**Leading a move to 100% renewable energy by 2035**

**Project update 2017/2018**

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| Our vision is for Wales to meet 100% of its energy demand from renewables by 2035.  Our Re-energising Wales project is creating a practical renewable energy plan for Wales. We are bringing together leading thinkers from industry, academia, government and local communities to produce an ambitious but achievable plan.  We will call on Welsh Government, Local Authorities and others to adopt our plan and create a world-leading renewable energy programme for Wales. |

The project is divided into seven areas:

**Building a detailed picture of Wales’ energy needs.**

Working with Cardiff University, we are carrying out a study to better understand how, when and where we use our energy in Wales. We need a full understanding of our energy demand to shape our future energy policies and plans.

**Creating a model to make the most of Wales’ renewable energy potential**

Our partnership with Regen is using the Swansea Bay City Region as a case study to show how to make the most of renewable energy potential on a regional scale. The model we develop will be openly available for regions across Wales, the UK and beyond to put in place a similar approach in their area.

**Working out the cost and economic benefits of Wales moving to 100% renewable energy**

In partnership with Cardiff Business School, we are considering what financial investment is needed to achieve a move to 100% renewable energy. Using the Swansea Bay City Region as a case study, we will show the costs and economic benefits of using our renewable energy model.

**Engaging with communities to find what values influence how they use and see energy.**

We’re working with WISERD (Wales Institute of Social & Economic Research, Data & Methods) to look at what drives people to save energy and get involved in community owned renewable energy projects. We want to identify the barriers that are stopping communities from setting up their own projects and work in partnership to overcome them.

**Getting the powers and regulation needed to support growth in renewable energy**

We will review the powers and regulation needed to support growth in renewable energy. We will work with Welsh Government, OFGEM, Local Authorities and others to make sure that they have the right regulatory environment and powers to support large and small scale renewable energy development.

**Finding and filling gaps in policy**

We are writing a series of policy papers to address any gaps in current policy and gain political support for the project and our ambitions. Our first policy paper made recommendations for ‘Funding renewable energy projects in Wales’ and was published in April 2017. Our second policy paper will make recommendations for ‘Decarbonising transport in Wales’.

**Producing a renewable energy plan for Wales**

We will use the results from the different areas of the project to create a detailed, timed and costed action plan ready to be adopted into policy and practice.

**Our impact in 2017/2018**

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| Highlights  ● Welsh Government [renewable energy targets](http://gov.wales/newsroom/environmentandcountryside/2017/170928-lesley-griffiths-high-on-ambition-for-clean-energy/?lang=en) were informed by Re-energising Wales’ findings in September 2017.    ● Sophie Howe, the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, voiced her support for our recommendation to local government pension funds to divest in fossil fuels in March 2018. Since then, Monmouthshire County Council has called on the Greater Gwent (Torfaen) Pension Fund to withdraw an estimated £245m investment from fossil fuels.  ● After calling for Welsh Government to introduce business relief rates for renewable energy projects, in February 2018 they announced targeted support for small hydropower projects and a 100% rates relief for community hydro projects.    ● We called on Natural Resources Wales to show more encouragement for community energy schemes in the tendering and planning process. In August 2017, they awarded a tender to Innogy UK Renewables and Community Energy Wales to jointly develop a large-scale wind project in north Wales. |

* **Wales’ energy demand**

In partnership with Cardiff University, we have produced a [detailed report on the energy demand of buildings in Wales](http://www.iwa.wales/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/FINAL-Half-Hourly-Energy-Demand-Profiles-for-Wales-for-2016.pdf). A [summary is also available](http://www.iwa.wales/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Summary-Energy-Demand-in-Wales.pdf) to read. The findings of the report can be used to develop options for reducing the energy demand and increasing energy efficiency in Wales.

* **Maximising Wales’ renewable energy potential**

We have [developed a model which shows how Swansea Bay City Region can make the most of their renewable energy resources](http://www.iwa.wales/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Regen-SBCR-A-Renewable-Future-FINAL.pdf). We are engaging with key decision makers in the Swansea Bay City Region and Welsh Government and will use our recommendations to inform their renewable energy plans.

* **Supporting community owned renewable energy**

We held a series of events in the Summer of 2017 to inspire and create discussion on the future of community owned renewable energy schemes in Wales. You can listen to [podcasts from the events](http://www.iwa.wales/publications-2/iwa-podcasts/) on our website.

* **Shaping energy policy**

After the launch of our ‘[Funding renewable energy projects in Wales](http://www.iwa.wales/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/IWA_ReEnergisingWales-9.pdf)’ report, Welsh Government made a commitment to consider whether there was a need for greater devolved powers to deliver their renewable energy responsibilities. Key political figures in Wales have shown support for the recommendations of our ‘Funding renewable energy projects in Wales’ policy paper.

## **Next steps for the project**

Our next policy paper will look at the potential to decarbonise transport in Wales.

We are looking at different locations in Wales and considering whether there are opportunities to develop local and community owned renewable energy projects. The report will be available in Autumn 2018.

We will launch our review of the powers and regulation needed to support growth in renewable energy in Autumn 2018.

We will publish the final plan at the beginning of 2019 and work to to secure cross-party support for moving to 100% renewable energy by 2035.

*Re-energising Wales is a three year project, running from April 2016 to April 2019. It is led by the Institute of Welsh Affairs and delivered by a steering group of experts. The project is kindly supported by the Hodge Foundation, the Friends Provident Charitable Foundation and the Polden-Puckham Charitable Foundation.*