

Dyffryn Ogwen Schools' Climate Assembly



CREU • CYMUNEDAU • GWYRDD

GWYRDDNI

COMMUNITY • CLIMATE • ACTION



BACKGROUND

GwyrddNi is a community based, community led climate change action organisation. It brings people together in five areas in Gwynedd to discuss, learn about and take action locally on climate change.

To find out more about GwyrddNi visit our website: <https://www.gwyrddni.cymru/>

As part of this work we have been working with the schools in the GwyrddNi areas to provide an educational programme to match the ethos and theme of the work in the community.

In the Dyffryn Ogwen area we have been working with Ysgol Dyffryn Ogwen, Ysgol Penybryn, Ysgol Tregarth, Ysgol Bodfeurig and more recently Ysgol Llanllechid.

The educational programme has been designed with six aspects:

- A workshop in the school on Climate Change
- A tour around the community to experience some of the climate solutions that are being implemented locally
- A Climate Assembly
- Presenting the findings of the Schools' Assembly to the Community Assembly
- Climate Action
- Celebration of what has been achieved

I would like to thank all the schools that are part of the scheme for their enthusiastic collaboration.

WORKSHOP

During the spring and summer terms of 2022 we held Climate Change workshops with Ysgol Dyffryn Ogwen, Ysgol Penybryn, Ysgol Tregarth and Ysgol Bodfeurig.

The aim of the workshop was to ensure that we:

- Look at different elements of our communities and how they are linked
- understand what the greenhouse effect is
- understand the carbon cycle
- understand how burning fossil fuels and failing to look after the natural world intensifies the greenhouse effect and thus causes global heating.
- understand that it is global heating that causes the climate change that we are experiencing at the moment

- consider how climate change affects people around the world, including ourselves here in Wales
- understand that finding ways of living where we do not burn fossil fuels and we look after the natural world would make a big contribution to slowing down and reducing the impact of climate change on our communities
- feel comfortable discussing feelings about climate change and realise that it is possible to convert negative feelings into positive ones when taking action.

Here are some pictures of the workshops across the GwyrddNi areas.



TOUR

- During the 2022 autumn term the GwyrddNi children and young people were given an opportunity to experience some of the climate solutions that are already being implemented in our communities.

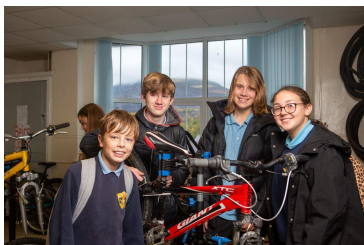
The aim of the tours was to realise:

- that is possible to respond to the climate emergency
- that it is possible to respond to the climate emergency here in Dyffryn Ogwen and to get a taste of the responses that have been developed so far
- that there is no single solution to the climate emergency but rather a wide variety of solutions.
- that a community response to the climate emergency also contributes a number of other benefits to us as individuals and to our communities.

In Dyffryn Ogwen we visited or took part in a workshop with:

- Gerddi Ffrancon
- Pantri Pesda
- Beics Ogwen
- Llyfrgell y Petha (library of things)
- The community electric car
- Coed Meurig
- The Ynni Ogwen hydro

We are most grateful to all the staff and volunteers from Partneriaeth Ogwen, Dyffryn Gwyrdd, Ynni Ogwen and the North Wales Wildlife Trust for making the tours a success.





ASSEMBLY

The Dyffryn Ogwen Schools' Assembly was held in Ysgol Dyffryn Ogwen on 14 November 2022.

It was attended by 50 children and young people from Ysgol Dyffryn Ogwen, Ysgol Penybryn, Ysgol Tregarth, Ysgol Bodfeurig and Ysgol Llanllechid.

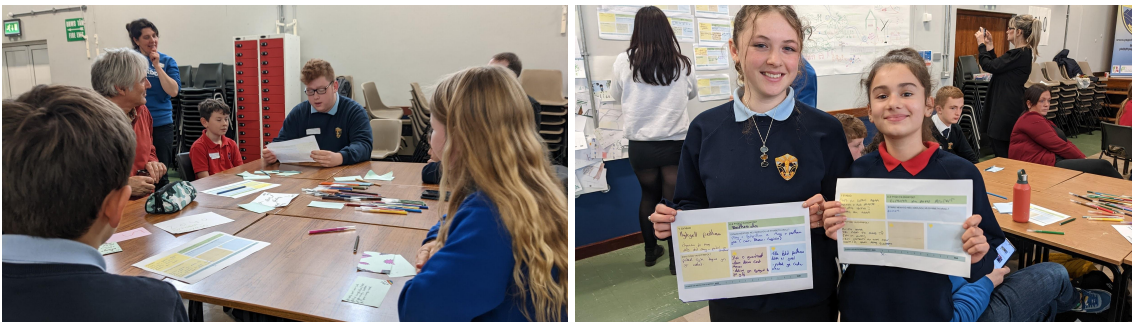
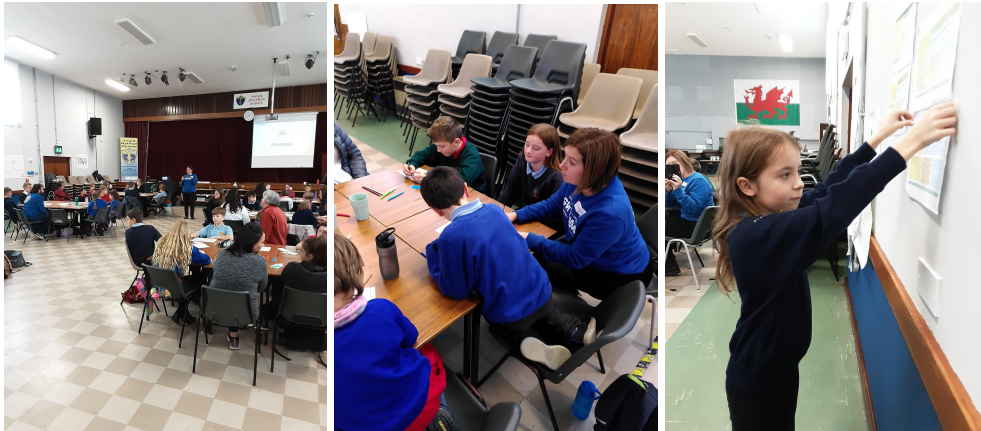
The aim of the assembly was to:

- consider and note what is important to us in our communities
- visualise a future where we have done everything within our ability to respond to the climate challenge.
- develop ideas that will help us to reach that future.

We did this:

- as individuals, by thinking about and drawing a picture of the places in our community that are most important to us and putting them on a map of the valley
- as individuals, by imagining a future where we have done everything within our ability to respond to the climate challenge. Sharing this with our group in order to find elements of the vision that we had in common with the rest of the group. Sharing these with the rest of the Assembly and recording them so that it was possible to create a common picture of the future that we desire

- as a group, developing ideas that will help us to ensure that a specific element of the vision comes true and recording them on a special pro forma.



We would like to thank Ysgol Dyffryn Ogwen for hosting the Assembly.

ASSEMBLY FINDINGS

These are the findings of the Dyffryn Ogwen Schools' Assembly.

The things in our communities that are important to us:

These are the things that we want to preserve as we respond to the climate challenge in our communities. Also, these things could help us to move towards the sort of future that we desire.



The mountains – big mountains like the Carneddau and mountains nearer home like Moelyci.

The woods – especially woods near where we live and community woods like Parc Meurig.

Places for us to take the dog for a walk.

Lôn Las Ogwen

Playgrounds – especially the Abercaseg, Carneddi and Tregarth ones

Football pitches

Bethesda Rugby Club

Plas Ffrancon and the Plas Ffrancon astro pitch

The quarry, Pont y Tŵr, the small hill by the quarry and Ogwen Bank in the summer

Londis

Our schools

Our houses and our gardens.

Our vision for our community in 2040:

This is how our community will be when we have done everything within our ability to respond to the climate challenge.



Our houses will be better, modern and large enough. We will use more natural materials in our houses. We will have found innovative ways to heat them. More of us will live in the woods. Every house will have enough land for people to be able to grow their own food.

We will produce electricity using solar, hydro and wind energy.

We will grow our own food or eat food from local farms. We will eat more vegetables and less meat. We will have found ways to grow completely new things.

We will use less of everything, especially plastic. There will be fewer factories but those that exist will be powered by hydrogen.

There will be more trees and wildflowers. We will be able to hear birdsong. Large animals like bears and eagles will return to the valley. We will have found ways of living with wildlife and the animals and birds will not be afraid of us.

The air will be fresh and there will be no pollution in our rivers or seas.

We will move around on bikes, electric bikes and in electric cars. There will be fewer cars because people will share them. Some will ride on horseback. There will be a magnetic train with a station in Bethesda. There will be far fewer aeroplanes in the sky and the ones that are will be electric ones.

Our schools will have been done up, we will make more use of technology in school, but there will also be more gardens there, with flowers and trees. We will learn outdoors rather than indoors and learn in a variety of ways.

Everyone will have the job they want, here in Dyffryn Ogwen.

There will be enough clubs and events for people to get together and the resources will be there for them.

The community will be tight-knit and happy; everyone will be equal and will respect each other.

There will be enough people in our towns and villages and we will be able to hear children playing everywhere.

Our ideas for action that will help us to achieve the above future:

A sharing community...

Expand Pantri Pesda, open a café to go with the pantry and develop the network – community garden, food bank, food pantry – further.

Develop Llyfrgell y Pethau so that there are more libraries and more things to borrow e.g. cars and skills like cleaning and cooking.

Nature...

Plant more deciduous trees to attract all sorts of birds.

Be careful in the way we use wood and invent a machine that can turn waste paper back into wood.

Look into rewilding parts of the valley by introducing large animals like bears and eagles.

Renewable energy...

The community collaborates with farmers to develop a Solar Farm, in a field by the Bethesda crossroads.

Build on the experience of Ynni Ogwen to develop an additional hydro scheme.

Develop a Kinetic Energy Park – where the equipment generates electricity as the children play. It would also include solar panels.

Housing...

Insulate Houses – roof and windows.

There will be solar panels on every building in the valley.

We will have invented furniture, for example a water bed, that is warmed using solar panels.

Transport...

We will extend the Ogwen electric bikes/scooters scheme.

Learning...

Learn more life skills at school, like cookery and healthy eating.

Learn about money and budgeting at school, from year 7 onwards.

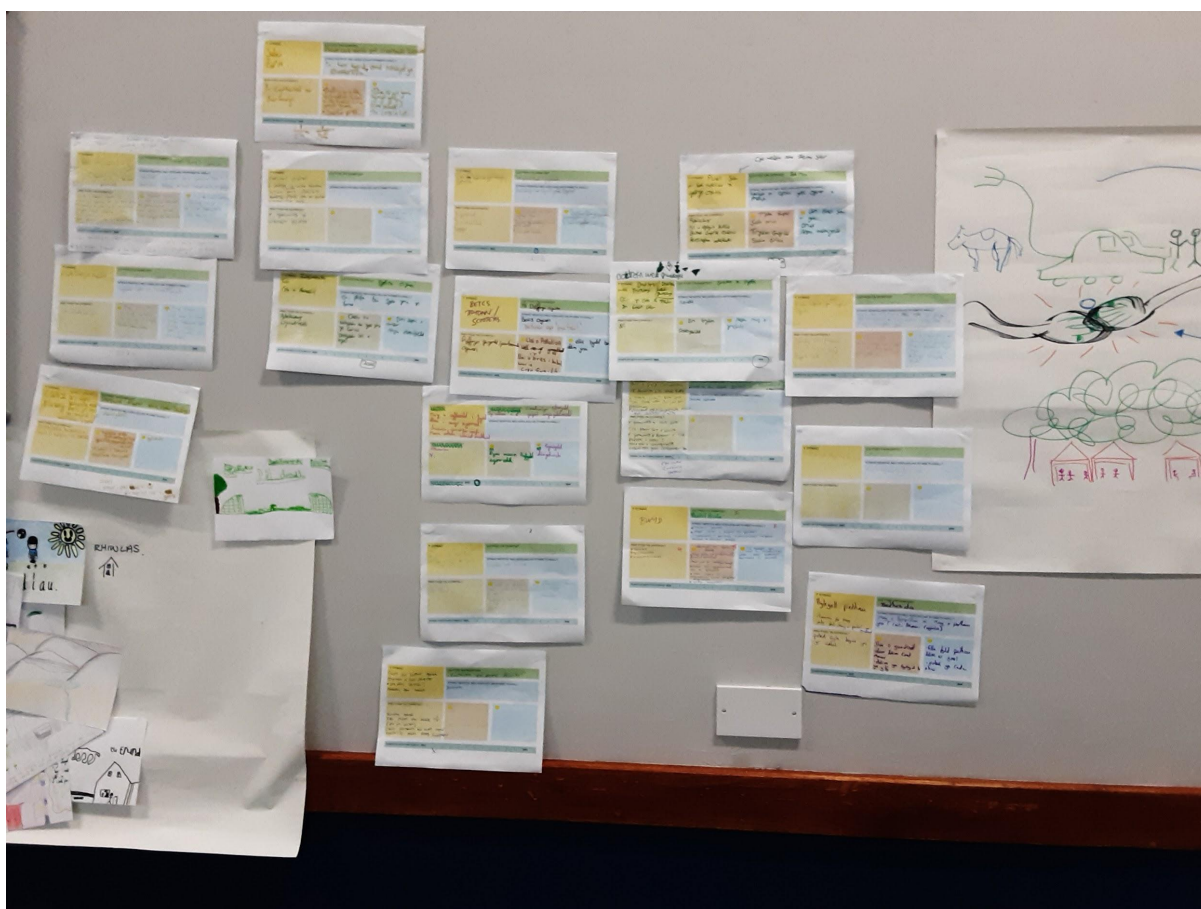
More opportunities to go out and learn outdoors – play, exercise, plant things, and mental health.

Leisure opportunities...

Mountaineering Club, once a month.

A huge Ogwen park – bike track, horse riding, rounders, outdoor swimming pool, zip wire, climbing frame, Bakugan Battle Ground, bins, dog fouling bins and boundaries, in Cae Boncs.

A swimming pool in the Dyffryn Ogwen area on the Plas Ffrancon grounds.



PRESENTING TO THE COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY

The findings of the Schools' Assembly were presented to the Dyffryn Ogwen Community Assembly on 20 November 2022 by Ela from year 8 in Ysgol Dyffryn Ogwen.

