



# **‘The Wales We Want’ – the journey so far**

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# 1999 – a new paradigm

## Government of Wales Act 1998 section 121

The Government has a duty to have a **scheme** setting out how it will promote sustainable development in the exercise of its functions. The duty also requires Welsh Ministers to:

- publish an **annual report** of how the proposals set out in the Sustainable Development Scheme have been implemented in that financial year; and
- following an election to the National Assembly, publish a **report containing an assessment of how effective the proposals set out in the scheme** have been in promoting sustainable development.



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# SD: the early definition

- Welsh Government uses the Brundtland definition of 'Sustainable Development' from 'Our Common Futures' 1987 World Commission on the Environment and Development
- **"..development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"**
- - **the concept of needs**, in particular the essential needs of the world's poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and
- - **the idea of limitations imposed by the state** of technology and social organization on the environment's ability to meet present and future needs."



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# The Timeline (1)

- 1998 Government of Wales Act  
s121 'Sustainable Development'
- **2000 Learning to Live Differently SDS**
- 2003 1st effectiveness report
- **2004 Starting to Live Differently**
- 2006 Government of Wales Act  
s79 'sustainable development'  
s 60 'wellbeing'



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# The Timeline (2)

- 2008 2<sup>nd</sup> effectiveness report
- **2009 One Wales: One Planet SDS**
- 2011 3rd Effectiveness Report
- 2011 programme for Government
- **2012 'A Sustainable Wales - Better Choices for a Better Future' (SD WP)**
- 2014 National Conversation
- **2014 Future Generations Bill (June?)**



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# Shared Framework for sustainable Development 2005

Approach based on five principles:

- living within **environmental limits**,
- ensuring a **healthy and just** society,
- achieving a **sustainable economy**,
- promoting **good governance**, and
- using **sound science** responsibly



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# ESDGC Action Plan themes 2006

- Links between **society, economy, environment** and between our lives and those of people throughout the world;
- **Needs and rights of both present and future generations;**
- Relationship between **power, resources & human rights;**
- **Local and global implications** of everything we do; and
- The **actions** that individuals and organisations can take in responding to local and global issues.



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# SD: the Welsh indicators 2009

'One Wales, One Planet' is the Government's current sustainable development scheme (2009)

- It has 5 high level indicators:
- Economic output: GVA and GVA per head
- Social: % population in low income households,
- Environmental: biodiversity conservation
- Ecological footprint:(what Wales consumes) and
- Well being: physical and mental health



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## Do the existing arrangements work?

- The Scheme requires Ministers to 'promote' **not** achieve
- **No** legal definition of SD
- 2010 Wales Audit Office report found SD **not** embedded in Government practice
- 2011 Policy report for WWF found SD **not** embedded across all portfolios



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# Why a new duty and why now?

- We need to **think and deliver differently** if we are to meet existing and future challenges;
- Design and build organisations, infrastructure and public services which will **serve us for the long term**;
- Identify and deal with the **root causes** of issues;
- Deliver in ways which are **thought through**, joined up and offer what people need;
- **Integrate and balance** the need for a strong economy, a strong Welsh culture and society, and a robust environment;



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# SD Leadership in Wales

- ‘Within the lifetime of a generation we want to see Wales using only its fair share of the earth’s resources’. *One Wales One Planet 2009*
- “Our economic approach will not just be about weathering the current storm, though that remains a priority – but our daily decisions will be made in line with delivering a sustainable economy that delivers for our children, a legacy that will outlive all of us.” First Minister Carwyn Jones (2012)



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# Programme for Government

- Legislate to make sustainable development the **central organising principle** of the Welsh Government and public bodies in Wales.
- Create an **independent sustainable development body** for Wales.



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# SD: Definition in 2012 White Paper

- *‘enhancing the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of people and communities, achieving a better quality of life for our own and future generations in ways which promote social justice and equality of opportunity and enhance the natural and cultural environment and respect its limits – using only our fair share of the earth’s resources and sustaining our cultural legacy*



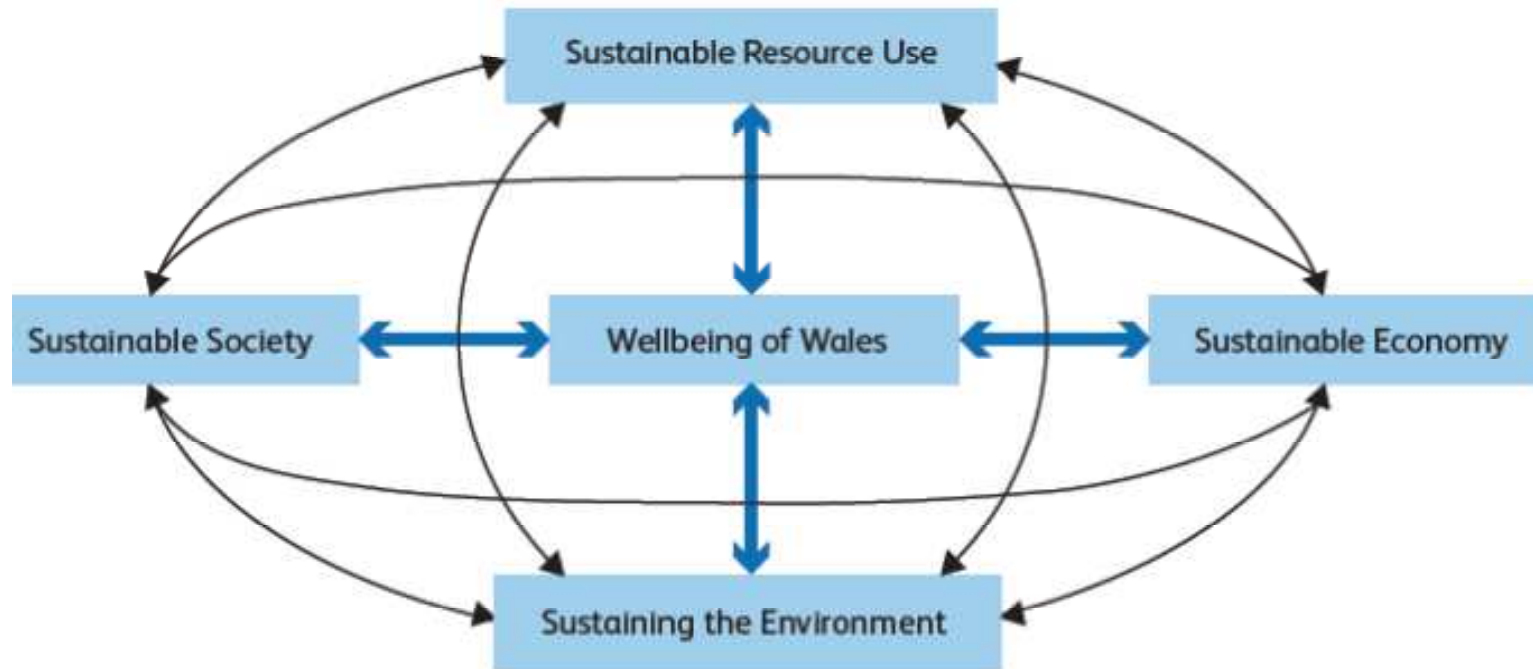
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# Outcome of SD: economic, social & environmental wellbeing



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# Definition of sustainable development in Planning Policy Wales 2012

In Wales, this means **enhancing the economic, social and environmental well-being** of people and communities, achieving a better quality of life for our own generations in ways which:

- promote **social justice and equality of opportunity**; and
- **enhance the natural and cultural environment** and respect its limits - using only our **fair share** of the earth's resources and
- sustaining our **cultural legacy**.

Sustainable development is the process by which we reach the goal of sustainability



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# Future Generations' Bill Goals

- Wales is **prosperous** and **innovative**
- Wales is a more **equal** nation
- Wales uses a **fair** share of **natural resources**
- People in Wales are **healthier**
- Communities across Wales are safer, cohesive and **resilient**
- People in Wales participate in our **shared culture**, with a thriving Welsh language



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# 'The Wales we Want'

- *'Our long-term vision for Wales by 2050 is to be the best place to live, learn, work, and do business. We want our businesses, our public services, the third sector and Government to have worked together to achieve the goals that are set out in the proposed and ground-breaking Future Generations Bill'* Jeff Cuthbert AM 2014



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