



Open letter to the Senedd

21 November 2023

Dear Senedd Members,

Please support a strong Environment Bill

We are writing to you as Healthy Air Cymru and a range of health and environmental charities interested in tackling air pollution, protecting the environment, and improving human health.

We urge you to use your voice and vote to ensure a bill is passed that is strong enough to save people's lives.

Air pollution contributes to the deaths of around 2000 people a year in Wales and is a public health crisis. It disproportionately impacts our children and young people and our most vulnerable communities the most, and climate-changing emissions are bad for nature and the health of our planet.

This Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Bill is a once-in-a generation opportunity to clean up our air.

We're especially pleased to see that ministers will have a duty to set air quality targets for PM_{2.5} (tiny particles). Breathing in tiny particles can increase the risk of health problems like heart disease and asthma. Reducing PM_{2.5} is essential if we are to make a real difference to people's lives.

We would like to thank the Welsh Government and Senedd Members for introducing and amending this bill so far, especially amendments that mean targets will have to be set with regard to the latest World Health Organisation guidelines.

But we need the legislation to go further to save more lives. There must also be a duty on ministers to set a target for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). This poisonous gas can irritate the lining of your airways and make them more inflamed. People with lung and heart conditions are particularly susceptible, and our children are also vulnerable, as their lungs and brain are still developing.

Please support our call for the Environment Bill to include a duty to set an air quality target for NO₂.

We also call for a duty to set targets for other dangerous pollutants like ammonia, PM₁₀, ozone, carbon monoxide and sulphur dioxide.

This is your opportunity to push for strong clean air legislation that will make a real difference to people and the planet's health and wellbeing.

Everyone should be able to walk down the street safely without breathing in dangerous air.

Please vote through a strong bill.

Llythyr agored i'r Senedd

21 Tachwedd 2023

Annwyl Aelodau o'r Senedd,

Cefnogwch Fil Amgylchedd cryf os gwelwch yn dda

Rydym yn ysgrifennu atoch fel Awyr Iach Cymru ac amrywiaeth o elusennau iechyd ac amgylcheddol sydd â diddordeb mewn mynd i'r afael â llygredd aer, diogelu'r amgylchedd a gwella iechyd pobl.

Rydym yn eich annog i ddefnyddio eich llais a phleidleisio er mwyn sicrhau y bydd bil yn cael ei basio sydd yn ddigon cryf i achub bywydau pobl.

Mae llygredd aer yn cyfrannu at farwolaethau oddeutu 2000 o bobl bob blwyddyn yng Nghymru, ac mae'n argyfwng iechyd y cyhoedd. Mae'n effeithio'n anghymesur ar ein plant a'n pobl ifanc a hefyd ar gymunedau sy'n fwyaf agored i niwed, ac mae allyriadau sy'n newid yr hinsawdd yn ddrwg i natur ac i iechyd ein planed.

Mae Bil yr Amgylchedd (Ansawdd Aer a Seinweddau) (Cymru) yn gyfle 'unwaith mewn cenhedlaeth' i lanhau ein haer.

Rydym yn arbennig o falch y bydd gan weinidogion ddyletswydd i osod targedau ansawdd aer ar gyfer PM_{2.5} (gronynnau mân). Gall anadlu gronynnau mân gynyddu'r risg sy'n gysylltiedig â phroblemau fel clefyd y galon ac asthma. Os ydym am wneud gwahaniaeth gwirioneddol i fywydau pobl, mae hi'n hanfodol inni leihau PM_{2.5}.

Hoffem ddiolch i Lywodraeth Cymru ac Aelodau o'r Senedd am gyflwyno a diwygio'r bil hyd yn hyn, yn enwedig y diwygiad yn ymwneud â gosod targedau ar sail canllawiau diweddaraf Sefydliad Iechyd y Byd.

Ond mae angen i'r deddfwriaeth fynd ymhellach er mwyn achub rhagor o fywydau. Rhaid hefyd rhoi dyletswydd ar weinidogion i osod targed ar gyfer nitrogen deuocsid (NO₂).

Gall y nwy gwenwynig hwn lidio leinin eich llwybrau anadlu. Mae pobl â chyflyrau sy'n effeithio ar eu hysgyfaint a'u calon yn arbennig o agored i niwed, a hefyd ein plant, gan fod eu hysgyfaint a'u hymennydd yn dal i ddatblygu.

Cefnogwch ein galwad i gynnwys dyletswydd i osod targed ansawdd aer ar gyfer NO₂ ym Mil yr Amgylchedd.

Rydym hefyd yn galw am ddyletswydd i osod targedau ar gyfer llygryddion peryglus eraill, fel amonia, PM₁₀, osôn, carbon monocsid a sylffwr deuocsid.

Dyma eich cyfle i fynnu cael deddfwriaeth gref ar gyfer aer glân – deddfwriaeth a fydd yn gwneud gwahaniaeth gwirioneddol i iechyd a llesiant ein pobl a'n planed.

Dylai pawb allu cerdded i lawr y stryd yn ddiogel heb anadlu aer peryglus.

Pleidleisiwch dros fil cryf.

Signatories/Llofnodwyr

Healthy Air Cymru

In alphabetical order / Yn nhrefn yr wyddor

Asthma + Lung UK Cymru (Joseph Carter, Head of Devolved Nations)

Awel Amen Tawe (Brian Heddwach, Director)

British Heart Foundation Cymru (Emily Wooster, Policy and Public Affairs Manager)

Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales (Dr Christine Hugh-Jones, Trustee)

Climate and Community (Jules Wagstaff)

Climate Cymru (Sam Ward, Head)

Climate Shop (Ru Hartwell, Founder)

Cycling UK (Duncan Dollimore, Head of Campaigns)

Cardiff Quakers (Ruth Harding, Clerk)

Clynfyw Care Farm (Jim Bowen, Director)

Datblygiadau Egni Gwledig (Grant Peisley, Director)

Egni Cooperative (Dan McCallum, Director)

Ffynnone Community Resilience (Jim Bowen, Director)

Friends of the Earth Cymru (Haf Elgar, Director)

Green Squirrel (Hannah Garcia, Director)

Gwyrddni (Grant Peisley, Director)

Living Streets (Ruth Billingham, Head of Campaigns & Public Affairs)

Plantlife (Jenny Hawley, Policy Manager)

Pontypridd Land Society (Ken Little, Chair)

Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (Sarah Williamson)

Royal College of Physicians (Lowri Jackson, Head of policy and campaigns - Wales and Northern Ireland)

RSPB Cymru (Sharon Thompson, Head of Policy and Advocacy)

Stop Climate Chaos Cymru (Sarah Rees, Chair)

Sustainable Wales (Margeret Minhinnick, Director)

Sustrans Cymru (Christine Boston, Director)

TAN Cymru (Rhian Nowell-Phillips, Roads and Climate Campaigner)

The Coproduction Network for Wales (Suzanne Iuppa)

The Mentor Ring (Sujatha Thaladi)

The One Planet Centre (David Thorpe)

The Woodland Trust - Coed Cadw (Jerry Langford, Public Affairs Manager)

Tir Natur (Stephen Jenkins)

XR Cardigan (Phillipa Gibson)

Wales Environment Link (Karen Whitfield, Co-Director)

Wildlife Trusts Wales (Rachel Sharp, Director)

WWF Cymru (Gareth Clubb, Director)