

**Subject** Fwd: Natural Resources Bulletin - Issue 5 - March 2016  
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## March 2016 • Issue 5

# Welsh Government Natural Resources



## FEATURED

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## Wales leads the way in Green Growth

Last week the Welsh Government, in collaboration with The Climate Group, held the International Green Growth

Forum in Cardiff. The Forum brought together state and regional governments and Welsh business leaders to discuss best practice and how they can work together to become more innovative, efficient and sustainable.



Wales has a strengthening global reputation for green growth and both the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport and the Minister for Natural Resources addressed delegates. High profile speakers throughout the day included representatives from the California, Catalonia and Quebec governments as well as representatives from global companies like Philips, BT and Nestle.



Jonathan Taylor, Vice President of the European Investment Bank (pictured) also spoke at the Forum alongside Sir David King, UK Government's Permanent Special Representative for Climate Change. The event follows the first states and regions members' meeting of 2016 which took place at the SWALEC Stadium on 2 March.



**Read on**

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## March highlights

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### Energy Efficiency efforts boosted by Welsh Government

A new Energy Efficiency strategy that will play a major role in driving

economic growth, tackling fuel poverty and improving energy efficiency has been launched by Natural Resources Minister Carl Sargeant. The **new strategy** sets out a clear direction for the next 10 years and outlines how we can support action across all sectors.

**Read more**



The strategy gives equal importance to the multiple benefits of increasing energy efficiency: **job creation, tackling poverty, improving health and wellbeing** and **decreasing carbon emissions**.

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## £1.4m Beaumaris flood defence scheme officially opened

The Minister was in Beaumaris to officially open the £1.4m scheme which reduces the risks from flooding to over 100 residential and 43 commercial properties as well as the town's main road link. £907,000 was provided by the Welsh Government for the scheme, with a further £333,000 provided by the European Regional Development Fund. **Read more**



## Countdown to compulsory dog microchipping

There are just four weeks to go until it will be a legal requirement for dogs in Wales to be microchipped. By 6 April, all dogs over eight weeks old will need to be microchipped, with their owners' details registered on an approved database. **Read more**



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## Flagship reform to planning process underway

New legislation under the Planning (Wales) Act has come into force which will ensure that infrastructure projects which are of most significance to Wales are determined at the national level and are made directly to the Welsh Ministers, rather than the local planning authority. **Read more**



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## Minister pledges Wales' commitment to the Circular Economy

Minister for Natural Resources Carl Sargeant has pledged his commitment to developing a more circular economy in Wales through the Welsh Government's waste strategy. Studies have estimated that the benefits to Wales of achieving a more circular economy have identified potential economic savings of over £2 billion each year and job creation of up to 30,000. **Read more**



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## Woodlands for Wales Action Plan

The Woodlands for Wales Action Plan was recently published by the Welsh Government to support the social, environmental & economic benefits that trees can provide. This Action Plan sets out the action and activities that are planned to make progress

towards achieving the vision and outcomes of the 50-year Woodlands for Wales Strategy. [Read more](#)



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## Nature Recovery Plan

The Welsh Government's newly published Nature Recovery Plan sets out how Wales will deliver the commitments of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the EU Biodiversity Strategy to halt the decline in our biodiversity by 2020 and then reverse that decline. [Read more](#)

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## £419,953 allocated for local community projects

Natural Resources Minister Carl Sargeant has announced £419,953 capital funding for six local projects across Wales as part of the Aggregate Levy Fund. [Read more](#)

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## Environment Bill awaiting Royal Assent

Following the Bill's successful passage through the Assembly it is expected to receive Royal Assent by the end of March. In preparation for this we're now updating our communication materials, including factsheets and an animation which are on our [website](#). We're aiming to make these available following Royal Assent.



In the meantime if you have any queries about the Environment Bill or have any suggestions for what information you would like to see covered in our communication materials or our future updates please email:

**[NaturalResourceManagement@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:NaturalResourceManagement@wales.gsi.gov.uk)**

You can follow the progress of the Bill to see what has happened so far, through the **National Assembly for Wales**. To find out more about Natural Resource Management, please follow the **link** to access our animation.

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## **Welsh Government Rural Communities - Rural Development Programme**

### **Sustainable Management Scheme (SMS)**

The Sustainable Management Scheme will provide financial support for a range of activities that will improve the management of our natural resources and in doing so contribute to the well-being of our rural communities.

The scheme offers grants to collaborative groups and can range from a minimum of £10,000 to a maximum of £5,000,000 to help start up and facilitate new collaborations through to landscape-scale ambition co-ordinating actions. **Read more for more information about the scheme and the specific awareness session.**

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## Consultations

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### New consultations

#### **Building Regulations Sustainability Review**

We want your views on incorporating aspects of the previous Sustainable Buildings National Planning Policy into the Building Regulations in Wales. The Building Regulations control certain types of building work and ensure that buildings meet certain standards of health, safety, welfare, convenience and sustainability. We want to improve the aspects of sustainability of buildings in Wales through the Building Regulations. We will be working with Constructing Excellence to host consultation events throughout Wales. The events will take place in mid April, for more information please visit their website [www.cewales.org.uk](http://www.cewales.org.uk).

**Have your say by 24 May 2016.**

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### Ongoing Consultations

**Proposed changes to Technical Advice Note 20: Planning and the Welsh Language - Have your say by 30 March 2016.**

**Code of practice for species control provisions in Wales - Have your say by 5 April 2016.**

**Changes to water abstraction licensing exemptions in England and Wales (New Authorisations) - Have your say by 8 April 2016.**

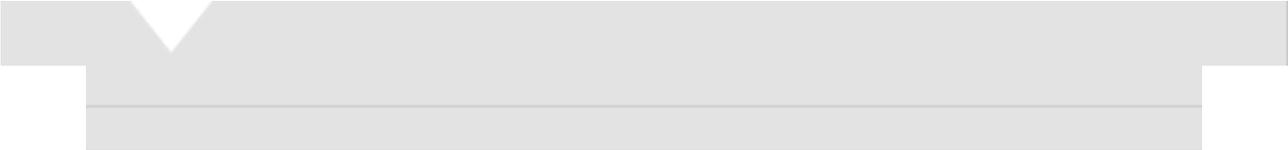
**Proposals relating to the Statement of Public Participation  
for the National Development Framework - **Have your say by  
25 April 2016.****

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**Our priorities: Doing things the right way for Wales**

We're planning for a better Wales by doing things the right way for future generations. We want to make sure the money we have as a Government is spent in a way that really makes a difference and gets the most benefit for Wales, now and in the future. **Our priorities booklet** sets out how we will be doing this.

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For any queries relating to the Natural Resources Bulletin please email **[NRBulletin@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:NRBulletin@wales.gsi.gov.uk)**. If you would like to receive this bulletin in Welsh **please click here**.

**NATURAL RESOURCES BULLETIN**

The Natural Resources Bulletin - for the latest legislative and policy updates on the Welsh Government's commitment to our climate, energy, waste and water and land in ways that will protect our natural environment for

future generations.

Find out more on the web:

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