

## How does One Planet Development support the duties of public bodies under new Welsh legislation?



*This note sets out the benefits of One Planet Developments in the Welsh legislative context. It summarises the planning policy and identifies in the goals of the Well-Being Of Future Generations Act and other relevant Welsh legislation the aims of public bodies that may be assisted by supporting One Planet Developments. It presents some conclusions and recommendations.*

### What is One Planet Development?

Through Technical Advice Note 6 and Planning Policy Wales (PPW) the Welsh Government sets out land use planning policies to support sustainable rural communities. Section 4 of TAN 6 defines One Planet Developments as applying Low Impact Development (LID) principles in the Welsh context and being exemplars of sustainable development. Criteria include:

1. An initial ecological footprint of 2.4 global hectares per person or less and clear potential to move towards 1.88 global hectare;
2. Buildings being zero carbon in construction and use;
3. If located in the open countryside over a reasonable length of time (no more than 5 years), to provide for the minimum needs of the inhabitants in terms of income, food, energy and waste assimilation. (No criteria of this nature have yet been determined for urban or peri-urban one planet developments but something comparable is anticipated at a collective community level);
4. Carbon analysis;
5. Biodiversity and landscape assessment;
6. Community impact assessment;
7. Transport assessment and travel plan.

### The Well-Being of Future Generations Act

The Act requires Welsh Ministers to:

- promote sustainable development;
- publish national indicators to measure progress towards the achievement of the well-being goals;
- take account of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- and of the UK's assessment of the risks of the current and predicted impact of climate change;
- and to report on progress every year.

Public Services Boards will translate the Act at a county level. The table overleaf shows how the goals of the Act are satisfied by supporting One Planet Development, and which goals, indicators and SDGs are supported by which aspects of One Planet Developments.

Ecological footprinting is a quantifiable but complex process which the Act has in common with One Planet Development, and the experience of existing OPDs could assist Ministers and PSBs in this work.

### Other legislation

Other policy supported by encouraging One Planet Developments is as follows:

- The Nature Recovery Plan for Wales and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016;
- The Welsh Government's Nature Recovery Plan for Wales (December 2015);
- The Sustainable Management of Natural Resources;
- The Biodiversity and Resilient Ecosystems Duty introduced by the Environment (Wales) Act 2016;
- The National Natural Resources Policy for Wales – and delivery through Area Statements – to contribute to the delivery of the Well-being objectives and Well-being plans;
- The Wales Climate Change Strategy (2010 revised 2014) aspiration to create 50,000 hectares of new woodland up to 2040.

Goal in the WCFG Act	Description of the goal	How One Planet Developments can help	Supported Indicators & SDGs
A prosperous Wales	An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.	One Planet Developments help to create jobs due to the intensive nature of growing, with more jobs provided per hectare, and more productivity, than on a conventional farm. The requirement for land-based activities means that as the number of such developments increases, the more self-sufficient in food and other agro-forestry products Wales will become.	20,21
A resilient Wales	A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).	The requirement for biodiversity and landscape assessments helps to protect and restore habitats. One Planet Developments must use traditional management practices and increase the number of pollinators, natural predators to pests and diseases, and birds; they must form wildlife corridors and conserve and enhance the flora and fauna identified in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan. They should reintroduce lost features such as traditional orchards, woodland, hedgerows, stone walls and wetlands; and create ponds, use traditional woodland and shelterbelts; and enhance carbon storage. They should create new natural habitats through good land use and integration into the built environment, and use water efficiently. Trees are often planted and soil enriched with organic material to reduce run-off and flooding and to increase soil fertility and carbon content. The requirement to be self sufficient in water and sewage treatment reduces nitrate pollution and retains nutrients. The requirement to deal sustainably with waste results in almost zero waste and closed loop resource reuse.	13,15,32,41, 42,43,44 SDG12, SDG15
A healthier Wales	A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.	Working on the land and eating fresh local, organic produce helps promote good health and well-being, not just for the practitioners but those in their community who are customers.	5,29 SDG11
A more equal Wales	A society that enables people to fulfill their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).	Anyone may, in theory, live and work on a One Planet Development. Training courses are being provided to train people in the necessary skills. Models are available which, like Steiner communities, can provide gainful occupation and care for those of limited abilities. So far, One Planet Developments have managed to provide very affordable housing.	SDG11, SDG12
A Wales of cohesive communities	Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.	One Planet Developments are required to integrate with their local community and conduct a community impact assessment. They must record the quantity and value of local food, goods and services sold or exchanged for local consumption and take steps to redress any negative impacts.	26,27
A Wales of vibrant culture & thriving Welsh language	A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.	One Planet Developments are required to survey and curate any known sites of cultural importance within their curtilage and help to strengthen local landscapes. Buildings should blend in visually and respect local architecture. Current projects include several Welsh-speaking households and almost all the non-speakers are learners, although this is not explicitly required by policy.	40
A globally responsible Wales	A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.	The requirement to reduce one's ecological footprint to 1.88 global hectares per person is in line with a global equitable spread per head of population of the planet's resources. The requirements 1) to reduce the need to travel and encourage low and zero carbon modes of transport, 2) for 100% renewable energy, and 3) for zero carbon buildings, all help to tackle climate change.	12,14,33,41,42,46 SDG7, SDG11, SDG13

**Productivity data from a conversion of a sheep farm into nine 6 acre family-held smallholdings run as OPDs (data made available annually as a condition of planning permission, 2015 figures):**

Value of needs met directly from site: . . . . .	£59,109
Income from land-based produce: . . . . .	£26,873
From educational activities: . . . . .	£21,283
Total from land-based activity: . . . . .	£107,265
Value placed on total household needs: . . . . .	£116,474

- 92% of the 9 families’ household needs were therefore met from the land. Prior to conversion the single farmer’s annual income was £2,500 to £3,500 from raising sheep (not including agri-subsidy).
- This is a phenomenal 30-fold increase in land-based productivity. Productivity will increase as soil fertility increases. No subsidies are given or required for this type of farming.
- There are presently 23 OPDs in Wales with many more in the pipeline. They will provide a wealth of further evidence over the next few years.

**Conclusions**

- There is significant cross-over in comparing the aims of the Well-Being of Future Generations Act with the list of benefits of One Planet Development.
- There are 14 “national indicators” under the WCFG Act whose aims are supported by One Planet Development.
- One Planet Development approaches satisfy several UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- Supporting One Planet Development can help Public Service Boards and Ministers meet these requirements of the WCFG.
- The benefits include: zero carbon buildings, renewable energy, reduced transport impacts, improved biodiversity, building community resilience, improving health, and local food.
- There are advantages in public bodies working with One Planet Developments (OPDs) and their advocates.
- Ecological footprinting is a quantifiable but complex process which the Act has in common with One Planet Development, and the experience of existing OPDs could assist ministers and PSBs in this work.
- The most significant risks for Wales from climate change (as identified in the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 Evidence Report – Summary for Wales) can be addressed with help from encouraging One Planet Development. These are: reducing emissions from ecosystems; restoring degraded ecosystems; delivering resilient trees, crop varieties and species and cropping regimes; reducing pressures on soil; increasing uptake of soil conservation measures and carbon sequestration; and reducing risks from both drought and flooding.
- One Planet Development land management practice focuses on diversity of production, regenerative agriculture and climate adaptation.

**Recommendations**

- One Planet Developments should be supported and encouraged as part of a process to help satisfy the long term aims of the WCFG & Environment Act.
- Training should be offered in One Planet Development skills and techniques. Current training does not make landworkers sufficiently aware of the benefits of such practice.
- More demonstration farms and smallholdings are required, particularly those practising One Planet Development, where such practices can be witnessed.
- The principle of One Planet Development should be extended to urban and peri-urban areas, and pilot projects should be supported on the edge of or even within existing settlements to extend the policy towards mainstream acceptance.
- One Planet Development planning assessments could be progressively applied to all new developments to encourage developers into line with the long term aims of the legislation.
- One Planet Development land management practice could be integrated with the voluntary agri-environment schemes now funded under Pillar II of the CAP and the Glastir Advanced scheme, which trials approaches to incentivise land management interventions that help reduce run-off with the aim of rolling out measures across Wales.
- With the help of One Planet Development, Welsh agriculture could offer more mixed farming, market gardening, woodland and other land-based, value added production and more jobs.
- We call for a government funded review of the transferability of One Planet Living practices.

*More info: [info@oneplanetcouncil.org.uk](mailto:info@oneplanetcouncil.org.uk) • [www.oneplanetcouncil.org.uk](http://www.oneplanetcouncil.org.uk)*