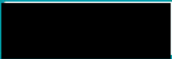




**Cyfoeth
Naturiol
Cymru**
**Natural
Resources
Wales**




Uwch Gynghorydd Arbenigol /Senior Specialist Advisor
Cyfarwyddiaeth Tystiolaeth. Polisi a
Thrwyddeddy/Evidence, Policy and Permitting

Transformative Era

We are regulating and operating in unprecedented times:

Wales has declared both a Climate and Nature Emergency

- Increasing media and legal scrutiny
- Chemicals in excess and chemicals of concern
- Drive toward net zero
- Food security challenges
- Cost-of-living pressures

Land application of materials sits at the centre of all these issues—how we protect and sustain our agricultural land and water resources will require effective policy development in this area

Increased Scrutiny and Evidence

Race to find source of carcinogenic Pfas in Cumbria and Lancashire waters

Exclusive: High levels of banned 'forever chemical' have been detected in rivers and groundwater at 25 sites



River Action takes NRW to court over poultry manure pollution

17 February 2026 | by FarmingUK Team | Environment, News, Poultry



A legal ruling in Herefordshire could fundamentally change the way councils act on factory farming

High Court ruling on the legal status of manure shows that councils can act to prevent pollution in planning policy and when considering planning applications for intensive livestock units.



Farmers on edge as record rainfall dampens slurry season

Warning over 'dirty secret' of chemicals on farmers' fields



The blight of sewage pollution tackled in water shake-up



Wales can't keep treating the environmental crisis as an afterthought. Society itself must change.

29th January 2026 | People and Places
Environment, Natural Resources Wales, Sustainability



New evidence marks a "pivotal moment" in tackling the nature emergency

Published 03/02/2026



"Thick, black tarry sludge flowed down stream": how slurry spills affect the

The Whittemores were hoping for an 'idyllic lifestyle' farming in Sussex. Instead, noxious byproducts from a biogas farm poisoned their land



Biochar: Growing carbon markets and growing concerns about safety of use

Today's Focus

Workshop in 2025 looked at the 4 key groups of Materials to Land |: EPR Waste to land, Waste Derived end of waste materials, Sewage Sludge and Manures and Slurries.

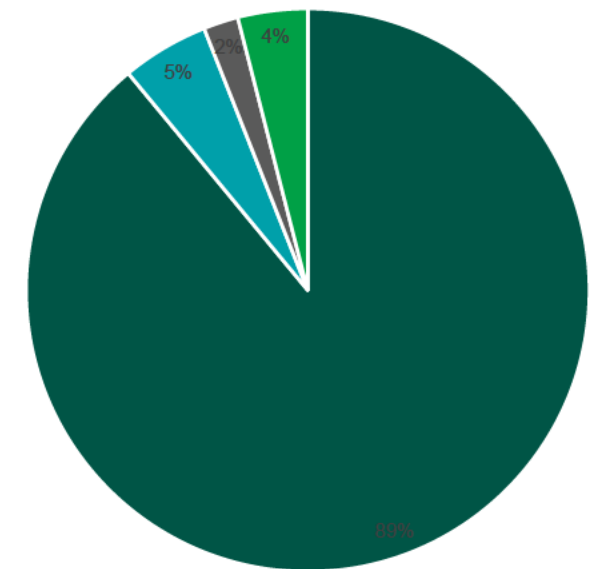
Today we focus on:

- Manures and Slurries and derived digestates
- Sewage sludge and derived digestates

Why?

- Quantity and quality
- IWC Recommendations and regulatory reform
- Legal challenges – JR and Case Law
- Other Regulatory Reviews - CoAPRs

Organic materials applied to land across Wales as a % of total tonnages (not nutrients applied)



■ Manures and Slurries ■ EPR Waste ■ Biosolids ■ QP/PAS

Timeline for change

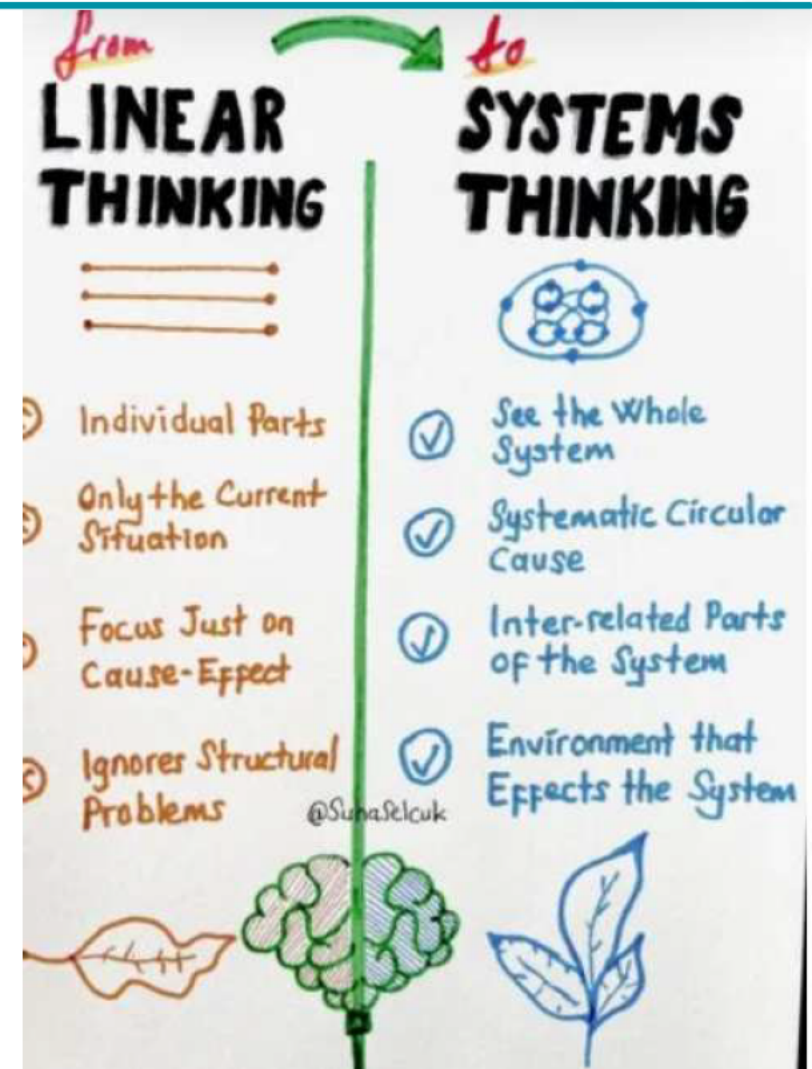
There are several factors that we need to consider in delivering any policy change:

- Meeting our duties to protect the environment within existing legal frameworks
- Fulfilling legal requirements through policy and advice – case law
- Price Review – PR29
- Chemicals Investigation Programme – CIP5
- CoAPR Review and changes
- Evidence v Precautionary Principle – “These principles are the principle of prevention, the precautionary principle, rectification at source, and the polluter pays principle”
- Political change
- Regulator resources - £ and structure

How can we ensure that our decisions are future proof?



Systems thinking is a way of thinking about, understanding, and solving problems that considers the interactions and interdependencies within a system rather than focusing solely on its individual components. It views the world as a network of interconnected elements, where changes in one part can have cascading effects throughout the entire system



Diolch/Thankyou

