Dyffryn Ogwen Community Assembly on the climate - Report 2

CREU • CYMUNEDAU • GWYRDD

GWYRDDNI

COMMUNITY • CLIMATE • ACTION

BACKGROUND

GwyrddNi is a community-based, community-led climate action movement that brings people together in five areas of Gwynedd to discuss, share and act locally to tackle climate change.

GwyrddNi is funded by the National Lottery's Climate Action Fund, and is delivered in partnership with five other local, community organisations; Partneriaeth Ogwen in Dyffryn Ogwen, Cyd Ynni in Dyffryn Peris, Siop Griffiths in Dyffryn Nantlle, Cwmni Bro in Bro Ffestiniog, and Ynni Llŷn in Pen Llŷn.

In 2022-2023 we will be hosting Community Assemblies on the Climate in these five areas. The Assemblies will be an opportunity for people to come together to discuss, listen, share, talk, learn and decide together what they – as a community – want to do locally to tackle climate change.

Over the next few months GwyrddNi will be facilitating a Community Assembly in Dyffryn Ogwen. The purpose of the Assembly is to answer the question "How can we in Dyffryn Ogwen respond locally to climate change?"

We will be doing this over 4 sessions.

Session 1 - May 2022:

- Get to know each other
- Understand more about the process
- Learn and share experiences of climate change
- Learn and share experiences of community action

Sessions 2 a 3 - Autumn 2022:

- Learn more about specific subjects
- Begin to think about action ideas
- Hear from local schools

Session 4 - Winter 2023
- Create a community action plan

Then..

- Assembly Members (if they want to), and the wider community to act on the plan with the support of GwyrddNi.

More information about GwyrddNi can be found on our website

DYFFRYN OGWEN SESSION 2

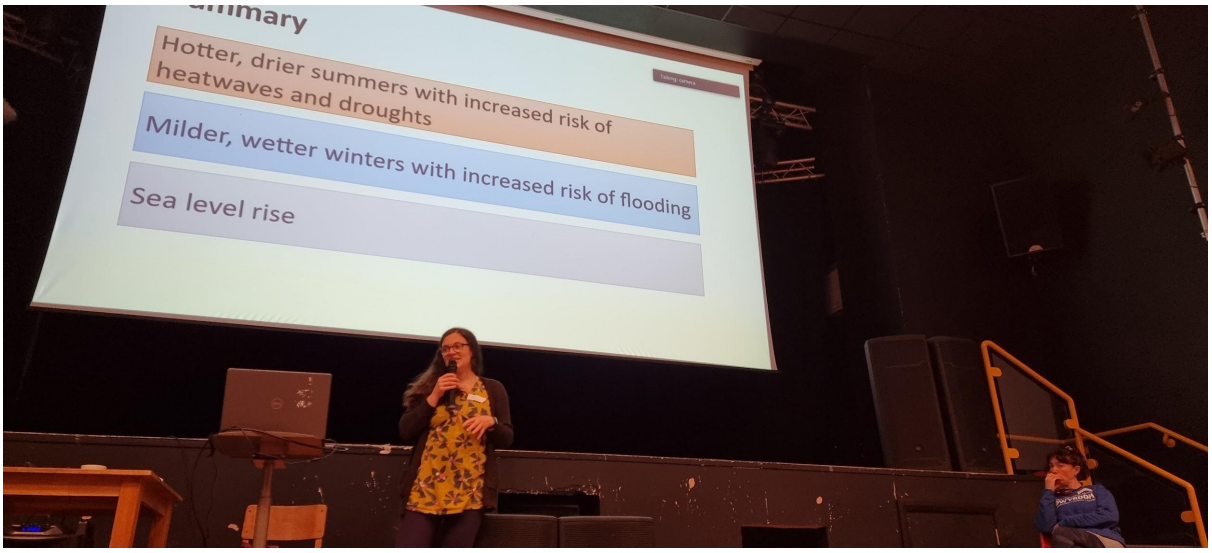
Dyffryn Ogwen's Assembly came together for the second session over two evenings the 12th and 13th of October in Neuadd Ogwen. There was also an option to join in the session over Zoom. Over the two nights 34 members took part in the discussions and 4 sent apologies. Most of the presentation was in Welsh with simultaneous translation available.

There were a number of sessions over the two nights split into these main themes; the local picture, co-imagining the future, inspiration, movement building and steps towards action.



THE LOCAL PICTURE

The purpose of this session was to answer the want from the first meeting to learn more about local data. Two presentations were given, the first by Dr Caroline Coch, an assembly member who has worked in Arctic Science, looking at local effects of climate change and what we will have to adapt to. The second was from Chris Roberts, the GwyrddNi Community Facilitator in Dyffryn Ogwen looking at the data which is out there on the area's carbon emissions. You can view the presentation on GwyrddNi's Youtube Channel.



CO-IMAGINING THE FUTURE

The purpose of this activity was to think about the type of place we would like an ideal Dyffryn Ogwen of the future to be, sometime around 2040, if everything that could be done to tackle and adapt to climate change, had been done. Members were asked to consider this individually before discussing their visions with their group. We then went on to discuss some of these visions as a whole assembly. Here is some of what was discussed.

What kind of place do we want Dyffryn Ogwen to be?

- Jobs that pay well; more than £25,000 a year
- Good network for people to work from home i.e good internet connection
- Money shouldn't drive people's standard of living
- Keeping taxation hyper local to keep money in Dyffryn Ogwen instead of central government
- Local food network where food is grown locally and is easily available to local communities
- Understanding and utilising ecosystem services such as Beavers and Reed beds as flood management
- Community energy storage scheme - if people generate extra energy it is stored in Penrhyn Quarry
- A valley that is wilder with less sheep and more woodland and encourages a diversity of wildlife - benefitting eco tourism
- Harness Prince William's connections to help us to improve infrastructure, flourishing local businesses and enterprise, restaurants - Bethesda and Dyffryn Ogwen is a major cultural destination that is promoted far and wide
- Tourism that supports the local community and there are fewer 2nd homes and Airbnbs
- A community co-working space with an integrated cafe and on-site childcare
- The gift economy - sharing is caring - what skills, foods and crafts can we swap? Look at where we can take money out of the conversation.
- More self employment - less reliance on jobs - enterprise should be easy
- I imagine tourists hopping on electric powered buses - reducing parking and traffic problems. These buses will be consistent and affordable.
- Retro-fitting of houses with community power and re-learn how to build

- There is no need to commute - local shops and deliveries, learning from home - no need to go into the city
- Regenerative agriculture as a standard
- A healthy community in terms of mental and physical health
- As much governance and decision making should be as local as possible - but responsive to the Global issues and need for transparency
- Rethink Bethesda highstreet - more prosperous - more meeting places - less heavy traffic and empty shops
- Community allotment schemes for everyone - with opportunities for everyone to share and learn skills.
- More people in Dyffryn Ogwen and people choosing to live and stay here. We will welcome people from all over the world as the climate emergency forces people to leave their homes but everyone contributes and becomes a part of the area.
- Less emphasis on the individual and more emphasis on the community.
- Better use of our land. Communities as growth hubs, maybe in Bethesda we will have a place to produce plant based food, less dependence on sheep and cattle, more opportunity for rewilding land.
- More music, poetry and art
- Nuclear reactor - share with Nant Peris
- More energy efficient housing and retrofitting
- All the communities connected by cycle ways, scooters, horses, cars. Room for everyone. Connecting Bethesda with Llanberis and Caernarfon.
- A Bethesda ALL voice choir - a more equal place
- Healthy rivers without any pollution in them. Dyffryn Ogwen is rich with nature.
- The local community looks after the sick and elderly and we’re all more connected
- Businesses generated from local needs in Bethesda

INSPIRATION.

This was an opportunity to hear from three people already working on environmental projects either through their work or voluntarily.. Chris Roberts spoke to Catrin Wager from Petha and Benthyg, Gruffydd Wyn from Prosiect Sero Net Gwynedd and Angharad Owen from Bwyd Bendigedig Rhiwlas. They discussed what they have learned through their work, how to connect with people locally and how to find and control a budget amongst other topics. You can view the conversation here.



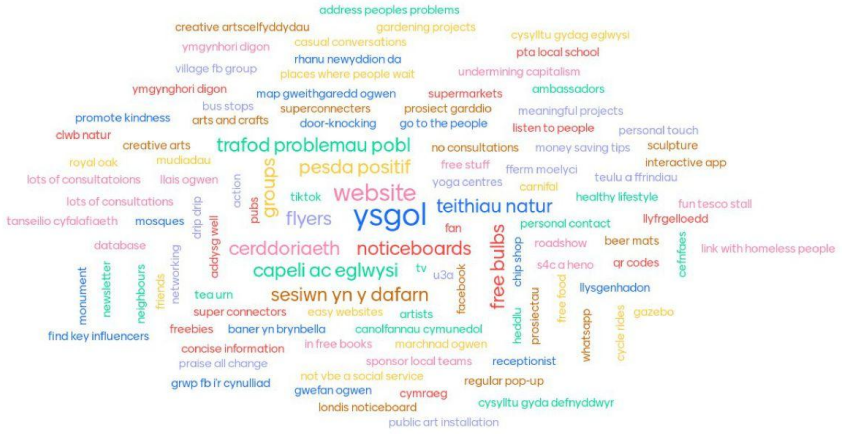
MOVEMENT BUILDING

As GwyrddNi's assemblies deliberate in the five areas one question rises often; how do we get other people in the community to become part of the action? How do we let them know what we are doing in the assembly? We had a short discussion on our tables and recorded the main points on a word cloud - the more often a word was sent to the cloud the larger the word will appear.

We also had a short presentation from Casia William, GwyrddNi's Communications Officer about The GwyrddNi Pledge. This scheme is designed to get local residents, businesses and organisations to pledge to read the GwyrddNi Community Action scheme in their area. There is no need to do more than that at the moment but it is a good opportunity to raise awareness of the assemblies. For more information and to sign The Pledge follow [This link](#).

Sut allwn ni ymgysylltu hefo gweddill y gymuned?

Mentimeter



CAMAU TUAG AT WEITHREDU

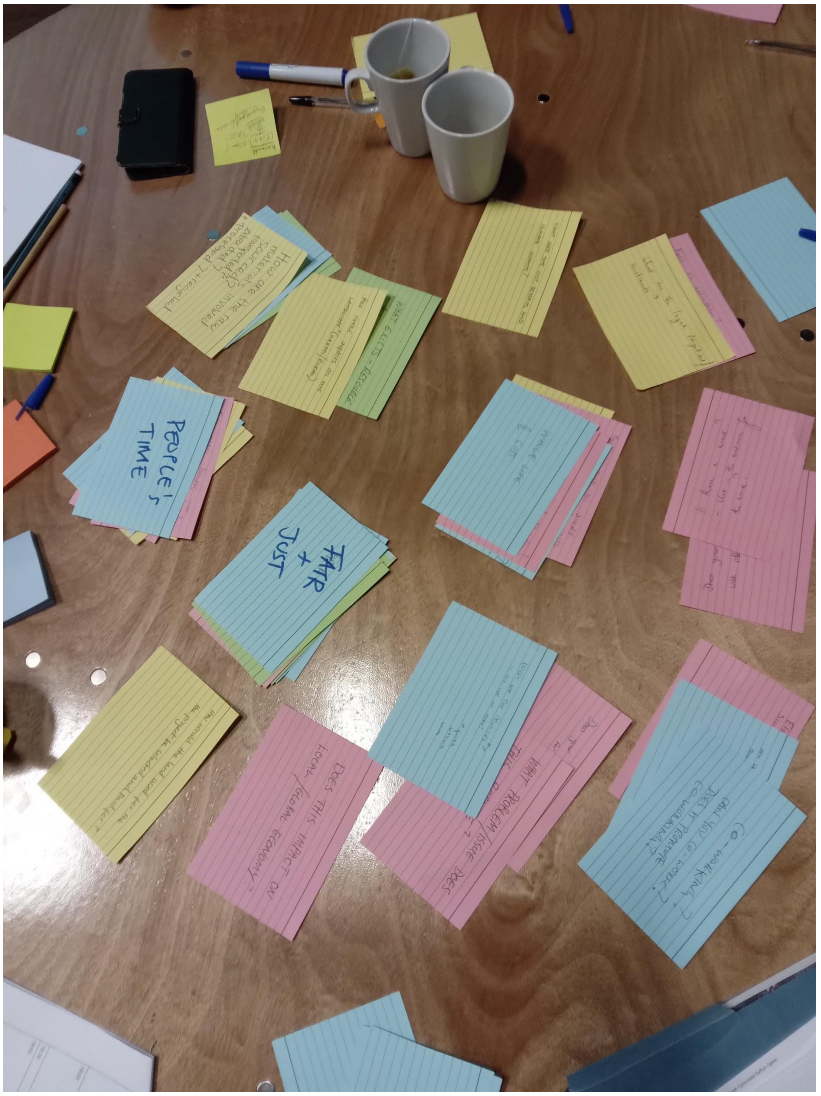
The purpose of this session was to consider what steps need to be taken to make go from an idea to an action. Members were asked to discuss in their groups *What Questions would you like to ask about any idea to help turn it into an action?* Discussions were held on which questions were similar, or not and how to summarise some of the questions. Each table then shared their questions in a discussion with the whole assembly. We will use these questions as prompts in the next meeting as we start thinking about action ideas. It's important to note that these are only starter questions and there will still be room to ask more questions and delve deeper into details. Here are the questions that came to hand

- Are there winners and losers?
- What is the first step?
- What is the need for the project?
- Who are the Stakeholders?
- How can we demonstrate the relevance to the local community and climate change?
- Does it conflict with other initiatives?
- How do you persuade or deal with opposition?
- How do people find out about the project?
- Can this action be developed in order to build on ideas that already exist?
- How do we future proof?
- Is this benefitting some groups of people more than others? Can we justify this?
- Who will pay for this and how much will it cost?
- What might be the knock on benefits?
- What might be the risks
- Will the cost be a one off or recurring?
- How can we ensure that the environment is improved?
- What does success look like and what are the steps?

- Why is the idea important and who will benefit?
- Are there legal obligations?
- Do we need permission?
- What are the risks and who will be negatively affected?
- Are equal opportunities relevant in this project?
- How are the raw materials involved sourced, transported, extracted, processed and recycled?
- What is the effect of this on the Welsh language?
- Will this affect everyday lives in the communities?
- If land is part of the project how will it be chosen? Will it be new land or brown-field sites?
- How long will the project take?
- Have you made a project plan? SWOT analysis? Cost benefit Analysis? Thought about sustainability and accountability?
- What is the evidence?
- Will the people who are employed be paid properly and get fair conditions?
- Is it possible to adapt and learn as you go?
- Will this affect my day to day life and will it require personal time or financial investment?
- Will you need a lot of people to take part?
- Who will manage the project?
- Will this project employ local people?
- What will be the impact on the environment and the surroundings, rural or urban?

NEXT STEPS

The assembly will meet twice again over the next months with the intention of creating an action plan. In the next session we will hear from the area's school children who have recently taken part in their own schools' assembly. We will begin to think about and develop our action ideas. We will be building on what we have discussed this session when discussing action ideas for the area.



You can keep up with GwyrddNi on our social media accounts