



Growing Mid Wales August Newsletter

Happy holidays,

We hope you've had the opportunity to take some leave over the summer period - we have and now we're refreshed and have a bumper issue to share with you.

The complexity of energy demand means there is not a 'one stop shop' solution or blueprint; a range of different actions, policies and decarbonisation initiatives are needed to reach net zero goals so our main focus this month is [Energy](#) (By the way, we have a new page on the topic on our website, click on link!):

- We explore what Local Area Energy Planning means for Mid Wales
- 'What are the opportunities and challenges for businesses in Mid Wales?' – have your say in our crucial survey on Net Zero
- Meet the Team - find out a bit more from Dr Gemma Delafield on her role as our Regional Energy Lead
- We also signpost to a number of energy-related initiatives, training programmes and information hubs currently available for organisations wanting to start making a difference.

In this edition we also share informative videos on the Mid Wales Growth Deal and the Regional Skills Partnership, an exciting opportunity to join the GMW team, and the Regional Skills Partnership survey (yes, we do have **two** different surveys running at the moment - both equally important in

gaining valuable feedback and insight from the region's businesses - please take the time to carry out both.)

Helping to grow opportunity in Mid Wales,

The Growing Mid Wales team

* Don't forget that if your organisation is part of Growing Mid Wales, get in touch to share your news!

Contents

- Local Area Energy Plans
- Net Zero Survey - Calling all businesses!
- Meet the Team - Dr Gemma Delafield, Regional Energy Lead
- UK Business Climate Hub - find advice on energy saving and net zero for SMEs
- Mid Wales Growth Deal - highlights video
- Mid Wales Growth Deal job opportunity
- Regional Skills Partnership - highlights video
- Regional Skills Partnership Survey

Local Area Energy Plans



[Energy Systems Catapult](#) and [Afallen](#) have been commissioned to create Local Area Energy Plans (LAEP) for both Ceredigion and Powys. These plans will pave the way for enabling effective local action to be taken which will contribute to the 2050 net zero emission target.

What is a Local Area Energy Plan?

[Local Area Energy Planning](#) (LAEP) is a data driven approach which sets out to improve our understanding of how a local area is likely to decarbonise its energy sector. LAEP modelling includes everything from energy supply and demand to transport, buildings and industry. The local plans are currently being designed in collaboration with stakeholders from across Mid Wales.

The outputs of the LAEPs will be a spatial plan which will identify: *what* the solutions are, *where* they should be deployed, *how much* they will cost, *when* they should be pursued and *by whom*.

The solutions are likely to be a mixture of:

- Grid infrastructure investment
- Low-carbon technologies (e.g. renewable electricity generation, heat pumps, electric vehicles)
- Solutions which reduce energy demand (e.g. energy efficiency measures, active travel)

Why are the Local Area Energy Plans important?

Although steps are being taken to transition to net-zero emissions in Mid Wales' (e.g. the decarbonisation of public buildings, the roll out of electric vehicle charging points), the pace of change needs to significantly increase.

LAEPs will help to identify where stakeholders in Mid Wales can come together to work towards transitioning to a low-carbon, fair and equal energy systems where benefits can be created and retained within our region. This work will complement wider regional energy work that is underway which, in part, informs [Welsh Government energy policy](#).

Welsh Government have committed to a major programme of [LAEP](#) roll-out, so that every part of Wales will have a plan. Watch the following video by Welsh Government that explains LAEP in Wales (Click on the image below to be directed to a YouTube video): <https://youtu.be/vBBiY2sqesc>



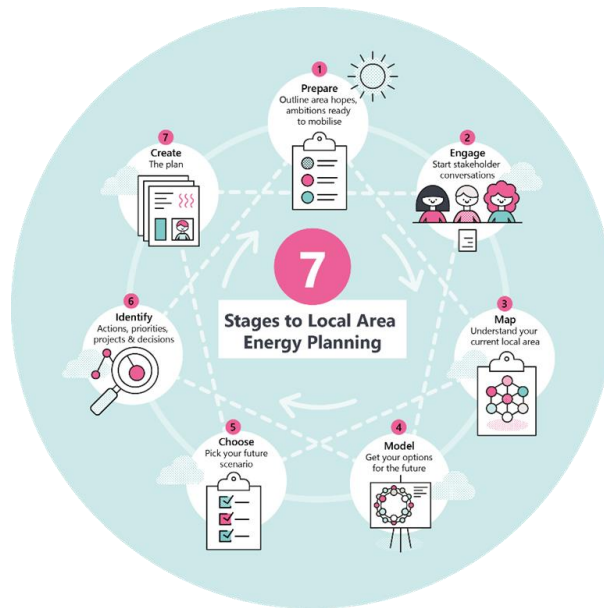
1 - [Local Area Energy Planning in Wales](#)

What stage are Ceredigion and Powys' Local Area Energy Plans at?

Energy Systems Catapult have identified a 7-stage process to the LAEPs (shown in Figure below). Ceredigion and Powys are both at Stage 4 – Modelling Options for the Future.

Initial stakeholder engagement and mapping of the current system have been completed; modelling outputs are expected to be available this Autumn.

All Welsh local authorities will be publishing their LAEPs by March 2024, these will then be scaled up to create a National Energy Plan for Wales, mapping out future energy demand and supply for all parts of Wales.



2 - Figure 1: Stages to Local Area Energy Planning (Energy Systems Catapult)

Net Zero Survey - Calling all businesses!

What are the opportunities and challenges for businesses in Mid Wales?



Net Zero

What are the opportunities and challenges for businesses in Mid Wales?

We want to hear your thoughts

By responding to our survey, you will help:

- Inform future funding calls
- Provide evidence for grid investment
- Support us, support you

Survey closing date: 20 September 2023



We have compiled a survey to understand

(a) the opportunities and challenges facing businesses across Mid Wales to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, and

(b) how businesses can be supported on the journey to net zero.

By completing this survey, businesses will:

- Inform the development of future funding calls
- Help us develop the evidence base to highlight the need for grid investment in Mid Wales
- Inform the development of a future Business Cluster workshop on decarbonisation and energy
- Support delivery of Mid Wales Energy Strategy and Energy Action Plan

We encourage you to complete the survey which should take no longer than 5-10 minutes to complete. Surveys can be completed anonymously; identifiable data will not be shared outside of Ceredigion and Powys Local Authorities.

Click on the link to complete the survey: <https://forms.office.com/e/Mk4Siptgxi>

The survey will be closed on **20th September 2023**.

Meet the Team

Dr Gemma Delafield, Regional Energy Lead

- **When did you start with the team?**

I joined the Growing Mid Wales team in late March and am really enjoying working on a project that can make a difference to the region where I live.

Prior to this role, I was working in higher education. I completed my PhD in 2021 and subsequently worked as a Postdoctoral Research Associate at both the University of Exeter and University of Southampton. My research focused on determining the least cost locations for new renewable energy technologies considering the impact on different ecosystem services (e.g. carbon sequestration, water quality, pollination).

- **Can you tell us more about your role?**

I provide technical and strategic advice to Ceredigion and Powys County Councils, and external stakeholders, on how Mid Wales could reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with its energy system. This covers everything from increasing renewable electricity generation in the region, to exploring ways to decarbonise heat, transport and industry.

- **What are your current priorities?**

I am supporting the development of the [Local Area Energy Plans](#) in both Ceredigion and Powys which are due to be published in March 2024. These plans are being developed collaboratively with different stakeholders and will highlight potential pathways to transitioning to net zero.

Linked to the Local Area Energy Plans and delivery of the [Mid Wales Energy Strategy](#), my three key priorities are understanding:

- What strategic investment is required to alleviate electricity grid constraints

- The role that [Smart Local Energy Systems](#) could play (e.g. linking energy assets together to provide flexibility services)
- The barriers towards decarbonising industrial emissions

- **What developments have you seen over the years?**

Energy systems across the globe are undergoing significant transformations. The costs of wind and solar have plummeted, they are now the cheapest forms of electricity generation ([IEA, 2022](#)). The research is clear, investment in renewable energy will help increase energy security, reduce energy costs, and help tackle climate change ([CCC, 2023](#)).

Wales has targets to generate 70% of its electricity consumption from renewable energy by 2030 and for 1 GW of renewable electricity capacity to be locally owned. In the coming years, I think that Mid Wales could play a pivotal role in helping deliver against these targets whilst providing social and economic benefits locally. Regional coordination could be pivotal showcased by Ofgem's recent [consultation](#) on the creation of regional system planners to coordinate the development of local energy plans across GB.



3 - Gemma holding her PhD thesis

- **What's been your biggest achievement?**

Finishing my PhD during COVID is my biggest achievement to date from both a personal and professional perspective. I am so excited that I am now working in this area within local government and can apply my knowledge and skills to the energy transition in Mid Wales.



- **One word that sums up the Growing Mid Wales Team:**

Passionate.

It is so lovely to be surrounded by such a dedicated and enthusiastic team, everyone works so hard to help deliver benefits to the region. I've settled into my role with ease over the last few months and the Growing Mid Wales team has had a big role to play in that.

UK Business Climate Hub

[Find advice on energy saving and net zero for SMEs](#)

A new UK Business Climate Hub has been launched, with an aim to support 5.5 million SMEs in reducing energy costs and emissions as a part of their net-zero transition.

The UK Business Climate Hub is a collaboration between the UK Government, businesses and business groups across the UK. The Hub is the UK partner of the SME Climate Hub, the global initiative which empowers small and medium-sized enterprises to take climate action.

Visit the UK Business Climate Hub for more information: <https://businessclimatehub.uk>

Mid Wales Growth Deal

The film below highlights the programmes and projects being supported by the Mid Wales Growth Deal (click on the image to be directed to the Growing Mid Wales YouTube channel):



5 - <https://youtu.be/LaKycdsMpPo>

We're hiring!

We are looking to appoint a Growth Deal Projects & Performance Manager to join our Portfolio Management Office.

APPLY NOW

WE ARE HIRING

**MID WALES GROWTH DEAL PROJECTS
& PERFORMANCE MANAGER**

➤ Full time ➤ £41,496 - £43,516 per annum

This is a fantastic opportunity to join a highly motivated and enthusiastic team delivering a transformational Portfolio of work for Mid Wales. For the right individual, it will provide significant experience and exposure for career development.

We offer a range of benefits: flexible working (including location), opportunities for training, an attractive pension scheme, as well as the opportunity to work in a fantastic rural location.



This is a crucial role in helping to provide support to the 9 Independent Projects – working with them to develop and deliver major capital projects as part of the Growth Deal.

This is a fantastic opportunity to join a highly motivated and enthusiastic team delivering a transformational Portfolio of work for Mid Wales. For the right individual, it will provide significant experience and exposure for career development.

For further information please contact: Cathy Martin (cathy.martin@ceredigion.gov.uk)

Click on the link for the full description: <https://careers.ceredigion.gov.uk/jobs/req104874/>

Closing date: 22 September.

Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership

You may have been a subscriber since the start or you may only now be joining us so you may or may not know there are many different teams within Growing Mid Wales.

Watch the video to understand more about the Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership (RSP). Click on the image to be directed to the Growing Mid Wales YouTube channel:



6 - <https://youtu.be/oRJImb9jGOM> <https://youtu.be/oRJImb9jGOM>

Regional Skills Partnership Survey 2023

If you're a business in the region, please complete the Regional Skill Partnership's [survey](#) - for only 5 minutes of your time you could be helping inform important plans on skills and recruitment that could benefit you, your staff and business. Read on for more information.

Skills Survey



Share the challenges you face as a business and, in particular, around the recruitment of skills now and in the future.

We report back to Welsh Government on the skills landscape for Mid Wales – by answering these few questions we can gather data which will inform and influence change in the right places.

Help us inform Welsh Government what skills provision we need for the economy and the people across Mid Wales to thrive.

Complete the survey [here](#). The survey ends on **Friday 27 October 2023**.

Keep up to Date

Need to catch up on what's been discussed in our meetings? Here's a reminder of where you can find the minutes for the following meetings:

- All minutes relating to the Growing Mid Wales Board are hosted on Powys County Council [website](#).
- Papers relating to the Growing Mid Wales Partnership can be found on our [website](#).

Keep up to date with Growing Mid Wales news, developments on activity and organisations we support by following our Twitter and Linked In pages:

<https://twitter.com/growingmidwales>

www.linkedin.com/company/growing-mid-wales

We're eager to reach out to as many organisations and businesses across Mid Wales as possible. You can make this possible by following, liking and sharing our pages.

Disclaimer: As a Growing Mid Wales Stakeholder you receive these emails so that we can share news and information with you on a regular basis. You can inform us if you no longer wish to receive these emails by emailing growingmidwales@ceredigion.gov.uk.

