

The Welsh Language Working Group for the Environmental Sector



**THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE
HAND IN HAND**

Annual Review 2007- 08

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The Welsh Language Working Group for the Environmental Sector— 'The Environment and the Welsh Language Hand in Hand'

1 Chairman's Introduction

It's a pleasure to be introducing the first Annual Review of the Welsh Language Working Group for the Environmental Sector.

The Working Group held its first meeting on the 22nd of June 2007. However, a good few years of hard work and dedication by a number of individuals and organisations had preceded that point.

It all began with the Countryside Council for Wales deciding that action was needed to address the increasing problem of being unable to recruit Welsh speaking professionals to fill vacancies. A long term vision and clear plan was needed to address the problem - this was when the Student Sponsorship Scheme was born.

The aim was to sponsor Welsh speaking students to undertake various environmental courses, and in so doing to highlight the career opportunities available to them as specialists within the field. In 2003/04, 6 post-graduate students were the first to take advantage of the sponsorship available. The Scheme has since developed and grown from strength to strength.

At the time of writing, 111 under-graduate and post-graduate students have benefited from the Scheme. The Scheme, now known as AmNawdd, sponsors around 40 students annually with Environment Agency Wales, Forestry Commission Wales and Mantais (through the Centre for Welsh Medium Higher Education) having now joined the Countryside Council for Wales as sponsors.

Through the development of the AmNawdd Scheme and the formation of close working relationships with partners such as the Higher Education sector, we soon realised that there was so much more work that could be done in relation to developing and integrating all aspects of the Welsh language agenda within the work

of the environmental sector in Wales. As a result, the Working Group and its Sub-Groups seemed a natural evolution.

So that's how it all started, and this is where we are at today. This Annual Review, which hopefully will be the first of many to come, looks back at our achievements over the last year and also outlines some aspects of the work we want to undertake in the future.

I hope you find this Annual Review interesting and informative. If you have an interest in joining the Working Group or any of its Sub-Groups, or would like further information about the work we do, please visit our website: www.amgylchedd.com

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members. The progress made so far has only been possible because of the enthusiasm, hard work, dedication and commitment of everyone involved.

Dr Dyfed Elis-Gruffydd
Chairman



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2 About the Working Group

The aim of the Working Group is to develop a strong partnership between environmental organisations and other partners in order to promote, develop and mainstream the use of Welsh in a strategic and co-ordinated way within the environmental sector in Wales.

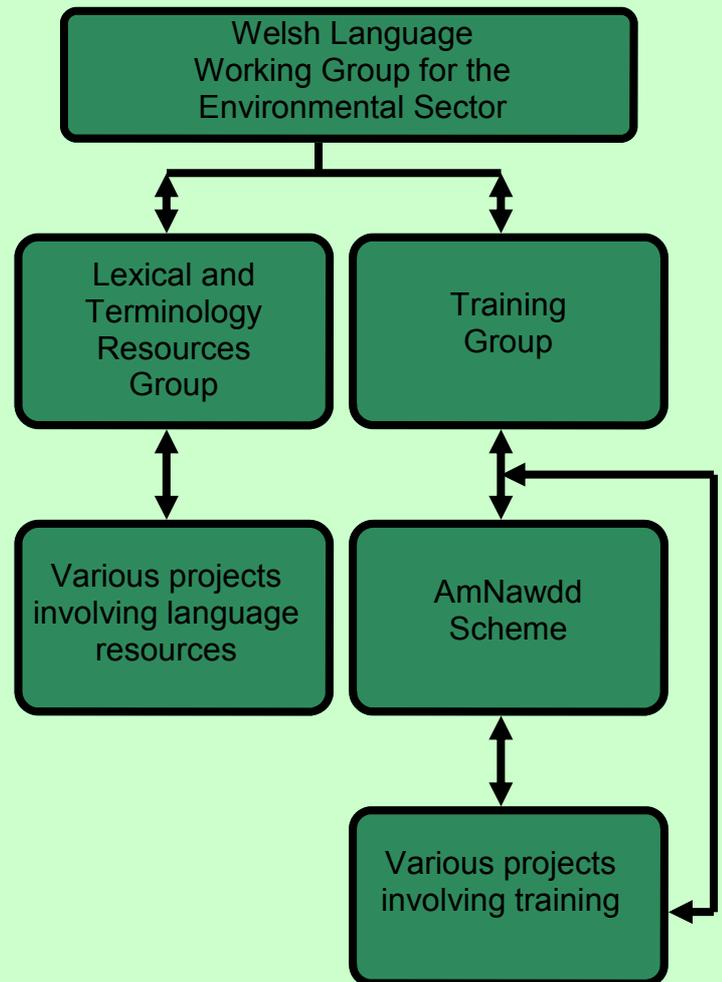
Main Objectives

The main objectives of the Working Group is to work in partnership to:

- improve Welsh medium and bilingual services for customers;
- contribute towards mainstreaming the Welsh language within the sector cost-effectively;
- increase the number of Welsh-speakers within the sector;
- build and develop a Welsh ethos within the sector;
- increase the use of the Welsh language within the sector; and
- contribute towards implementing environmental bodies' Welsh Language Schemes cost-effectively.



3 Structure



4 What's happened during the year?

Lexical and Terminology Resources Group

Despite being a very specialised field of work, there are many individuals, groups and bodies across Wales working on various different terminology projects at any one time. From the outset therefore, it was decided that an important function of this Group would be to share information and raise awareness of projects involving the development of environmental terms. Developing and co-ordinating the work in this way, minimises the duplication of efforts and ensures a more efficient use of valuable resources.

Another important aspect of the work is access to those resources. Work has been progressing on making resources more accessible by means of information technology, publishing, promotion and marketing.

The Group have also developed and agreed a work programme for the next three years. The projects within the work programme have been prioritised according to the resources available and the identified needs within the environmental sector. Some of the projects and actions to be undertaken are:

- The development of climate change vocabulary and terms;
- Developing a list of names of butterflies and moths;
- Developing a list of names of dragonflies and damselflies;
- Habitats Management vocabulary terms;
- Developing a list of landscape terms; and
- To include the list of species in updated versions of CySill and CysGair.



Training Group

The Training group not only works closely with the Centre for Welsh Medium Higher Education to promote Welsh medium education and training in relevant subjects, but also promotes occupational training and in-service training through the medium of Welsh.

One exiting aspect of the Group's work is the development of an eco-linguistic course. The course will aim to promote awareness of eco-linguistic aspects within the environmental sector, and understanding the relevance of eco-linguism as a principle, in that it:

- establishes the arguments in favour of conserving and promoting minority languages in the context of the ecological arguments for conserving and promoting biodiversity; and
- facilitates the interpretation of Welsh as a social 'eco-system' which is rare an vulnerable and an integral part of Wales' landscape that deserves due attention from environmentalists that pursue holistic approaches to Wales' environment.

The future work programme will include organising annual environmental events, developing a language improvement and support pack for students and holding one day seminars for translators.

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Cynllun Noddi Amgylcheddol Cyfrwng Cymraeg



The Scheme was established for the purpose of:

- increasing the potential number of Welsh speaking staff and specialists in the environmental sphere;
- offering career opportunities to Welsh speakers in environmental fields by providing appropriate and relevant work placements;
- promoting and increasing Welsh medium higher education provision in environmental subjects; and
- encouraging Welsh speaking environmental students to follow post-graduate courses in order to improve their skills and increase their opportunities to gain employment in the environmental sphere.



The Scheme offers sponsorship to Welsh speakers following graduate or post-graduate studies partially through the medium of Welsh. As part of the sponsorship, the students are allocated work placements with one of the environmental bodies. The students are offered:

- £1,500 and 5 weeks work placement as undergraduates; or
- £1,000 and 4 weeks work placement as post-graduates.

An important qualification criteria for the Scheme is that students have to complete a minimum of 40 credits through the medium of Welsh on a graduate course over three years, or 20 credits on a post-graduate course.

In 2007/08, 40 students were sponsored through the AmNawdd Scheme.

Effectiveness of AmNawdd Scheme

By keeping in touch with graduates who have received past sponsorship we are able to monitor the effectiveness of the Scheme. It is very encouraging to note that:

- A high percentage of former AmNawdd scheme graduates are now working within the environmental sector.
- A very high percentage of AmNawdd graduates are working in Wales.
- A high percentage of AmNawdd graduates are using Welsh from day to day in their posts.

One Day Seminar for Students

For the second year running, a one day seminar for students was held on the 12th of March 2008 at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth.

The aim of the seminar is to share practical information with students who are sponsored or who have been sponsored by the AmNawdd Scheme. In addition, the seminar enables environmental organisations to highlight and promote career opportunities available.



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Climate Change: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow



During 2007/08 a lot of hard work was put into organising a pioneering two day conference on climate change which was held at the Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod on the 14th and 15th of April 2008.

There have been many climate change conferences in the last few years, but what made this unique?

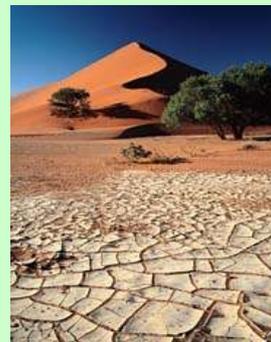
For one thing, the conference was conducted entirely through the medium of Welsh—the first as far as we know of its kind.

Another aspect was the conference attendees. Not only were individuals and organisations with an interest or an expertise in climate change present, but also over 40 university students from across Wales who were undertaking various environmentally based courses.



This gave an unique opportunity for the current experts, specialists and representatives of various organisations across Wales to discuss and debate these important issues with the experts and specialists of tomorrow.

The conference was opened by Jane Davidson AM, the Minister for the Environment, Sustainability and Housing in the Welsh Assembly Government.



A wide range of presentations were given, starting with a historical account of global warming and cooling from a geological perspective.

Current thinking on the future effects of climate change both locally, nationally and globally was discussed in detail. Challenges for environment agencies, national and local governments as well as wider organisations were also looked at.

The conference ended with strong messages coming from delegate discussions at the workshops.

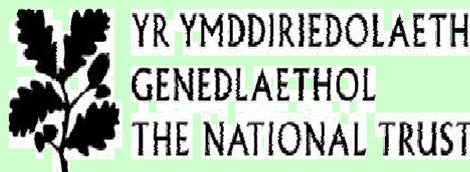


The Working Group would like to thank Cwmni Iaiti for the excellent administration and organisation of the conference. In addition, special thanks goes to the event sponsors, without whom the conference would not have been possible:

Countryside Council for Wales, Environment Agency Wales, Forestry Commission Wales, Mantais, Welsh Assembly Government, Welsh Language Board, S4/C, Y Papur Gwyrdd and Snowdonia National Park Authority.

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5 The Partners



For further information, please visit our website:
www.amgylchedd.com