

LUNZ Hub Workshop Report

JULY 2024

‘Beth rydym yn ei wybod?; Beth nad ydym yn ei wybod?; ac opsiynau ar gyfer sero net, natur a phobl yng Nghymru’

**5ed Mehefin 2024, 10.00-15.30
Pafiliwn Rhyngwladol CAFC**

‘What do we know?; What do we not know?; and options for net zero, nature and people in Wales’

**5th June 2024, 10.00-15.30
RWAS International Pavillion**

Summary

The stakeholder workshop consisted of two main sections: the morning focussed on evidence for net zero pathways and the afternoon feasibility for net zero pathways in Wales.

There were 43 people in attendance, representing 32 different organisations (see Appendix 1).

The morning session divided people into five pre-determined break-out groups made up of different organisations and industries with a facilitator / notetaker to help collate the discussion. Each group were asked to discuss the evidence for a list of net zero actions based on the LULUCF and Agricultural GHG inventories (see Appendix 2), to come to an agreement if they think there is sufficient evidence for the impact of such a measure, if the evidence is partial or disputed, or if there is not sufficient evidence at all. They were then asked if this evidence is represented in Wales too and if the wider community (including people like land managers) know and accept this knowledge (if applicable).

The afternoon session used the same inventory lists to discuss and highlight agreeable ‘low-hanging fruit’, plausible but more challenging options and then future options that show good promise for Wales to take forward with a framework for a bottom-up approach to net zero. This discussion was framed with a presentation of responses from 15 stakeholders to a pre-workshop survey of perceptions of net zero options for Wales (summary spreadsheet available separately to this report).

The day closed with feedback provided via Slido, and thanks were given for attending.

CURRENT EVIDENCE AND KNOWLEDGE: MORNING SESSION

Break-out groups discussed the evidence, evidence within Wales and the wider knowledge or acceptance of this perceived evidence for each of the net zero actions, deciding collectively if the evidence is known, partial or not available, or is unknown (“do not know”).

The collated data from the five groups is available separately to this report as a spreadsheet.

There is good general consensus of where good evidence is held and where only partial or little/ no evidence is held for each net zero action (both generally and for Wales, specifically).

There was less consensus for how widely this evidence is known or accepted.

The key messages shared during the session were:

- There is generally good evidence for most net zero actions.
- Yet, it was noted by many that the unknown was why this evidence has not translated into behavioural change, or indeed what is needed to aid this behavioural change.
- Multiple groups discussed the evidence for the knock-on impacts (i.e. offshoring carbon), with some groups including this in their review of evidence, while others noted it was largely unknown how this would impact and be accounted for.
- A common response to the net zero actions was, 'It depends', highlighting the nuance involved with many of these actions, with sub-categories and ways of implementing being key to the evidence and known impact they would have. A simple headline toolkit is not sufficient, as this is a complex challenge.
- A stand-out comment was, "I'm surprised we need more livestock evidence as we are in a livestock nation, surely we should and need to be the best at this knowledge?!".

PERCEPTIONS FOR NET ZERO PATHWAYS: AFTERNOON SESSION

Summary of pre-workshop responses

Bridget Emmett shared the analysis of the pre-workshop survey asking about perceptions of net zero options for Wales.

The survey responses highlighted how across industries and in some cases within industries there was mixed consensus for the best options for Wales net zero pathways.

It should be noted that the discussion of the findings highlighted the different approaches to answering the questions, especially the challenge of nuance when each option is unpacked further. This means some of the perceived differences may be as a result of question interpretation, rather than wide-scale differences of opinion for net zero pathways.

It should also be noted that the responses should not be over-extrapolated to be deemed representative of a whole sector, given the small sample size / number of respondents.

Overall, this exercise and presentation helped to unpack the challenges that lie before us for agreeing a cross-industry approach, with many actors, trade-offs and nuances that need to be worked out in targeted discussions.

The survey result data are available separately to this report as an anonymised spreadsheet, with a summary of this analysis is available in Appendix 3.

Break-out groups: key outcomes

The break-out groups were first asked to discuss the ways we approach evaluating net zero pathways, recognising each person may weigh viability in different ways, such as putting higher importance on scale, current viability, ease of application or uptake, potential impact per hectare, or potential impact per financial investment.

There is no clear answer to this question, but it was a helpful recognition of the different trade-offs and priorities involved when selecting net zero actions.

The groups were then set the task of refining the list to their:

- 'Low-hanging fruit for Wales' (i.e. easy and fairly impactful), and asking the question why these might not be happening at scale currently?



- 'Options with most potential for Wales' (i.e. maybe more difficult but could have large impact), and asking the question of what is needed to make these happen?
- 'Future pathways for Wales to explore' (i.e. clearly not possible in Wales in the shorter term / current science and technology, but show promise).

The five sub-groups fed back to the whole room with there being general consensus for the following categories:

Low-hanging fruit:

- Improved agricultural efficiency (by multiple groups)
- Peatland rewetting (by multiple groups)
- Agroforestry (by multiple groups)
- Hedgerow planting & management (by multiple groups)
- Management of organic manure
- Herbal leys
- Younger finishing of livestock

Options with most potential for Wales

- Renewable energy (by multiple groups)
- Woodland creation (by multiple groups)
- Feed additives
- Agroforestry
- Single carbon auditing / footprinting tool for data to improve analysis & decision-making

Future pathways for Wales to explore

- Alternative proteins
- Green finance (especially linked to woodland creation)
- Agroecological whole system approaches
- Supply chain infrastructure
- Animal and plant breeding
- Planting more legumes
- Robotics

The above lists are likely an oversimplification of a huge amount of discussion, that as with the morning session came with a challenge of practical application of these actions rely on detailed understanding and consideration of the action specific nuance for a certain space and place; the possible knock-on impacts related to any land-use change; and the possible knowledge gap for successful behavioural changes these actions may require.

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK

Overall feedback has been very positive, with participants having found the day interesting and well-organised, if challenging when considering the complexity and scale of the topic.

The Slido feedback responses (see Appendix 4) show there is a desire for further detailed discussion to take this workshop starting point forward to actionable priorities. Many suggest the next steps are to work through some of the nuances related to the net zero actions and highlight those key evidence gaps or wider lack of knowledge to produce outputs and feed into policy for stakeholder-led impact.



NEXT STEPS

This report is to be shared with workshop participants and those who sent their apologies for attendance, the wider LUNZ Hub and AICCF networks and Welsh Government representatives. More detailed discussions will also take place to refine the most practical and impactful next steps we might be able to take.

These next steps for LUNZ are likely to include:

- A second LUNZ and AICCF workshop is likely to be Wednesday 16th October 2024. It will be split into two sessions:
 - Morning: Improve wider knowledge of the evidence base regarding some key areas that many think should be part of the net zero options for Wales, e.g. peatlands, use of the inventories.
 - Afternoon: Explore the wider social and economic barriers which are currently preventing uptake of actions.
- Development of LUNZ policy and evidence briefing notes for key evidence gaps and possible future priority net zero actions.
- LUNZ Hub WP3 pathway scenarios for Wales meeting scheduled for early-2025, to move forward the understanding of how options might stack for pathway development.



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