

Dyffryn Peris Schools' Climate Assembly



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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 GwyrddNi has 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 Peris area we have been working with Ysgol Brynrefail, Ysgol Dolbadarn and Ysgol Bethel.

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 Brynrefail, Ysgol Dolbadarn and Ysgol Bethel.

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 it is possible to respond to the climate emergency
- that it is possible to respond to the climate emergency here in Dyffryn Peris 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 Peris we visited or took part in a workshop with:

- Tyddyn Teg
- Open Energy Monitor
- Ynni Padarn Peris
- North Wales Rivers Trust
- DEG's community electric car
- Brynrefail allotments

We are most grateful to all the staff and volunteers from these organisations for holding activities and for making the tours a success. We would also like to thank Elusen Dyffryn Peris (that allocates profit from the Afon Goch Hydro Scheme) for their contribution towards the costs of the day.





ASSEMBLY

The Dyffryn Peris Schools' Assembly was held in Ysgol Brynrefail on 15 November 2022.

It was attended by 50 children and young people from Ysgol Brynrefail, Ysgol Dolbadarn and Ysgol Bethel.

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 record them on a special pro forma.



We would like to thank Ysgol Brynrefail for holding the Assembly.

ASSEMBLY FINDINGS

These are the findings of the Dyffryn Peris 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 to the sort of future that we desire.



Parc Penisarwaun
Cae Builders
Parc Bethel
Parc Dol Elidir
Bethel Memorial Hall
Llanbeblig Cemetery
Elidir Fawr
Dinorwig Quarry
Afon Nant Peris
Coed Fictoria
Dolbadarn Castle
Llanberis Football
Field
Llanrug Rugby Field
Y Festri
The mountains
Llyn Padarn
Cwm y Glo Bakery
(now gone)
Tŷ Nain

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.

Outdoor school

Getting to know the habitats of more animals and understanding the way they live

More people creating things locally and not buying things from afar

Not many cars

More buses

More walking and cycling

Animals coming back from extinction.

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

Wind turbines

Solar farms and houses

A big solar farm

A local produce market in the old electric mountain building

Protection for trees on farmland

Gardening for food and growing more

Electric Bendy Bus

Create stories about the community

A huge leisure centre / area

The Council to buy an electric tractor for farmers

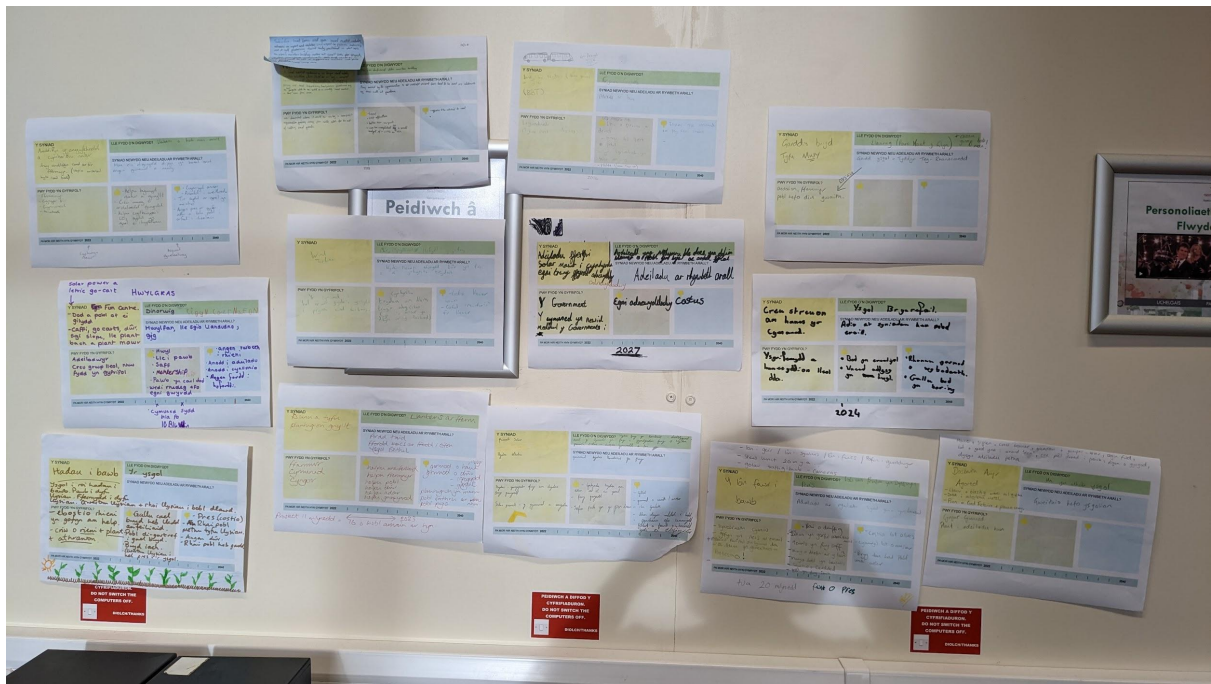
Give seeds to local farmers

Seeds for everyone

Plant and grow wild plants

The main road for everyone – room for bikes, scooters, walkers

An open air classroom – we can build it and learn about nature



PRESENTATION TO THE COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY

The findings of the Schools' Assembly were presented to the Dyffryn Peris Community Assembly on 23 November 2022 by Millie and Eira from Ysgol Brynrefail, Ynyr from Ysgol Dolbadarn and Kyla from Ysgol Bethel.



The Assembly was very pleased to hear the opinions, aspirations and ideas of the children and young people.

"I have really been inspired and actually I felt quite a lot of responsibility to tell you the truth, because they are the future and they are so..., they are worried, I think, that was the impression I got, they are worried, they really love this area where they live and they really want to see positive changes that are going to mean a better future for them, so I felt a lot of responsibility but also a lot of inspiration because they came out with a lot of interesting ideas Gwennno, Dyffryn Peris Assembly

'It was a great pleasure to have been part of the evening as the children gave their presentation to the assembly. It was an extremely emotional evening. Seeing school children sharing the same passion and feeling as yourself towards this area was very powerful. What was special about the children was their ability to imagine in ways that adults have forgotten how to do – a countless number of ideas, ambitious and just legendary. One of the best experiences of my life' - Phil, Cyd Ynni Coordinator

The ideas of the children and young people were used as a basis for developing the ideas of the Assembly for inclusion in the Dyffryn Peris Climate Action Plan during the Community Assembly.

NEXT STEPS

The children and young people and the GwyrddNi schools will look forward to seeing how the children's ideas play a part as the Assembly develops a climate action plan for the valley.

We will also proceed to implement the final parts of the education programme, namely climate action, and celebrate what has been achieved over the last year.

You will be able to see these developments on the GwyrddNi [social media sites](#).

