

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig

Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs

Eich cyf/Your ref ER

Ein cyf/our ref LG/05808/19

Annwen Hughes

Chair of the Council

Gwynedd Council

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7 May 2019

Dear Councillor Hughes,

Thank you for your letter dated 16 April about the notice of motion adopted at a recent meeting of Gwynedd Council to declare a Climate Emergency and to strive for a carbon free future.

On behalf of Welsh Government, I declared a climate emergency on 29 April. Following a debate in the Senate, Assembly Members voted to declare a climate emergency on 1 May. We must now take this opportunity to take brave steps, alone and together, and the public sector is well placed to lead the way.

On 21 March, Welsh Government published Prosperity for All: Low Carbon Wales, which is the scheme that describes the way we will deliver our first carbon budget (2016-2020) and determine the direction of our long-term target. The scheme describes 100 policies and proposals divided according to portfolio. The all attest to the Cabinet's commitment to speed up the process of transferring to a low carbon economy in the coming years.

In order to reach our decarbonisation targets, we will need a great deal of leadership, collaboration with our partners, and include society, and the scheme acknowledges the leadership role of the Public Sector in stimulating decarbonisation. The scheme highlights the commitment I announced in 2017 for a carbon neutral public sector in Wales by 2030, and suggested some policies and proposals to set us on that journey.

It is very encouraging that Gwynedd Council takes the negative effects of climate change seriously and that you are determined to take steps to reduce your emissions.

I encourage you to make the most of the existing support services available to you through the Welsh Government Energy Service and interest free funds we provide in order to implement cost-effective measures.

I am committed to working with partners across the Public Sector to seek opportunities and encourage actions on a local, regional, and Wales-wide level, as appropriate. My officers are available to discuss your plans to reduce emissions with you and to consider how we can collaborate to ensure a carbon-free Gwynedd.

Yours sincerely,

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

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