri Morgan AM". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan AM
First Minister for Wales

An aerial photograph of a Welsh village, likely Brecon, showing traditional stone buildings with slate roofs, a central green space, and a large mountain in the background under a clear blue sky.

I want a Wales fit for generations to come ... What motivates me is doing my very best to ensure a brighter, sustainable future for [my grandchildren and their grandchildren] and every other child growing up in Wales today ... [Therefore], top of the list ... of our priorities which will continue to improve the quality of life for people today and in the future ... is sustainability”

First Minister, 8 February 2008

Chapter 1

Introduction

What is sustainable development?

The goal of sustainable development is to “enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations”.¹

Sustainable Development in Wales

In Wales, sustainable development means enhancing the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of people and communities, achieving a better quality of life for our own and future generations:

- In ways which promote social justice and equality of opportunity; and
- In ways which enhance the natural and cultural environment and respect its limits - using only our fair share of the earth’s resources and sustaining our cultural legacy.

Sustainable development is the process by which we reach the goal of sustainability.

Our Duty

In Wales, the Welsh Assembly Government is proud that sustainable development is a core principle within its founding statute. We were, and indeed remain, one of the few administrations in the world to have a distinctive statutory duty in relation to sustainable development. This duty, under the Government of Wales Act 2006 (Section 79), requires Welsh Ministers to make a scheme setting out how they propose, in the exercise of their functions, to promote sustainable development.

The purpose of the Scheme for Sustainable Development

This Scheme for Sustainable Development has the following purposes:

- It sets out the Assembly Government’s vision of a sustainable Wales. The vision of a sustainable Wales, and the supporting definition of sustainable development (the process of development to achieve the vision), will be the overarching strategic aim of all our policies and programmes, across all Ministerial portfolios.
- It confirms that sustainable development will be the central organising principle of the Welsh Assembly Government, and the steps we will take to embed this approach. Sustainable development should be a real organising principle, relevant to all sectors of society. It demands joined-up government with a focus on the long-term and serving

¹ UK’s shared framework for sustainable development

the citizen, directly supporting the aims we have already set in the Wales Spatial Plan and for Local Service Boards across Wales.

- It confirms the 2 core principles and 6 supporting principles of sustainable development that we will use to inform all our policy and programme development and delivery.
- It sets out an indicative route map of the journey we will need to take to use only our fair share of the earth's resources.
- It sets out our strategic approach to delivering sustainable development across the Welsh Assembly Government, through setting out how our policies and commitments will move closer to delivering sustainable development over this Assembly term.

The commitments in this Scheme for Sustainable Development apply to the Welsh Assembly Government, and the actions within it are for us.

This Scheme is not separate from our *One Wales* agenda. It provides a unifying vision and set of operational principles that will thread through, support and drive all our policies and programmes in a joined up way to deliver sustainable development. We recognise there will be more to do, and that the required momentum of change must be faster. Whilst the vision, the definition of sustainable development, and the underpinning principles of sustainable development will remain constant, there will be a need to update this Scheme in the future, to reflect new policies required to take us further down the road to achieve the Vision.

Achieving the vision of a sustainable Wales will require radical change in all sectors of society. We recognise that the timescale for this transformation will be the lifetime of a generation, and that it will require understanding, support and action from all organisations, communities and individuals in Wales. We are, therefore, publishing our Scheme for Sustainable Development together with two linked documents, as shown in the box.

The Scheme for Sustainable Development and its two supporting documents

This Scheme for Sustainable Development confirms:

- our vision of a sustainable Wales (chapter 2), and the way in which we will ensure that sustainable development is the central organising principle of WAG (chapter 3); and

- the strategy for delivering sustainable development, which comprises:
 - the actions we will take within this administration (chapters 4-8).
 - the role we encourage other organisations to play, and how we will use sustainable development as our central organising principle to support them in this. This is set out in two supporting documents (which do not form part of the Scheme): firstly,
 - a document for the wider public sector in Wales; and secondly,
 - a document for businesses, the third sector, the voluntary sector, communities, individuals and other organisations in Wales.

We hope that the overarching context provided by the Scheme, together with its two supporting documents, will allow organisations in Wales to align their activities to the vision of a sustainable Wales, and be clear about their role in its achievement. We want the two supporting documents to be used actively by all organisations in Wales to help them plan and deliver their work and activities.

International context

The Welsh Assembly Government has a role to play at an international level, both learning from others and in sharing our best practice. As a member of the network of regional governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD) we can learn much from other regional governments facing identical or similar challenges. The work of nrg4SD presents an opportunity for regional governments to make a positive contribution, at events associated with the United Nations (UN) Framework Convention on Climate Change and the UN Commission on Sustainable Development.

European Union context

At the European Union (EU) level, the renewal of the EU Sustainable Development strategy² in 2006 confirmed the long standing commitment to sustainable development, and the support and promotion of actions to enable the EU to achieve continuous improvement of quality of life for both current and future generations. While environmental protection remains at the heart of the strategy, other guiding principles include social equity and cohesion, economic prosperity, and ensuring policies are coherent with international responsibilities. The EU Sustainable Development Strategy priorities are reflected in our Sustainable Development Scheme. These linkages will ensure there is coherence between EU policies and coherence between regional, national and global actions, in order to enhance their contribution to sustainable development.

² EU Sustainable Development Strategy, available at <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eussd/>

UK context

The UK's shared framework, One Future - different paths states that the goal for sustainable development will be: *"pursued in an integrated way through a sustainable, innovative and productive economy that delivers high levels of employment, and a just society that promotes social inclusion, sustainable communities and personal well-being. This will be done in ways that protect and enhance the physical and natural environment, and use resources and energy as efficiently as possible"*³.

Our Scheme for Sustainable Development is consistent with the overarching principles of the UK shared framework:

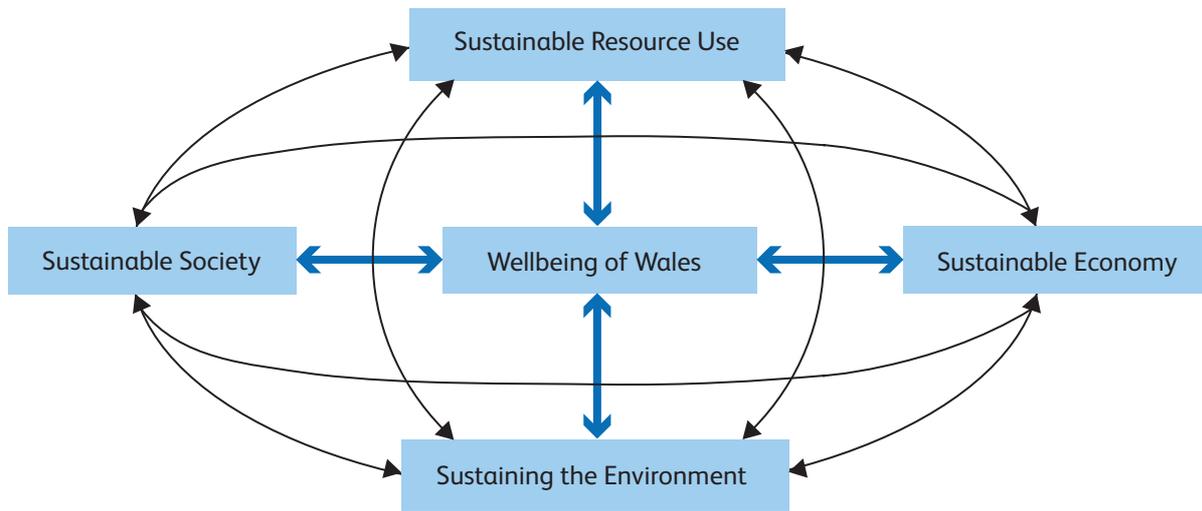
- **living within environmental limits:** by setting out a pathway to using only our fair share of the earth's resources, and becoming a One Planet nation within the lifetime of a generation;
- **ensuring a strong, healthy and just society:** our focus on how a sustainable approach will improve the quality of life and wellbeing of the people of Wales, and especially those in our less well off communities;
- **achieve a sustainable economy:** by setting out how we want to transform our economy so that it is low carbon, low waste;
- **promoting good governance:** through confirming sustainable development as the central organising principle of the Welsh Assembly Government, and through encouraging and enabling others to embrace sustainable development as the central organising principle;
- **using sound science responsibly:** through the use of our SD principles, as part of our evidenced-based approach to policy making.

Our strategy for delivering sustainable development

Our strategy for delivering sustainable development is organised according to our 5 headline indicators of sustainable development. This means that our strategy is fully aligned with our reporting of progress. However, it means that actions appear compartmentalised within particular chapters. The joined-up nature in which we will deliver our strategy, and the way in which actions contribute to economic, social and environment outcomes, cannot always be shown: for example, the importance of a sustainably managed natural environment to our health and wellbeing, and in underpinning our economy. The interrelationships between the chapters can be shown in Figure 1:

³ UK's shared framework for sustainable development.

Figure 1: Relationship between the chapters in the Sustainable Development Scheme



The Table opposite explains this structure showing that part of the vision of a sustainable Wales is relevant to each chapter, the main associated outcomes, and the headline and relevant supporting indicators of SD.

Chapter	Vision	Main Outcomes	SD Indicators (summary)
Sustainable	Sustainable development will be the central organising principle of the Welsh Assembly Government	<p>The Welsh Assembly Government as an exemplar organisation demonstrates leadership on sustainable development, and encourages and enables others to embrace sustainable development as the central organising principle.</p> <p>Sustainable development considerations are at the core of the evaluation and development of our policies and our new and existing investment proposals.</p> <p>There are effective and participative systems of governance in all levels of society.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable development is mainstreamed • A leader within the Sustainable Development Commission's Sustainable Development in Government assessment • Stabilise the public sector's ecological footprint by 2020, then reduce
Sustainable resource use	Within the lifetime of a generation we want to see Wales using only its fair share of the earth's resources	<p>We use less energy and are more energy efficient. More of our energy is produced at a community level close to where it is used and we are self-sustaining in renewable energy.</p> <p>Every community enjoys better local environments which contribute to health and wellbeing, and local people are involved to promote low carbon, low waste living as part of a One Planet nation.</p> <p>We have a low carbon transport network which promotes access rather than mobility, so that we can enjoy facilities with much less need for single occupancy car travel.</p> <p>An NHS that leads on low carbon and sustainable development best practice and health services that focus on successful outcomes.</p>	<p>Headline indicator of sustainable development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wales' Ecological Footprint <p>Supporting indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Resource Use • Greenhouse gas emissions • Waste arisings • Household waste recycled or composted • Mobility

Chapter	Vision	Main Outcomes	SD Indicators (summary)
Sustaining the Environment	Wales has healthy, functioning ecosystems that are biologically diverse and productive and managed sustainably	Our land, freshwater and marine environment is best managed to provide the services of food, wood, water, soil, habitats and recreation.	<p>Headline indicator of sustainable development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and species recorded as stable or increasing <p>Supporting indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends in bird populations • Ecological impacts of air pollution • Air quality • River quality • Soil quality • Sustainable water resource management
A Sustainable economy	A resilient and sustainable economy for Wales that is able to develop whilst stabilising, then reducing, its use of natural resources and reducing its contribution to climate change	<p>A sustainable economy for Wales that is resilient to changes in the global economy.</p> <p>Our long term economic future secured by achieving the transition to a low carbon, low waste economy.</p> <p>Wales is the best place for business to locate, start up, grow and prosper.</p> <p>Regeneration involves and engages with local communities and is firmly based on sustainability principles, creating an infrastructure for the future that favours sustainable ways of living and working.</p>	<p>Headline indicator of sustainable development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gross Value Added (GVA) and GVA per head <p>Supporting indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment • Resource efficiency • Electricity from renewable resources

Chapter	Vision	Main Outcomes	SD Indicators (summary)
A Sustainable Society	Safe, sustainable, attractive communities in which people live and work, have access to services, and enjoy good health and can play their full roles as citizens	<p>A nation that values and promotes healthy living and improves the quality of life for all.</p> <p>All have access to better homes so that we reduce greenhouse gas emissions and tackle fuel poverty, and new homes and community facilities are sited in sustainable locations, free from the risk of flooding.</p> <p>Improved global impact by ensuring that Wales is an international exemplar of sustainable development, leading the world in promoting Fair Trade, and delivering strong community partnerships with sub-Saharan Africa.</p>	<p>Headline indicator of sustainable development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of the population in low-income households <p>Supporting indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health inequality • Benefit dependency • Housing • Accessibility • Crime
The Wellbeing of Wales	A fair, just and bilingual Wales, in which citizens of all ages and backgrounds are empowered to determine their own lives, shape their communities and achieve their full potential	<p>Equality for all is a core value to all our work, and the six equality themes of age, gender, race, disability, sexual orientation and religion are actively promoted.</p> <p>Every educational institution is embedding sustainable development and global citizenship within its education programmes and way of working; and this in practice is underpinning all our work including Human Rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.</p> <p>Active citizenship is encouraged, with everyone meeting their personal and community responsibilities, both as a national and global citizen.</p> <p>Child poverty is eradicated and, more broadly, a real translation of wealth and power in our poorest communities has been achieved.</p> <p>Wales' rich culture, values and traditions are celebrated, particularly through encouraging diversity, distinctiveness and promoting the Welsh language; regeneration informed by heritage, fostering local character, a sense of place and a potent heritage and cultural tourism offer.</p>	<p>Headline indicator of sustainable development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellbeing in Wales <p>Supporting indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Childhood poverty • Pensioner poverty • Workless households • Active community participation • Welsh language