



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

# Lessons from Wales in prioritising domestic wood use

# Timber Industrial Strategy



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Welsh Ministers have committed to creating a timber-based industrial strategy that can develop and sustain the high-value production and processing of Welsh wood.

The Timber Industrial Strategy Working Group is supporting Welsh Government in this work. Members include:

- Confor
- Natural Resources Wales
- Woodknowledge Wales
- Officials delivering the Welsh Government's Delivering Net Zero and Innovative Housing projects

# Timber Industrial Strategy



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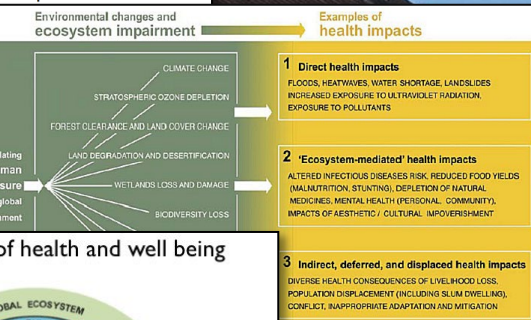
- Climate and nature crisis
- UK - now 3<sup>rd</sup> largest net global importer of timber
- Predicted fourfold increase in demand for timber globally by 2050
- Short-termism, the enemy of forestry
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015)

# What led to the Act

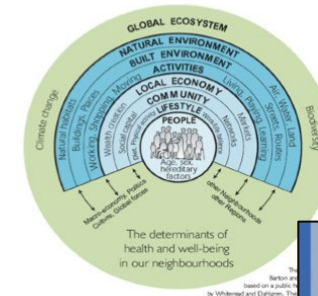
- ❑ Short term thinking, not thinking about the long term.
- ❑ Working in policy and organisation silos.
- ❑ Separate solutions to common problems.
- ❑ Greater awareness of connections between issues (environment, economy, society).
- ❑ Needs of whole populations.
- ❑ Long term trends and challenges.

## Understanding Wales' Future

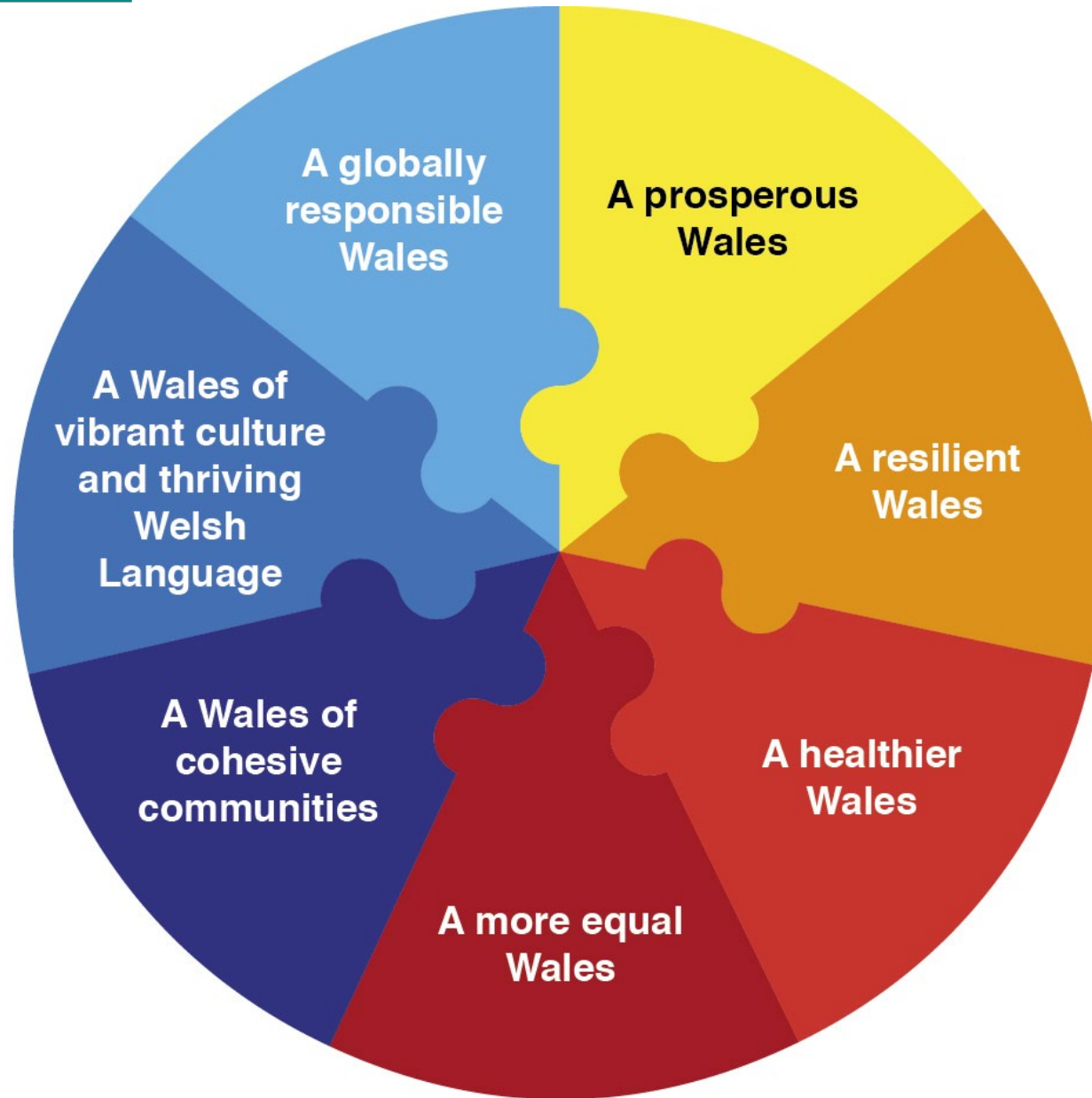
A resource to help us think systematically



## Social determinants of health and well being



# Well-being goals



Economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales

# Timber Industrial Strategy



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## Economic

Work with businesses to boost Welsh timber industry

Encouraging innovation, business creation and development along supply chains

Job opportunities, particularly in rural areas. New, safeguarded and/or higher-paid jobs

Farm businesses – opportunity for diversified income streams

Skills development and retraining opportunities

## Social

Contributing to the construction of new social housing

Tree planting and woodland creation bringing opportunities for leisure and health benefits

Job opportunities boosting mental and physical health and wellbeing

Health benefits of timber buildings

## Environmental

Carbon sequestration – whole Life Cycle approach

Timber is a low carbon, sustainable material

Carbon capture in buildings and other wood products

Encouraging resource efficiency and circular economy approaches

Habitat creation

## Cultural

Job opportunities in rural areas, can help population retention and create opportunities for people to return to rural communities

Increased opportunities to speak Welsh in a work setting



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# A word about Borders...

- Land boundaries
- Political constructs
- Biosecurity – pests and pathogens
- Maximise local supply chains
- Flows to, through and from each side of the border

# Timber Strategy & Sector Skills



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**Tree Nurseries & Planting**



**Woodland Management**



**Harvesting & Transport**



Skills

Skills

Skills

Skills

Skills

Skills

**Millers & Producers**



**Manufacturing and Product Development**



**Markets**





# Net Zero Skills Plan



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## Stronger, Fairer, Greener Wales: Net Zero Skills Action Plan



Sector summary:

### Land use, Land use Change and Forestry (LULUCF)

- › Emissions in this sector relate to forest land, grasslands, crops, settlements and harvesting of wood, and impact of change of land use.

Sector summary:

### Agriculture

- › Agricultural emissions are from enteric fermentation and manure from livestock, fertilisers, fuel for agricultural machinery and soil.
- › Cattle and Sheep farming is the most common type in Wales.

Sector summary:

### Residential Buildings

- › Residential buildings covers the emissions from energy use in home.
- › Construction of buildings to reduce carbon and retrofitting residential properties.

# Home-Grown Homes Project



The Minister for Climate Change committed £1.5m to a multi-annual project running until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. The Project Sponsor is Powys County Council, Woodknowledge Wales is the Delivery Body. HGH2 aims to create a more climate resilient future for Wales by expanding the use of timber in social housing to accelerate decarbonisation of the natural and built environments.

**Phase 1 (2018 - 21):** applied knowledge gained from the delivery of high performance, low carbon, timber social housing to inspire the development of Wales' forest industries and identify policy opportunities.

**Phase 2 (2023 - 25):** supporting implementation of new policies across decarbonisation, social housing, forestry and the circular and foundational economy to drive sector development and inform Wales' first Timber Industrial Strategy.

[Home-Grown Homes Project / Prosiect Cartrefi o Bren Lleol - Woodknowledge Wales](#)

# Home-Grown Homes 2 Project



## Objectives:

- Supporting Local Authorities and housing associations to assess & reduce upfront and embodied carbon in their housing stock, developing tools to measure embodied carbon
- Considering options to pay for Greenhouse Gas Removal from wood in construction.
- Working with sawmills and processing sector to increase the supply of high-quality construction grade timber in Wales.
- Working to develop markets for use of timber-based construction products, such as wood fibre insulation, timber windows.

# Home-Grown Homes 2 Project



- Working in the fields of secondary education, FE, and HE to develop training programmes and syllabuses to enable the development of skills to deliver a Welsh Wood Economy.
- Assessing the future timber supply needed in Wales to de-carbonise the economy and support the forestry sector in woodland creation to meet these needs.
- Supporting Welsh Government in the development of the Timber Industrial Strategy for Wales, providing expertise and guidance where required.
- Providing expertise, supporting Welsh Government, to develop the National Forest to supply high quality construction timber, whilst also providing recreation and health benefits.

# Sustainable Development Principle

