



Growing Mid Wales March newsletter 2026

Mid Wales continues to build momentum — with partners across the region working together to strengthen innovation, skills and investment opportunities for our communities and businesses. From renewable energy research and agrifood innovation to skills development and business support, collaboration remains key to unlocking the region's potential.

This month's update highlights progress across a range of initiatives, including visits to pioneering decarbonisation projects supported through the Whole System Research and Innovation in Decarbonisation programme, new engagement activity to shape the Private Sector Investment Strategy for Mid Wales, and continued collaboration through our Regional Skills Partnership.

Several events featured in this newsletter are taking place this week — so don't miss out. Take a look through the updates below to find out what's happening and how you can get involved.

Thank you for staying connected and supporting growth across Mid Wales.

[The Growing Mid Wales Team](#)

Cover: WSRID projects tour, see story below

Content:

- Energy: Whole System Research and Innovation in Decarbonisation news
- Private Sector Investment Strategy workshops
- AgriTech & FoodTech news
- Regional Skills Partnership's recent activity
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund news from the region
- Other news - updates and opportunities shared from partner organisations

Innovation in action: WSRID projects showcase progress across Mid Wales

Growing Mid Wales and the Welsh Government recently visited the four Whole System Research and Innovation in Decarbonisation (WSRID) projects to review progress and see first-hand how innovation is helping support the transition to Net Zero across the region.

The day began at AberInnovation, where project teams from Challoch, Lafan and Water to Water presented their work, exploring new approaches to renewable energy, sustainable agriculture and decarbonisation. The visit continued with a tour of Cefn Croes wind farm, supporting the Challoch project, before travelling to Llanidloes to hear about the HARVEST project led by the Centre for Energy Equality and visit participating local sites.

The WSRID programme is helping to position Mid Wales at the forefront of research and innovation in decarbonisation — supporting practical solutions that benefit rural communities, strengthen the regional economy and contribute to Wales' Net Zero ambitions.

For more information on these projects, visit our website: <https://www.growingmid.wales/WSRID>



Power from the farm

We are pleased to support this event hosted by the LAFAN project, which has received funding from us through the Welsh Government's Whole Systems Research and Innovation for Decarbonisation (WSRID) programme — to test low-carbon solutions in real-world rural settings.

 18 March 2026  Gelli Aur College Farm

The event will bring together farmers, researchers and stakeholders to explore how on-farm resources could support renewable energy generation, decarbonisation and new economic opportunities for rural areas.

Interested in the future of rural energy? Don't miss the opportunity to join the conversation:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ygni-or-fferm-power-from-the-farm-tickets-1983538953405?aff=oddtcreator>



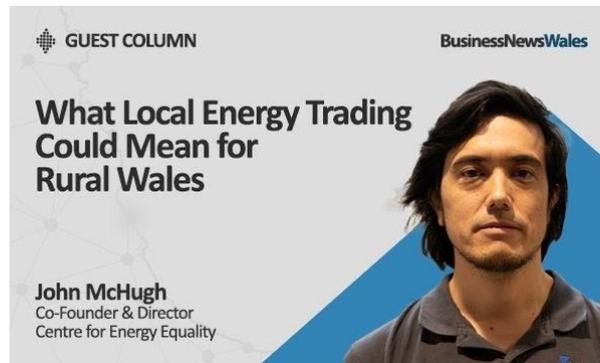
HARVEST: Exploring local energy trading for rural Wales

John McHugh, Founder and Director of Centre for Energy Equality, featured in our latest podcast collaboration with Business News Wales. John talks about the HARVEST (Holistic Agricultural and Rural Virtual Energy System Transition) project.

The project is exploring how farms and rural communities could generate, use and trade energy locally — helping retain economic value within rural areas while supporting the transition to Net Zero.

HARVEST is supported through Growing Mid Wales via the Welsh Government's Whole Systems Research and Innovation in Decarbonisation (WSRID) challenge fund, which is backing innovative decarbonisation solutions across Mid Wales.

Read the [full article](#) and learn more about the wider WSRID programme on our [website](#).



Private Sector Investment Strategy workshops

To support the development of the Private Sector Investment Strategy (PSIS) for Mid Wales, Growing Mid Wales — with support from Savills — is hosting a series of online sector workshops.

These sessions form part of our wider engagement activity to help inform the strategy. While the workshops are not linked to funding decisions relating to the Growing Mid Wales Capital Investment Pipeline, they provide a valuable opportunity to share insights on the opportunities and challenges involved in attracting investment to Mid Wales.

Please note: Registration is to express interest only. Confirmation and joining details will follow for those allocated a place.

A series of online sector workshops will take place during the week commencing 16 March 2026, covering:

 Agriculture, Forestry & Horticulture

 Tourism, Hospitality, Food & Drink

 Construction

 Digital

 Manufacturing

 Energy

 Register your interest:

<https://bit.ly/GweithdaiTCC-GMWWorkshops>



**Gweithdai Strategaeth
Fuddsoddi'r Sector Preifat**

Private Sector Investment
Strategy Workshops

*Help shape investment priorities
for Mid Wales*

*Helpwch lunio blaenoriaethau
buddsoddi ar gyfer Canolbarth Cymru*

Week commencing 16 March 2026 | Wythnos yn dechrau 16 Mawrth 2026
Ar-lein | Online

The graphic features a central text area flanked by two vertical columns of images. The left column shows a cow, a stone wall, a greenhouse, a coastal view, and a meeting. The right column shows a person at a desk, a computer monitor with charts, two workers in safety gear, a glowing lightbulb, and a woman in a business suit.

Mid and North Wales on stage at BioSolutions for Tomorrow's World

At the recent BioSolutions for Tomorrow's World event in Glasgow, discussions explored a range of topics — from biosimilars in manufacturing to food innovation and the role of biotechnology in restoring environments.

Our Agri-Tech Food-Tech Cluster Management Organisation colleague from AberInnovation, Dr Rhian Hayward MBE, shared insights on the Innovate UK Launchpad programme and the

growing momentum behind Agri-Tech and Food-Tech innovation across Mid and North Wales.

Through our clusters, we're proud to be supporting collaboration between researchers, businesses and innovators to accelerate new ideas and technologies across the agrifood sector.

Events like this bring together industry, academia and policymakers from across the UK to explore how innovation can support a more resilient and sustainable food system.

Interested in our Agri-Tech Food-Tech Clusters? Find out more here: <https://www.growingmid.wales/AgriTechFoodTech>



Agrifood innovation in action in Wales

The first Wales Agrifood Tech Innovation Expo was held recently. It brought farmers, food producers, researchers and innovators together at AberInnovation to explore how technology and collaboration can shape the future of the sector.

From sustainable production to on-farm connectivity and food innovation, the event held on 5 March showcased the strength of Wales' agrifood ecosystem and the opportunities that come from working together.

Events like this help spark new ideas, partnerships and projects across farming, food, research and technology.

Interested in being part of future collaboration? Find out more about agri&food tech innovation clusters and how to get involved:

Missed out this year? Save the date of next year's event, to be held on **4 March 2027**. Updates will be first available from [Cywain](#), Mentera



Regional Skills Partnership's recent activity: Shaping the future of skills in Mid Wales



1 - National Training Federation for Wales conference

Skills and workforce development continue to be a key focus for partners across Mid Wales. Our Mid Wales Regional Skills team recently attended the National Training Federation for Wales (NTfW) Conference 2026 — *Apprenticeships: Shaping Skills for a New Era*. The conference brought together employers, training providers and partners from across Wales to discuss the future of apprenticeships and workforce development, with Regional Skills Partnerships from across Wales also delivering one of the workshops during the event.

Ensuring Mid Wales has a strong voice in national discussions is vital to supporting local learners and helping businesses access the skilled workforce they need.

Closer to home, the Regional Skills Partnership recently brought together industry representatives through two cluster group meetings — one for the Construction sector in

Newtown and another for Manufacturing and Engineering in Welshpool. Discussions focused on key updates across apprenticeships, qualifications and careers support, including progress on [Careers in 360](#), construction sector mapping, the CymruTech Park proposal, and the new Local Growth Fund.

The Manufacturing and Engineering meeting was hosted by Morland in Welshpool, winners of the Powys Business Awards Business and Schools Award 2025, with Rachel Jones and her team providing an insightful tour of the company following the meeting. Contributions from Careers Wales also helped highlight the importance of connecting businesses, learners and training opportunities across the region.



2 - Morland tour

UK Shared Prosperity Fund news

Powys

Through the 2025/26 Transition Year

The 2025/26 Transition Year of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) is now underway, helping ensure that vital support for Powys residents, businesses, and communities continues seamlessly while a future funding framework is developed. Powys has been allocated £9.1 million to maintain delivery across priority areas and avoid gaps in essential services during the transition period.

The Transition Year continues to fund activity under four established themes (with example projects):

- **Healthy, Safe and Inclusive Communities**

Powys County Council's Carbon Reduction – Invest to Save project is delivering 40 decarbonisation upgrades across 24 public buildings—such as solar PV, battery storage, LED lighting, and improved heating systems—to cut energy use, reduce costs, and support the Council's path to Net Zero.

Awyr Iach (Fresh Air) is developing and testing a clear referral pathway between healthcare professionals and an outdoor health and wellbeing service at Bro Ddyfi Community Hospital through workshops, simple educational resources, and close collaboration with hospital and GP teams.

 What does Awyr Iach offer and how can I sign up? - [Watch this 3 min film](#)

- **Support for Business**

Delivered by Antur Cymru, the Gofnod Masnachu / Local Business Support project provides in-person business support across Powys through hubs in Newtown and Brecon and county-wide workshops, offering diagnostics, one-to-one advice, test trading, practical training, specialist guidance, and networking opportunities for pre-start, new, and established businesses.

- **Thriving Places**

The Events and Tourism Fund, delivered by Powys County Council, supports vibrant, resilient communities by investing in a wide range of festivals, cultural activities, and local events across Powys in 2026, helping strengthen community identity, boost local pride, attract visitors, and stimulate the wider economy through grants, coordination, and marketing support.

- **Skills**

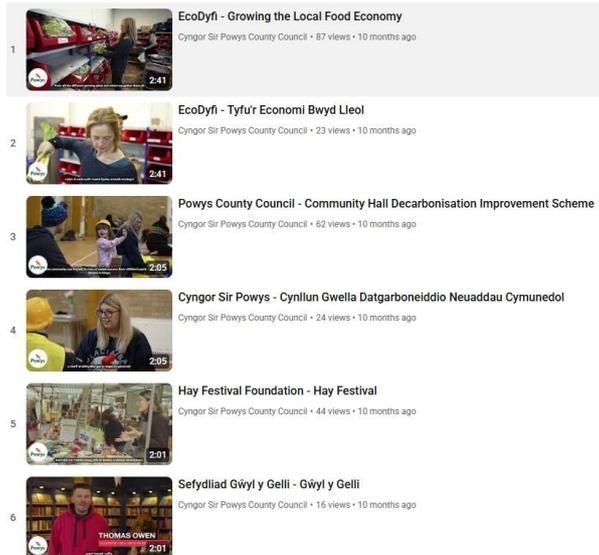
The Early Intervention Youth Support – Phase 2 project provides targeted early help for 11–16-year-olds at risk of becoming NEET by delivering group activities, one-to-one support and community engagement to build confidence, resilience and positive choices, working with schools and local organisations to re-engage young people and help 100 of them move towards education or training over the Transition Year.

Projects supported during the Transition Year are already delivering outcomes—ranging from business growth and job creation to community development and environmental improvements. Activity funded under the Transition Year plays a central role in preserving continuity, responding to local needs, and ensuring that communities and businesses across Powys continue to benefit from targeted investment until the next funding phase begins.

The Impact of Powys SPF Funding

You can explore a collection of project videos showcasing the impact earlier SPF-funded initiatives have had across Powys. This growing playlist highlights success stories, community benefits, and the innovative work taking place across the county—offering a glimpse of what continued investment is helping to deliver.

 Watch [here](#)



Ceredigion

‘Ein Cegin’ strengthens community connections through food, creativity, and sustainable growth

As the cost-of-living crisis continues to impact families across the UK, nearly one in four working parents now rely on food banks. In response to this growing need, Ein Cegin in Cardigan has developed an innovative, community-led model that is being recognised as a template for other towns across Ceredigion.

Ein Cegin supports the Farmers’ Market while delivering a vibrant programme of community art projects and cookery workshops in partnership with local organisations and artists. The initiative is part-funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and delivered by the Cynnal y Cardi team on behalf of Ceredigion County Council, responding directly to priorities set out in the 2023–2028 Local Wellbeing Plan.

Read the full article [here](#).



Connecting innovation and business in Mid Wales

Growing Mid Wales will be attending the upcoming Mid Wales Business Innovation Exchange at Aberystwyth University's Arts Centre and AberInnovation, alongside partners and businesses from across the region.

Representatives from our Regional Skills Partnership, Growth Deal and Energy teams will be there to connect with businesses, share insights and highlight the support available to help organisations innovate, grow and adapt in a changing business environment.

The event will bring together businesses, support organisations and sector experts to explore key challenges and opportunities facing the region, including technology, finance, cyber security and the transition to net zero.

Find out more about the event:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mid-wales-business-innovation-exchange-tickets-1983361728320?aff=oddtcreator>



Other news - updates and opportunities shared from partner organisations

CymruTech Park: next steps for Newtown's technology and manufacturing hub

Following last month's announcement that Powys County Council is looking to secure land for the proposed CymruTech Park development in Newtown, the project is continuing to move forward.

A pre-planning consultation on the ambition to develop a new technology park and advanced manufacturing centre for Mid Wales — on a site next to Newtown College — will open soon.

In the meantime, Cabinet Member for a More Prosperous Powys, Powys County Councillor Glyn Preston has been on site to have a look at the 4.75-hectares, next to Newtown College.



Watch what he had to say: https://youtube.com/shorts/gcR_Y58gteg

The ambition is for the development to support around 400 jobs and generate an estimated £100 million economic boost for the region.

Anyone with queries about the plans can contact the council's economic development team at: economicdevelopment@powys.gov.uk

Newtown walking, wheeling and cycling engagement event

Transport for Wales is hosting an in-person engagement event at Hafan Yr Afon, Newtown (20 March 2026, 11am–6pm) to gather views on improving walking, wheeling and cycling in the town.

Feedback will help inform improvements aligned with the Mid Wales Regional Transport Plan, developed by Growing Mid Wales through the Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee (There will be more news on the Plan in next month's newsletter).

Find out more and get involved: <https://haveyoursay.tfw.wales/newtown-walking-cycling-and-wheeling>

DWEUD EICH DWEUD HAVE YOUR SAY

Rydym am glywed eich barn ar gerdded, olwynio a beicio yn y Drefnewydd. Dewch i'n gweld yn:

Marchnad Y Drefnewydd
11am - 3pm ddydd Mawrth, 3 Mawrth

Hafan Yr Afon
11am - 6pm dydd Gwener, 20 Mawrth

We want to hear your thoughts on walking, wheeling and cycling in Newtown. Please visit us at:

Newtown Market
11am - 3pm on Tuesday, 3 March

Hafan Yr Afon
11am - 6pm on Friday, 20 March



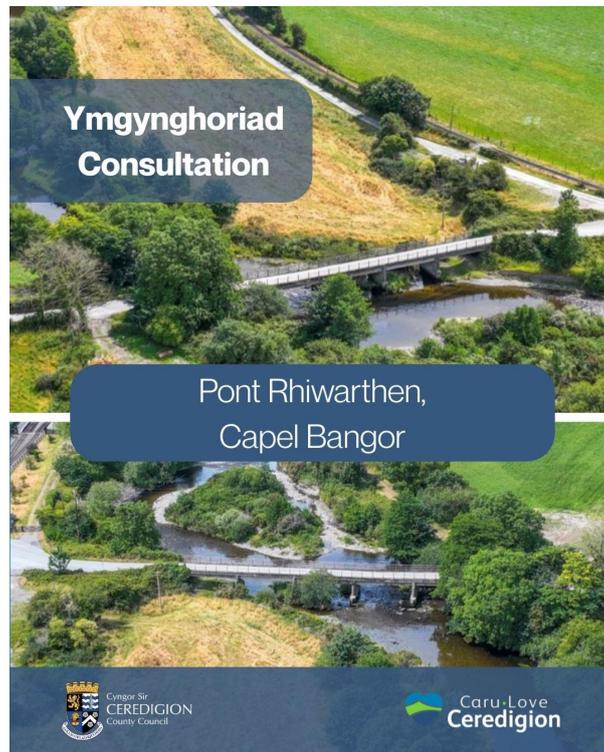
Have your say on the future of Pont Rhiwarthen, Capel Bangor

Ceredigion County Council is inviting residents to share their views on the future of Pont Rhiwarthen in Capel Bangor as part of a public consultation open until **22 March 2026**.

Feedback will help inform improvements aligned with the Mid Wales Regional Transport Plan, developed by Growing Mid Wales through the Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee.

Find out more and share your views before the consultation closes:

<https://www.ceredigion.gov.uk/your-council/consultations/pont-rhiwarthen-capel-bangor/>



Food Centre Wales celebrates 30 years supporting Welsh food and drink businesses

For three decades, the Centre has played a vital role in driving innovation, entrepreneurship and growth — here in Mid Wales and across the nation.

Looking ahead, the proposed Food Manufacturing Innovation Centre (FMIC) is one of the projects being considered for Mid Wales Growth Deal funding — building on this strong legacy and further strengthening our regional food and drink ecosystem.

As part of the anniversary celebrations, a Start-Up Surgery will take place on 18 March 2026 — offering practical insights and expert advice for new and growing food and drink entrepreneurs.

To reserve your place: ✉ gen@foodcentrewales.org.uk | ☎ 01559 362230

More information [here](#).



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 Instagram and LinkedIn pages, and YouTube channel:

www.instagram.com/growingmidwales/

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

<https://www.youtube.com/@TCC-GMW>

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.



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Canolbarth Cymru
Growing
Mid Wales