

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/10398/21

Extinction Rebellion Swansea

[Personal Information S40]

01 July 2021

Dear Extinction Rebellion Swansea,

Thank you for your letter of 5 June regarding Extinction Rebellion (XR) Swansea's concerns about climate change.

The climate and nature emergency is not the next global crisis. It is already upon us and our vision and ambition is to plan a better, fairer, and greener future for us all. Which is why in March the Senedd formally committed Wales to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. The 2020s need to be the decisive decade of action in tackling the climate emergency.

The targets accepted by the Senedd are based on the Climate Change Committee's (CCC) recommendations. They have been explicitly designed to reflect Wales's 'highest possible ambition' within our particular capabilities. The CCC also stated the advice "will ensure that Wales contributes its fair share of emissions reductions to the Paris Agreement to limit global temperature rise, as the world prepares for the Glasgow Climate Summit in 2021".

This new pathway means our goals in Wales would be consistent with meeting the Paris 1.5°C goal. They are also consistent with the goal of a Globally Responsible Wales, enshrined in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. At present the CCC advice is the only credible pathway we have to net-zero, which balances the urgent need to decarbonise with available technologies and the need to be fair for our society. However, if robust evidence can be provided to show an alternative, faster, and just pathway, I would consider any submissions.

We cannot tackle the climate emergency on our own. Part of my role is to lead a Team Wales approach where all of my Cabinet colleagues, local government, individuals, businesses and communities step up and play their part – and we'll capture this in our next Net-Zero Plan. We must take every Welsh citizen with us and leave no-one behind as we move to a greener, fairer future.

There are many types of engagement on climate change and we are committed to involving citizens in them. In this context, I welcomed Wales' first Citizen's Assembly on Climate in Blaenau Gwent. Which received Welsh Government support as part of our drive to support the creation of exemplar low carbon communities. The First Minister has, however, expressed the need for Citizens Assemblies to be independent of politics.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

I recognise everyone has a role to play in tackling climate change. This is why the Welsh Government and XR Cymru have maintained a dialogue, initiated by the First Minister in the previous Senedd. I believe the dialogue between Welsh Government and XR Cymru has been beneficial and I will continue this productive dialogue, cooperating in our efforts to respond to the climate and bio-diversity emergencies.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie James AS/MS

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