

**GWASANAETHAU
CORFFORAETHOL**
CYNGOR GWYNEDD

Results of the Consultation on the Climate and Nature Plan 2025

1. Introduction

This report will analyse responses to the survey on the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan 2025. The public consultation was launched on 12 June and was open until 31 July. The questionnaire was placed on the Council's website, with paper copies available at the County libraries. It was promoted through a 'pop up' on the Council's website and through social media accounts.

2. Responses to the consultation

There were 305 responses to the consultation. Most of them (98.4%, N=300) were from individuals, 1.3% from an organisation (N=4) and 0.3% from business (N=1).

2.1 Have you read the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan or visited the website?

Almost half of respondents (47.9%, N=146) had read the Plan or visited the website, while just over half (52.1%, N=159) had not read the Plan or visited the website.

Those who had indicated that they had read the Plan or visited the website were asked to answer this question:

2.2 Do you agree or disagree with the below?

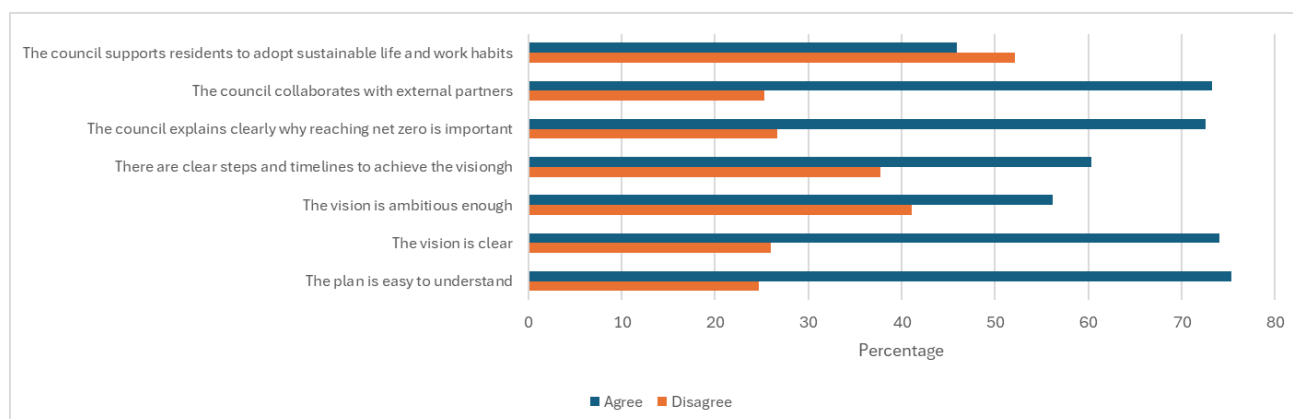
It can be seen from the graph below that a higher percentage of respondents agree with the statements:

- The plan is easy to read;
- The council clearly explains why it is necessary to reach net zero;
- The Council works with external partners; and
- The vision is ambitious enough.

A higher percentage of respondents disagree with the statements:



1. The Council supports residents to adopt sustainable living and working practices;
2. There is a clear vision; and
3. There are clear steps and timetable to achieve the vision



See detailed figures in the table below.	Agree		Disagree		No reply	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
The Plan is easy to read	110	75.3	36	24.7	0	0.0
The Council clearly explains why we need to reach net zero	108	74.0	38	26.0	0	0.0
A clear vision	82	56.2	60	41.1	4	2.7
There are clear steps and timetable to achieve the vision	88	60.3	55	37.7	3	2.1
The vision is ambitious enough	106	72.6	39	26.7	1	0.7
The Council works with external partners	107	73.3	37	25.3	2	1.4
The Council supports residents to adopt sustainable living and working practices	67	45.9	76	52.1	3	2.1

Respondents who had disagreed with any statement were asked to explain why they had disagreed. This was a loose text question. There was a response from 85 of the respondents. Here are the main points and themes raised from the responses:

- The plan is too vague and full of words
- Lack of measurable targets and clear time limits
- Poor communication with residents
- Limited support for residents to adopt sustainable practices
- Public transport and cycling infrastructure are inadequate
- Too much packaging and poor recycling systems
- Biodiversity efforts too focused on tree planting



- Some respondents reject concept on climate crisis
- The scheme focuses too much on the council's operations
- Respondents want clearer and simpler guidance

2.3 Technology advancements and many changes have taken place since the start of the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan in March 2022. Some projects have been completed, and some have been modified. New needs have arisen so the Council proposes to add the following projects. Give your opinion.

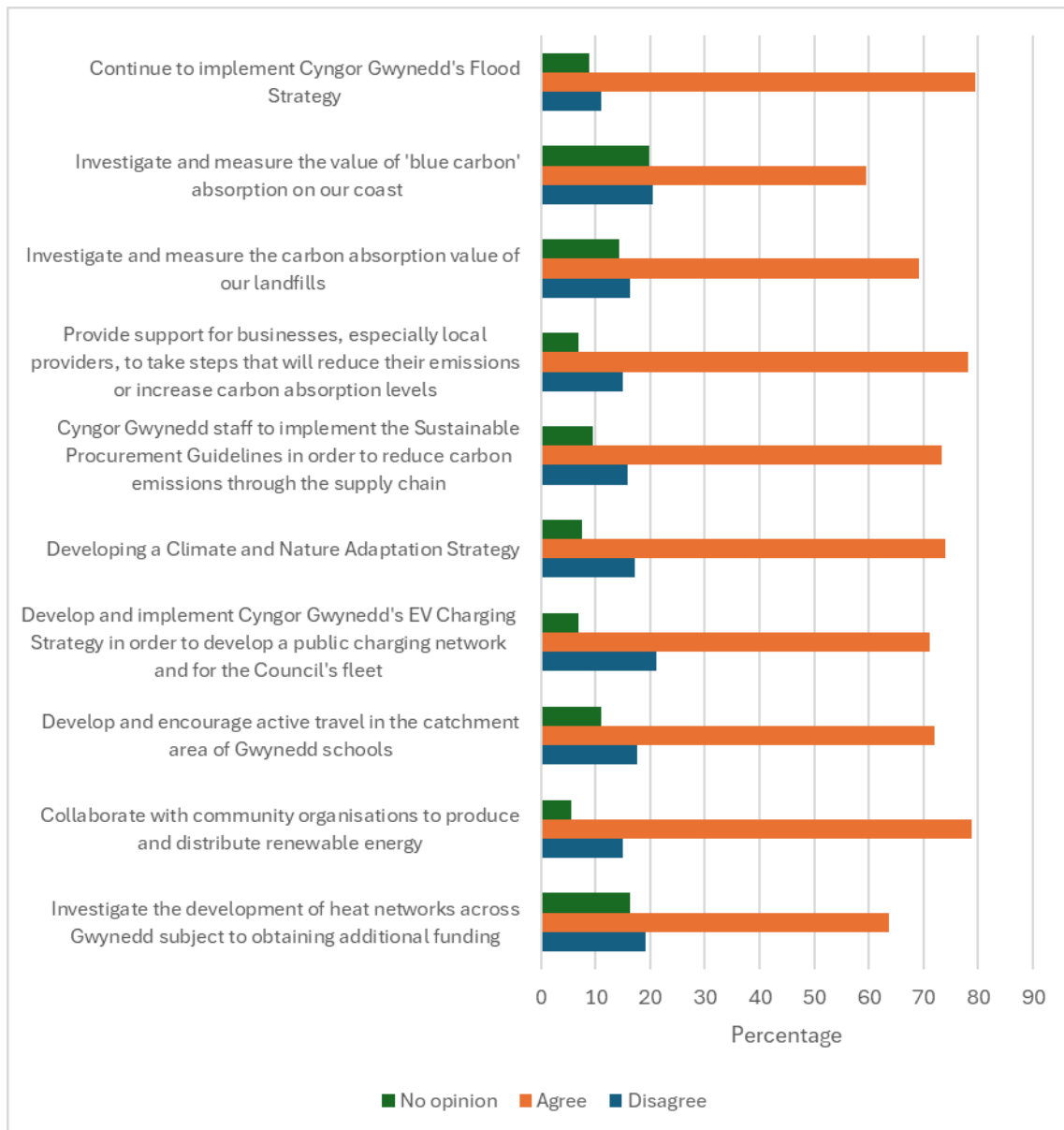
It can be seen from the graph below that a large proportion of respondents agree with the plans. The schemes with which the lowest number of respondents agreed were:

- Researching and measuring 'blue carbon' absorption on our coast (59.6%, N=87 agree); and
- To investigate the development of heat networks across Gwynedd subject to additional funding (63.7%, N=93 agree).

The schemes with which the highest number of respondents disagreed were:

- Develop and implement Gwynedd Council's Charging Strategy to develop a public charging network and for the Council's fleet (21.2%, N=31 disagreed); and
- Researching and measuring 'blue carbon' absorption on our coast (20.5%, N=30 disagree)





See the detailed figures in the table below.

	Disagree		Agree		No opinion		No reply	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
To investigate the development of heating networks across Gwynedd subject to the availability of additional funding	28	19.2	93	63.7	24	16.4	1	0.7
Working with community organisations to produce and distribute renewable energy	22	15.1	115	78.8	8	5.5	1	0.7
Developing and encouraging active travel in Gwynedd's school catchment area	25	17.7	105	71.9	16	11.0	0	0.0
Develop and implement Gwynedd Council's Charging Strategy to develop a public charging network and for the Council's fleet	31	21.2	104	71.2	10	6.8	1	0.7
Developing a Climate and Nature Adaptation Strategy	25	17.1	108	74.0	11	7.5	2	1.4
Gwynedd Council staff to implement the Sustainable Procurement Guidance to reduce carbon emissions through the supply chain	23	15.8	107	73.3	14	9.6	2	1.4
Providing support to businesses, particularly local providers, to take action that will reduce their emissions or increase carbon absorption levels	22	15.1	114	78.1	10	6.8	0	0.0
Researching and measuring the carbon absorption value of our landfill sites	24	16.4	101	69.2	21	14.4	0	0.0
Researching and measuring the value of 'blue carbon' absorption on our coast	30	20.5	87	59.6	29	19.9	0	0.0
Gwynedd Council's Flood Strategy continues to be implemented	16	11.0	116	79.5	13	8.9	1	0.7



Respondents who disagreed with any of the plans were asked to explain why they disagreed. This was a loose text question. There was a response from 61 of the respondents. The most common themes are cost concerns, skepticism about climate change, and criticism of electric vehicle infrastructure. There are many in favour of practical, local and better public transport solutions over large-scale projects.

Here are the main points and themes raised from the responses:

- Climate change scepticism
- Concerns about cost/value for money
- Flood management issues
- Criticism of active travel
- Concerns about electric vehicle charging infrastructure
- Scepticism about the heat network
- Practical local solutions needed
- Improvements to public transport
- Consultation on community engagement
- Implementation / planning

2.4 Is there another project or task that the council should add to the plan?

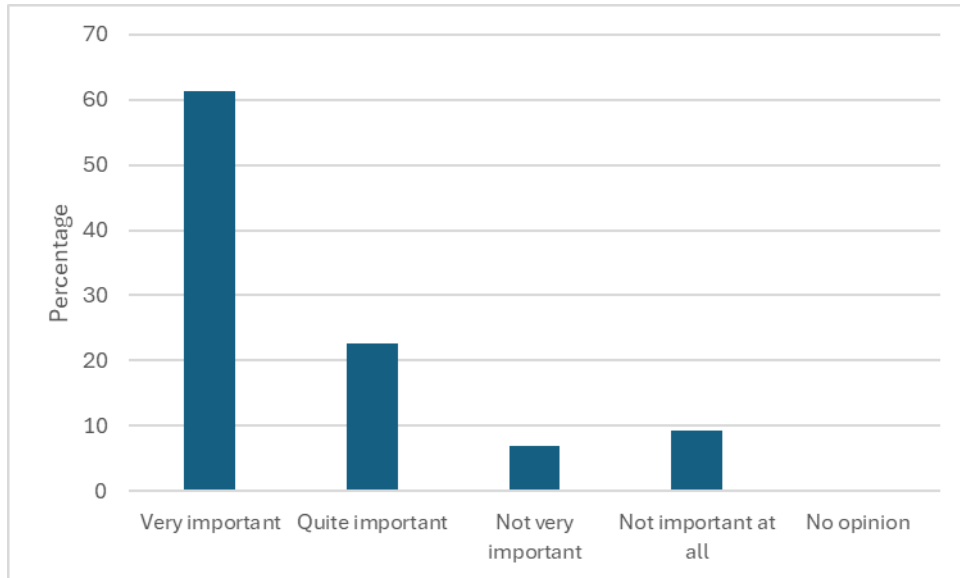
This was a loose text question. There was a response from 77 of the respondents. Here are the main points and themes raised from the responses.

- Biodiversity and nature conservation – calls to protect wildlife and tree planting
- Electric vehicle infrastructure and transport – the need for reliable electric vehicle charging and better public transport
- Waste and recycling – concerns about plastic waste and better recycling systems
- Climate change skepticism / policy criticism – questions about net zero policies
- Housing and social issues – Affordable housing and homelessness solutions
- Community engagement – more public meetings and collaboration
- Renewable energy and technology – tips for solar, wind, hydrogen projects
- Flood and pollution management – action on river/sea pollution and flood resilience.
- Education and awareness – environmental education and cultural engagement.
- Implementation / planning – frustration with delays; choose to act.

2.5 Ydi newid hinsawdd yn bwysig i chi?

As can be seen from the graph below, the majority (83.9%, N=256) of respondents indicated that climate change was important to them (very important and quite important). 16.1% (N=49) of respondents stated that climate change was not important to them (not very important and not at all important).



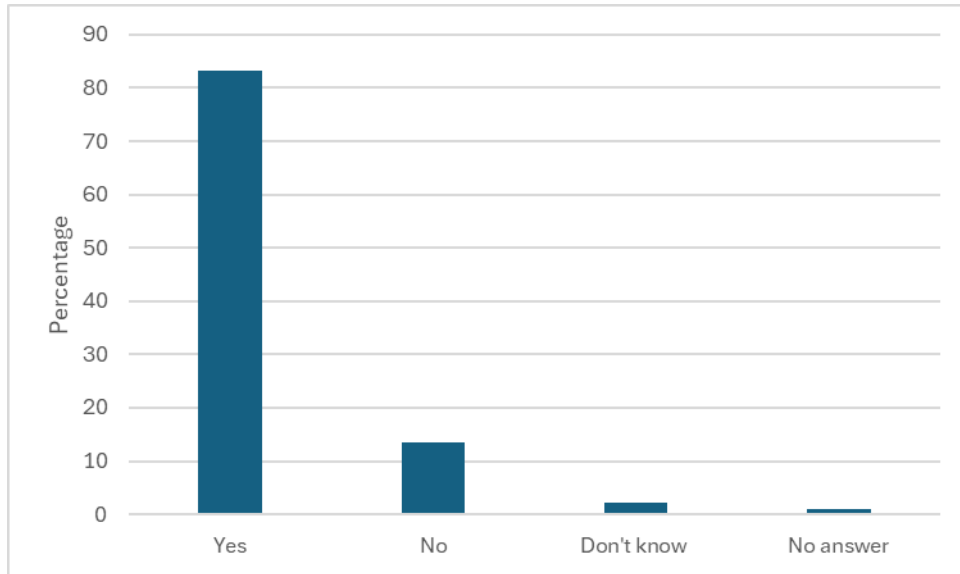


Mae'r tabl isod yn manylu ar y canrannau a'r niferoedd.

	Number	%
Very important	187	61.3
Quite important	69	22.6
Not really important	21	6.9
Not important at all	28	9.2
No opinion	0	0.0
Total	305	100.0

2.6 Should Gwynedd Council be taking action on climate change?

As can be seen from the graph below, the majority (83.3%, N=254) of respondents thought that Gwynedd Council should be taking action on climate change, while 13.4% (N=41) of respondents thought it should not be taking action on climate change.



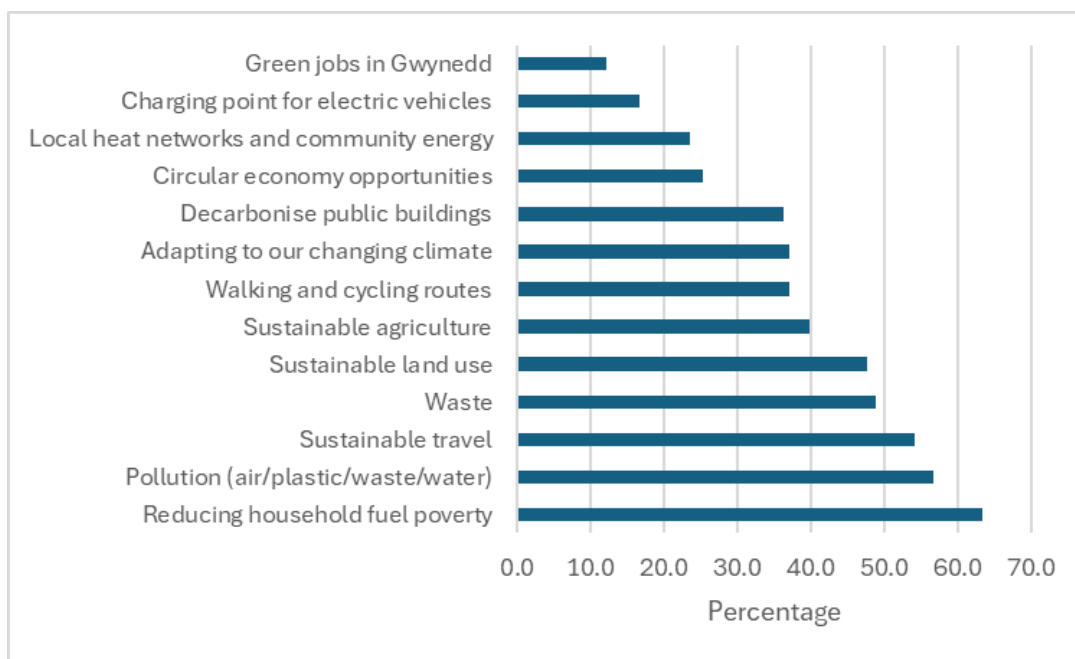
The table below details the percentages and numbers.

	Number	%
Yes	254	83.3
No	41	13.4
Don't know	7	2.3
No answer	3	1.0
Total	305	100.0

2.7 Put the climate change topics below in order from most important to least important to you as an individual.

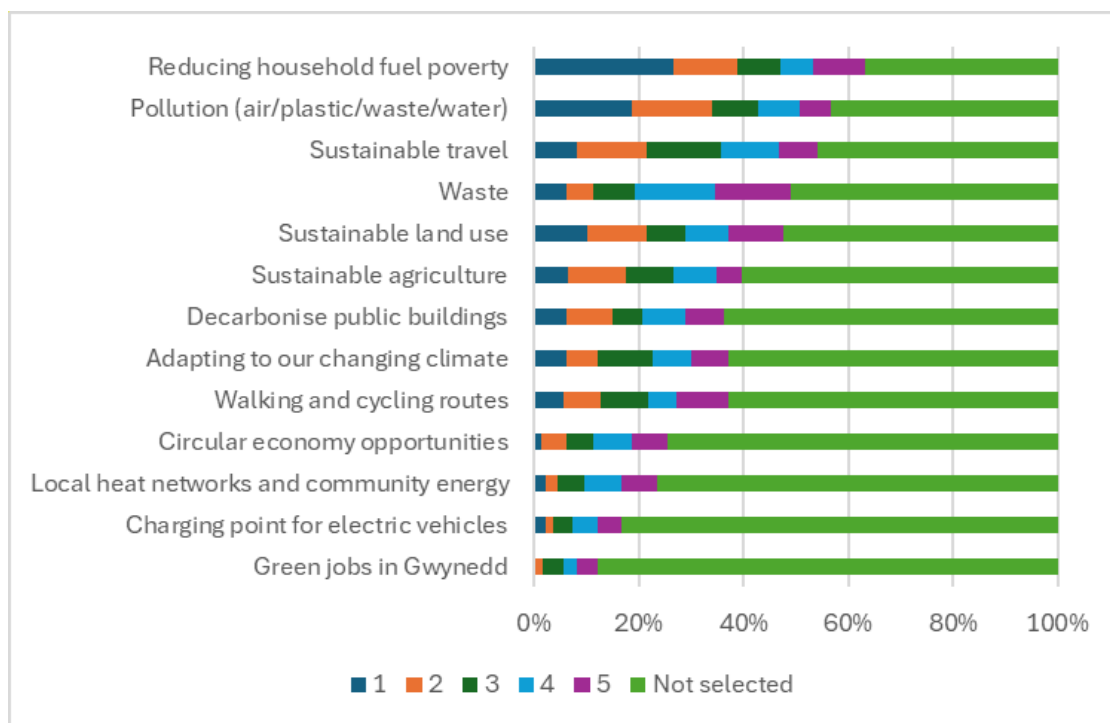
229 of the respondents had answered the question in a way that was in line with the rules of the question (e.g. they only chose 5 options and gave them a score of 1 to 5), so the next section analyses these answers.

First, let's look at how much has put climate change topics within their 'top 5' at all. See of the 229 respondents, 63.3% (N=145) placed 'Reducing household fuel poverty' within their top 5, 56.8% (N=130) indicated 'Pollution', and 54.1% (N=124) indicated 'Sustainable travel'.



Subject	Number	%
Reducing household fuel poverty – e.g. improved insulation, smart heating systems, smart appliances, ensuring the most affordable energy supply and home energy efficiency schemes	145	63.3
Pollution (air/plastic/waste/water)	130	56.8
Sustainable travel - public transport (bus, train)	124	54.1
Waste – recycling and overall waste reduction	112	48.9
Sustainable land use – maintaining habitats, enhancing biodiversity, planting trees	109	47.6
Sustainable agriculture (the production of crops and animals by means that will not harm the land or the climate into the future)	91	39.7
Walking and cycling routes	85	37.1
Adapting to our changing climate e.g. Flood and wildfire management	85	37.1
Decarbonisation of public buildings – switching the energy source of construction from a fossil fuel source to a renewable source e.g. solar, wind, hydropower, and heat pumps	83	36.2
Circular economy opportunities – cafes repaired, food redistribution	58	25.3
Local heat networks and community energy	54	23.6
Charging points for electric vehicles	38	16.6
Green jobs in Gwynedd	28	12.2
<i>Denominator=229</i>		

Next, let's look at the order in which the respondents placed the topics within their top 5, where 1 meant most important and 5 meant least important. The graph below shows that all categories follow the main trend, except for 'Waste', where fewer people have indicated that it matters to them compared to the others who have been selected as one of the top 5.



76 of the respondents answered this question in a way that did not fit the rules of the question (e.g. chose more than 5 answers or gave more than one of the same score), so they cannot be analysed with the cohort above. We still wanted to include their opinions, so the next part states which of the climate change topics were chosen by the 76 respondents, but doesn't take into account their score.

You can see that the order of the subjects comes out quite similar to the previous cohort who had answered the question within the rules, with the exception of 'electric vehicle charging points' and 'green jobs in Gwynedd' higher up in the list this time.

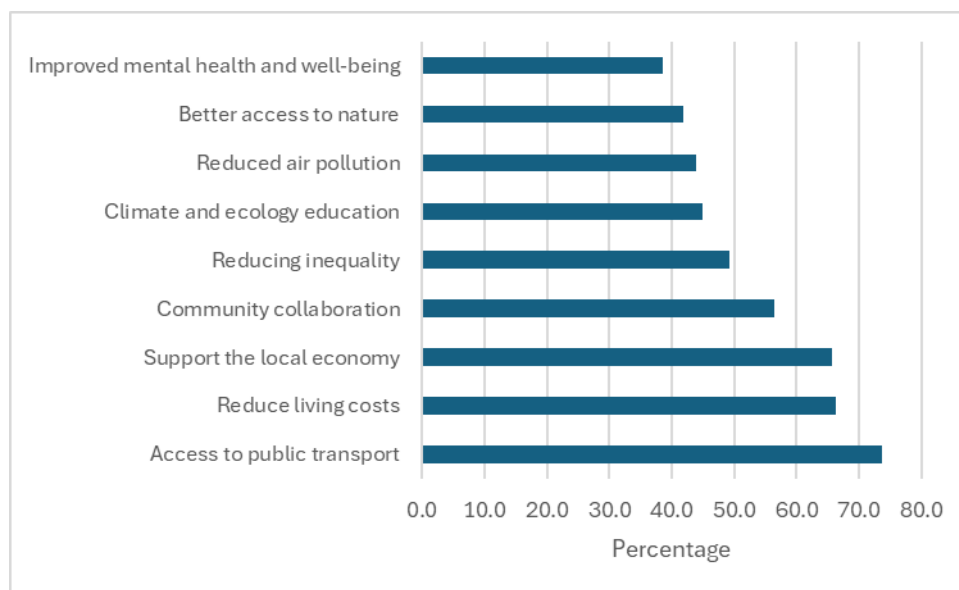
Subject	Number	%
Reducing household fuel poverty - e.g. improved insulation, smart heating systems, smart appliances, ensuring the most affordable energy supply and home energy efficiency schemes	53	69.7
Pollution (air/plastic/waste/water)	56	73.7
Sustainable travel - public transport (bus, train)	56	73.7
Waste – recycling and overall waste reduction	41	53.9
Sustainable land use – maintaining habitats, enhancing biodiversity, planting trees	41	53.9
Sustainable agriculture (the production of crops and animals by means that will not harm the land or the climate into the future)	38	50.0
Walking and cycling routes	44	57.9
Adapting to our changing climate e.g. Flood and wildfire management	44	57.9
Decarbonisation of public buildings – switching the energy source of construction from a fossil fuel source to a renewable source e.g. solar, wind, hydropower, and heat pumps	41	53.9
Circular economy opportunities – cafes repaired, food redistribution	20	26.3
Local heat networks and community energy	21	27.6
Charging points for electric vehicles	31	40.8
Green jobs in Gwynedd	24	31.6
		<i>Denominator=76</i>

2.8 What additional benefits would you like to see from taking action on climate change? Put the topics below in order from most important to least important to you as an individual.

225 of the respondents had answered the question in a way that was in line with the rules of the question (e.g. only chose 5 options and gave them a score of 1 to 5), so the next section analyses these answers.

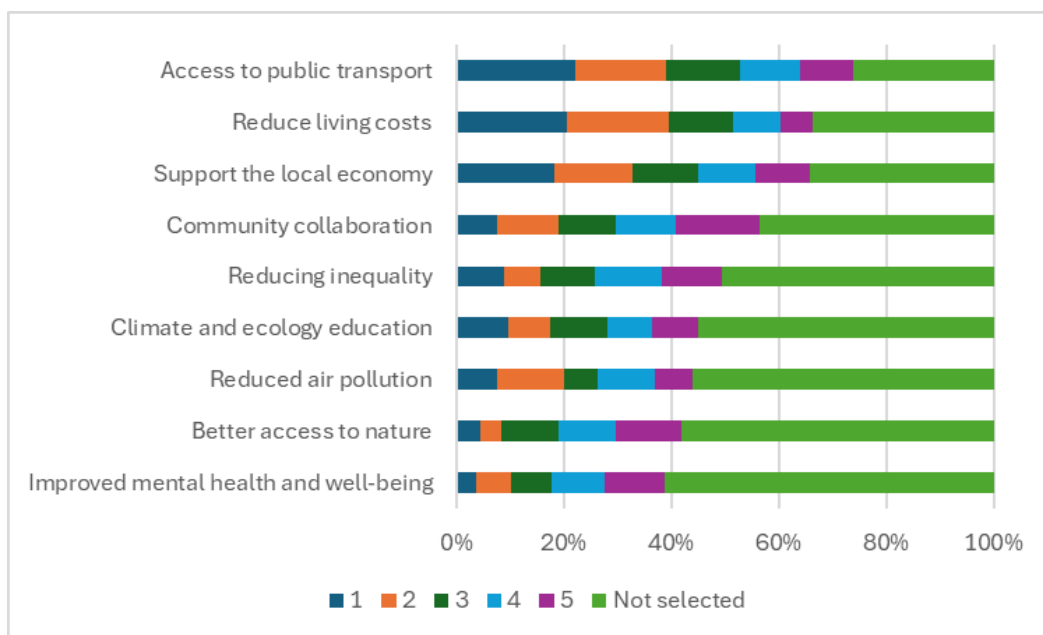
First, let's look at how much the subjects have put additional benefits within their 'top 5' at all. See of the 225 respondents, 73.8% (N=166) placed 'Access to public transport' within their top 5, 66.2% (N=149) indicated 'Reduce the cost of living', and 65.8% (N=148) indicated 'Support the local economy'.





Subject	Number	%
Access to public transport	166	73.8
Reducing the cost of living	149	66.2
Supporting the local economy	148	65.8
Community collaboration – the community's ability to respond and adapt to climate change	127	56.4
Reducing inequality ('just transition' - that low emission options are equally available to all)	111	49.3
Climate and ecology education	101	44.9
Air pollution	99	44.0
Better access to nature	94	41.8
Improving mental health and wellbeing	87	38.7
<i>Denominator=225</i>		

Next, let's look at the order in which the respondents placed the topics within their top 5, where 1 meant most important and 5 meant least important. The graph below shows that most of the categories follow the same trend, but not 'air pollution'. While fewer people have been selected in their top 5, more of them have been selected in the most important categories (1 and 2) compared to the number selected.



80 of the respondents answered this question in a way that did not fit the rules of the question (e.g. chose more than 5 answers or gave more than one of the same score), so they cannot be analysed with the above cohort. We still wanted to include their opinions, so the next part states which of the climate change topics were chosen by the 80 respondents, but doesn't take into account their score.

Subject	Number	%
Access to public transport	64	80.0
Reducing the cost of living	68	85.0
Supporting the local economy	70	87.5
Community collaboration – the community's ability to respond and adapt to climate change	58	72.5
Reducing inequality ('just transition' - that low emission options are equally available to all)	52	65.0
Climate and ecology education	54	67.5
Air pollution	55	68.8
Better access to nature	52	65.0
Improving mental health and wellbeing	52	65.0
<i>Enwadur=80</i>		

2.9 Any further comments

This was a loose text question. There was a response from 97 of the respondents. Here are the main points and themes raised from the responses.

- Overall support / multiple priorities
- Living costs / concern about affordability
- Skepticism about climate change/anti-net-zero
- Renewable energy and energy efficiency
- Active travel (walking / cycling)
- Nature conservation and biodiversity
- Concern about costs

2.10 What do you think will be the impact of the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan on the Welsh language, the opportunities to use it and its status within the community?

The majority of respondents (55.1%, N=168) thought the Scheme would have a neutral impact on the community, with 29.2% (N=89) thinking it would have a positive impact, and 7.9% (N=24) thinking it would have a negative impact.

	Number	%
Positive impact	49	16.1
Little positive impact	40	13.1
Neutral	168	55.1
Little negative impact	5	1.6
Negative impact	19	6.2
No reply	24	7.9
Total Amount	305	100.0

Do you have any comments about your preference above, for example, are there opportunities to adapt the scheme in order to have a more positive impact on the Welsh language and its use, or to remove any negative effects?

This was a loose text question. There was a response from 101 of the respondents. Most of the responses questioned the relevance of the Welsh language to action on climate change, or highlighted opportunities to strengthen the language through education, community and economic initiatives. Here are the main points and themes raised from the responses.



- Irrelevance of Welsh to climate / nature
- Economic resilience and jobs – maintaining the Welsh language
- Opportunities to learn/use Welsh – e.g. free classes or linking learning Welsh to climate projects
- Housing and tourism pressures - concerns about second homes and tourism affecting Welsh speaking communities
- Education policy – issues around school closures, Welsh-medium education and STEM subjects
- Bilingual provision – calls for resources in Welsh and English
- Community initiatives
- Opposition to climate policy.

2.11 What do you think will be the impact of the Climate and Nature Emergency Plan on people facing socio-economic disadvantage?

The majority of respondents (39.7%, N=121) thought the scheme would have a positive impact, 30.8% (N=94) thought it would have a neutral impact, and 21.0% (N=64) thought it would have a negative impact.

	Nifer	%
Positive impact	53	17.4
Little positive impact	68	22.3
Neutral	94	30.8
Little negative impact	36	11.8
Negative impact	36	11.8
No reply	26	8.5
Total Amount	305	100.0

Do you have any comments about your selection above?

This was a loose text question. There was a response from 85 of the respondents. Here are the main points and themes raised from the responses.

- Energy costs and fuel poverty
- Optimistic/pros
- Public transport and active travel
- Zero suspicion / criticism
- Equality and fairness



- Nature and health
- Homes and insulation



3.0 About you

This section will look at the respondents' 'About You' results, which indicate their equality characteristics.

3.1 Sex

	Number	%
Woman / Female	157	51.5
Man / Male	103	33.8
No reply	26	8.5
I prefer not to say	18	5.9
I identify in a different way	1	0.3
Total	305	100.0

3.2 Enter your age group

54.4% (N=166) of respondents were aged 55 or over.	Number	%
Aged 15 or younger	0	0.0
16 – 24	11	3.6
25 – 34	17	5.6
35 – 44	26	8.5
45 – 54	42	13.8
55 – 64	70	23.0
65 – 74	72	23.6
75 – 84	23	7.5
85+	1	0.3
I prefer not to say	18	5.9
No reply	25	8.2
Total	305	100.0

3.3 How would you describe your skills in Welsh?

	Number	%
Speak, read and write fluently	111	36.4
Speaking, reading and writing – learning	45	14.8



Speaking, reading and writing, but not very confident	35	11.5
Unable to speak or understand Welsh	29	9.5
I prefer not to say	27	8.9
No reply	25	8.2
Other	19	6.2
Speaking, but not reading or writing	14	4.6
Total	305	100.0

3.4 Nationality or national identity?

	Number	%
Welsh	138	45.2
British	79	25.9
English	33	10.8
No reply	25	8.2
I prefer not to say	18	5.9
Other	9	3.0
Scottish	3	1.0
Total	305	100.0

3.5 What is your race?

	Number	%
White	245	80.3
I prefer not to say	28	9.2
No reply	25	8.2
Mixed/multi-ethnic groups	5	1.6
Other	2	0.7
Total	305	100.0

3.6 What is your religion?

	Number	%
No religion	128	42.0
Cristian	109	35.7
I prefer not to say	31	10.2
No reply	27	8.9
Other	8	2.6
Buddhist	1	0.3
Jewish	1	0.3
Total	305	100.0



3.7 Which of these best describes you? (You don't need to answer this question if you're under 16).

	Number	%
Heterosexual / Straight	210	68.9
I prefer not to say	44	14.4
No reply	28	9.2
Bisexual	12	3.9
Gay woman / lesbian	5	1.6
Other	4	1.3
Gay man	2	0.7
Cyfanswm	305	100.0

3.8 Has your gender identity changed from what was determined at birth (for example are you transgender or trans etc). (You don't need to answer this question if you're under 16).

	Number	%
No	237	77.7
No reply	31	10.2
I prefer not to say	30	9.8
Yes	7	2.3
Total	305	100.0

3.9 Section 6 (1) of the Equality Act 2010 states that an individual is disabled if:

- That person is physically or mentally impaired, and
- The impairment has a significant and long-term impact on the individual's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Using this definition, do you consider yourself a disabled person?

	Number	%
Yes	48	15.7
No	198	64.9
I prefer not to say	30	9.8
No reply	29	9.5
Total	305	100.0



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Research Team
October 2025



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