Cyswllt Amgylchedd Cymru | Wales Environment Link

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Woodland creation in Wales: how to get the right trees in the right places

Why the focus on trees?

Everyone's talking about tree planting! Trees can help tackle the climate crisis by locking up carbon. They can help us create new places for wildlife to live, and they give us amazing places to enjoy a peaceful walk or cycle, or just to relax. Trees in towns and cities can clean and cool our air as well as making our neighbourhoods nicer to live in.

Many people are starting to recognise that we need a significant increase in tree cover for all of these reasons – **but how can we make sure that this is done in the right way?**

Policy context

Since 2009, the Welsh Government has set itself a goal of significantly increasing woodland cover in Wales. This is important to the Welsh Government's plan to **reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Wales by 80% from 1990 levels by 2050**, in accordance with the Paris Climate Agreement. The Welsh Government, along with the other governments of the UK, has now declared a climate emergency. They've also accepted the updated advice from the **UK Committee on Climate Change (UK CCC) that a new target is needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 95% by 2050, compared with 1990 levels**.

As part of achieving this target, (along with other habitats options) Wales needs to apply the recommendation from the **UK CCC that Wales' forest cover is increased by 6%.** This implies **increasing forest cover in Wales from just under 15% at present to about 21% by 2050, an increase of about 125,000 ha (approximately 4166 ha per year).** The current rate of new woodland creation is far lower than this.

The Welsh Government also needs to succeed in meeting Wales' biodiversity commitments, including the Well-being of Future Generations Act goals and Environment (Wales) Act 2016 duties. **WEL believes the primary goal for woodland creation policy is to deliver resilient, sustainably managed woodland ecosystems that underpin Wales' achievement of climate change and biodiversity targets**. Our members support the principles of the Charter for Trees, Woods and People (which includes the principle of "the right tree in the right place"). Woodland creation should be delivered through creating new native woodland and promoting sustainably managed and biodiverse commercial forestry, which is managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme standard.

A fully referenced and more detailed version of WEL's woodland creation position statement is available at **www.waleslink.org/publications/position-statements**

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Balancing biodiversity and landscape impacts of increasing tree cover

It is critically important to recognise that simply planting more trees does not automatically guarantee positive outcomes for biodiversity or carbon. For example, if the location for tree planting is currently of high nature conservation value, or is suitable for restoration, such as peatland, wetland habitat or wildflower meadow, planting can result in poor outcomes. Poor design can also result in negative outcomes for landscape quality, access and recreation.

Requirements for Woodland Creation

WEL calls for the Welsh Government's updated Action Plan for woodland creation to adopt the following targets and approach to woodland creation.

Targets

There are two main policy drivers for woodland creation targets:

1. Greenhouse gas emission mitigation targets driven by the Paris Agreement and Wales' recent commitment to reduce **greenhouse gas emissions by 95% by 2050**.
2. The need to create new habitat with the aim of increasing biodiversity and improving ecosystem resilience.

The Welsh Government should set an over-arching target of more than **140,000 ha new native woodland by 2050,** which would require woodland creation of approximately 5000 ha/yr. This would be necessary for greenhouse gas emission reduction and a fair contribution toward the UK tree planting target. We would see this being delivered as an appropriate mix of native and commercial woodland, agro-forestry, hedge planting and urban tree planting. Much of this could also be delivered using natural regeneration rather than planting, and be achievable without resulting in the degradation of other important wildlife habitats.

WEL's recommendations for increasing woodland and tree cover in Wales

1. A new National Forest for Wales.
2. Woodland creation opportunities to be identified in Area Statements.
3. More woodland advisers within NRW to give on the ground support and guidance in the early stages of woodland creation proposal development.
4. Early engagement with local stakeholders.
5. Invest in tree nursery capacity in Wales and commit to use of UK Sourced and Grown (UKSG) planting stock to minimise the risk of importing tree disease.
6. The new Sustainable Land Management scheme to include whole farm assessments for small scale planting and natural regeneration.
7. Expand trees outside woods, in addition to new woodland creation.
8. Local authorities to develop strategies to include at least 20% urban tree cover and woodland management, ensuring priority is given to native tree species.
9. Any commercial woodland that receives public money, or is in a Welsh Government supply chain, should meet UKWAS standards and deliver a contribution to enhancing biodiversity and resilient ecosystems. Any planting for carbon sequestration should also be registered with the woodland carbon code, which has an independent validation process.
10. Welsh Government should invest in research and monitoring to aid full understanding of the ecological and ecosystem service opportunities and costs of woodland expansion in Wales, and to ensure public benefits are being achieved.

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Creu coedlannau yng Nghymru: sut i sicrhau bod y coed priodol yn y mannau priodol

Pam canolbwyntio ar goed?

Mae pawb yn siarad am blannu coed! Fe all coed helpu i fynd i'r afael â'r argyfwng hinsawdd drwy gloi carbon. Mae'n nhw gallu ein helpu i greu mannau newydd i fywyd gwyllt fyw ynddyn nhw, ac yn sicrhau lleoedd rhyfeddol i fwynhau crwydro neu feicio'n hamddenol, neu i ymlacio. Fe all coed mewn trefi a dinasoedd lanhau ac oeri ein hawyr hefyd yn ogystal â sicrhau bod ein cymdogaethau yn lleoedd mwy dymunol i fyw ynddyn nhw.

Mae llawer o bobl yn dechrau sylweddoli bod angen cynnydd sylweddol arnom o ran gorchudd coed am y rhesymau hyn i gyd – **ond sut allwn ni sicrhau bod hyn yn digwydd mewn dull priodol?**

Cyd-destun polisi

Ers 2009, mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi gosod nod iddi hi ei hun o gynyddu gorchudd coed yn sylweddol yng Nghymru. Mae hyn yn bwysig i gynllun Llywodraeth Cymru i leihau allyriadau o **nwyon tŷ gwydr yng Nghymru o 80% o lefelau 1990 erbyn 2050**, yn unol â Chytundeb Hinsawdd Paris. Bellach mae Llywodraeth Cymru, ynghyd â llywodraethau eraill y DU, wedi datgan argyfwng hinsawdd. Mae'n nhw hefyd wedi derbyn cyngor diweddaraf Pwyllgor y **DU ar Newid Hinsawdd (PNH y DU) bod angen targed newydd i leihau allyriadau o nwyon tŷ gwydr o 95% o leiaf erbyn 2050, o'u cymharu â lefelau 1990.**

Fel rhan o wireddu'r targed hwn (ynghyd ag opsiynau cynefin eraill) mae angen i Gymru weithredu argymhelliad **PNH y DU i gynyddu gorchudd coedwigoedd Cymru o 6%**. Mae hyn yn **awgrymu cynyddu gorchudd coedwigoedd Cymru o ychydig o dan 15% ar hyn o bryd i oddeutu 21% erbyn 2050, cynnydd o oddeutu 125,000 ha (tua 4166 ha y flwyddyn).** Mae'r raddfa bresennol o greu coedlannau newydd lawer is na hyn.

Mae angen i Lywodraeth Cymru hefyd lwyddo i ateb ymrwymiadau bioamrywiaeth Cymru, yn cynnwys amcanion Deddf Lles Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol a dyletswyddau Deddf Amgylchedd (Cymru) 2016. **Mae'r rhwydwaith yn credu mai'r prif nod ar gyfer polisi creu coedlannau yw darparu ecosystemau coedlannau gwydn a reolir yn gynaliadwy sy'n sail ar gyfer sicrhau bod Cymru'n ateb targedau newid hinsawdd a bioamrywiaeth.** Mae ein haelodau'n cefnogi egwyddorion y Siartr dros Goed, Coedlannau a Phobl (sy'n cynnwys yr egwyddor "y goeden briodol yn y man priodol"). Dylid gwireddu creu coedlannau drwy greu coedlannau brodorol newydd a hyrwyddo coedwigaeth masnachol bioamrywiol a reolir yn gynaliadwy, a reolir hyd at safon Cynllun Sicrwydd Coedlannau'r DU.

Mae fersiwn o ddatganiad safle creu coedlannau'r Cyswllt gyda chyfeiriadau llawn a mwy o fanylder ar gael yn **www.waleslink.org/publications/position-statements**

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Sicrhau cydbwysedd rhwng bioamrywiaeth ac effeithiau cynyddu gorchudd coed ar y tirlun

Mae'n hanfodol bwysig cydnabod nad yw plannu coed ar ei ben ei hun yn gwarantu canlyniadau positif dros fioamrywiaeth na charbon yn awtomatig. Er enghraifft, os yw'r lleoliad ar gyfer plannu coed o werth cadwraeth natur uchel ar hyn o bryd, neu'n addas ar gyfer ei adfer, megis mawnogydd, cynefin gwlyptir neu ddôl flodau gwyllt, fe all plannu olygu canlyniadau gwael. Fe all cynllunio gwael hefyd olygu canlyniadau negyddol o ran ansawdd tirlun, mynediad a hamdden.

Gofynion o ran Creu Coedlannau

Mae'r rhwydwaith yn galw ar Gynllun Gweithredu creu coedlannau Llywodraeth Cymru, sydd wedi ei ddiweddaru, i fabwysiadu'r targedau a'r dulliau o weithredu creu coedlannau canlynol.

Targedau

Mae dau brif yrrwr polisi ar gyfer targedau creu coedlannau:

1. Targedau lliniaru allyriadau o nwyon tŷ gwydr a yrrir gan Gytundeb Paris ac ymrwymiad **diweddar Cymru i leihau allyriadau o nwyon tŷ gwydr o 95% erbyn 2050.**
2. Yr angen i greu cynefin newydd gyda'r nod o gynyddu bioamrywiaeth a chynyddu gwytnwch ecosystemau.

Dylai Llywodraeth Cymru osod targed tros-fwaol o fwy na **140,000 ha o goedlannau brodorol newydd erbyn 2050,** a fyddai'n gofyn am greu coedlannau o oddeutu 5000 ha/y flwyddyn. Byddai angen hyn er mwyn lleihau allyriadau o nwyon tŷ gwydr a byddai'n gyfraniad teg tuag at darged plannu coed y DU. Byddem yn gweld hyn yn cael ei wireddu ar ffurf cymysgedd priodol o goedlannau brodorol a masnachol, agro-goedwigaeth, plannu gwrychoedd a phlannu coed trefol. Byddai'n bosib gwireddu llawer o'r uchod hefyd wrth ddefnyddio adferiad naturiol yn hytrach na phlannu, ac yn bosib ei sicrhau heb olygu diraddio cynefinoedd bywyd gwyllt pwysig eraill.

Argymhellion y Rhwydwaith ar gyfer cynyddu coedlannau a gorchudd coed yng Nghymru

1. Coedwig Genedlaethol newydd i Gymru.
2. Cyfleoedd i greu coedlannau i'w hadnabod mewn Datganiadau Ardal.
3. Mwy o gynghorwyr coedlannau o fewn CNC i roi cefnogaeth ar y ddaear ac arweiniad yng nghamau cyntaf cynigion am ddatblygu creu coedlannau.
4. Trafodaethau cynnar gyda rhanddalwyr lleol.
5. Buddsoddi mewn cynhwysedd meithrinfeydd coed yng Nghymru ac ymrwymo i'r defnydd o stoc plannu Ffynhonnell a Thwf y DU (FfTDU) er mwyn lleihau'r risg o fewnforio heintiau coed.
6. Y cynllun Rheolaeth Tir Cynaliadwy newydd i gynnwys asesiadau fferm gyfan ar gyfer plannu ar raddfa fechan ac adferiad naturiol.
7. Ehangu coed oddi allan i goedlannau, yn ogystal â chreu coedlannau newydd.
8. Awdurdodau lleol i ddatblygu strategaethau i gynnwys o leiaf 20% o orchudd coed trefol a rheolaeth coedlannau, gan sicrhau bod blaenoriaeth yn cael ei roi i rywogaethau o goed brodorol.
9. Dylai unrhyw goedlan fasnachol sy'n derbyn arian cyhoeddus, neu sydd o fewn cadwyn gyflenwi Llywodraeth Cymru, ateb safonau UKWAS a darparu cyfraniad tuag at wella bioamrywiaeth ac ecosystemau gwydn. Dylid hefyd gofrestru unrhyw blannu dros atafaelu carbon gyda chod carbon coedlannau, sydd â phroses ddilysu annibynnol.
10. Dylai Llywodraeth Cymru fuddsoddi mewn ymchwil a monitro i gynorthwyo dealltwriaeth lawn o gyfleoedd am wasanaeth ecolegol ac ecosystem a chostau ehangu coedlannau yng Nghymru, ac i sicrhau bod buddion cyhoeddus yn cael eu gwireddu.

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