

'I don't know if it's climate change but those floods were awful and I think we're going to see more of them but I can't afford to move'

We found that

Being closer to nature supports better mental and physical well-being

- We feel fortunate to have access to green spaces 'on our doorstep'.
- We have over 1,550 km of free, public rights of way and 19 Km of coastal path.
- We have world class parks and beaches, with 13 Green Flag, 21 Green Community Flag, and 3 Blue Flag awards.
- The percentage of accessible, green space within 300m of households is:
 - 67% in Bridgend
 - 57% in Merthyr Tydfil, and
 - 27% in Rhondda Cynon Taf
- Whilst we said that we used green space more during the pandemic, if we are less well off, we used green space less.



We found that

Poor air quality impacts health and the environment

- Air quality is generally good.
- Air and noise pollution are highest in less well off areas.
- We have 3 locations in Cwm Taf Morgannwg where pollution levels are higher than the national standard.
- Our Healthy Hillside Project has reduced the number of wildfires and the effects they have on our area.



We found that

- There are 40,000 properties at risk from flooding and this is likely to increase with Climate Change.
- Excess water run-off gives the highest risk of flooding.
- Understanding the whole area will allow us to plan better for the future using 'green' solutions.

The risk of flooding to people and businesses is significant



We found that

Healthy rivers are important for people and making nature more resilient

- Only 23% of rivers are in Good condition, whilst over a third are in Poor or Bad condition.
- Between 2016 and 2020 there were over 140 pollution incidents.
- The Taf Bargoed Catchment Restoration Project works with communities to make the river healthy.



We found that

Biodiversity needs strengthening

- "We need to do more to help the environment".
- We have a unique landscape shaped by our industrial past. This gives us opportunities and challenges.
- Without a healthy ecosystem our natural resources cannot provide for current and future generations.
- People depend on nature to provide clean water and food.
- 17% of species in Wales are at risk of extinction.
- In the UK, the spread of species has gone down by 5% since 1970, with 2% in the last decade.
- Our most important Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Special Areas of Conservation are not healthy.



We found that

- Wales uses both renewable and non-renewable resources in an unsustainable way.
- Councils are recycling more than 64% of waste.
- The Pen y Cymoedd wind farm can produce enough electricity to power 15% of Welsh homes annually.
- Dealing with fly tipping and litter is costly and impacts on communities and wildlife.
- The Welsh coastline offers opportunities to 'trap' carbon and could help us respond to the Climate and Nature Emergencies.

We need to use our resources better

