**Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee**

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**About Cwmpas**

Cwmpas is a development agency working for positive change.

We are a co-operative, and our focus is on building a fairer, greener economy and a more equal society, where people and planet come first. The current economic system is failing to tackle the key challenges our communities face today, from climate change to economic hardship. It does not have to be this way.

Our economy and society could – and should – work in the interests of people and the planet. Established in 1982 as the Wales Co-operative Centre, at Cwmpas we’ve made it our mission to change the way our economy and society works.

**Decarbonisation of housing: decarbonising the private housing sector**

In this response, we would like to focus on the benefits of ensuring social enterprise plays a key role in the decarbonisation of the private housing sector in Wales. Social enterprises operate on the principles of the Triple Bottom line; people, planet, profit. This ensures that their social, environmental, economic purpose is at the heart of what they do. Many have environmental objectives and improving the local area at the heart of their social aims. It is also worth noting that many social enterprises have embedded circular economy principles within these environmental objectives.

The Welsh Government has set out its legal commitment to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, with an ambition to get there even sooner. Achieving this will take specific investments to decarbonise existing infrastructure in Wales, in areas such as housing and transport.

Welsh Government policies relating to decarbonisation should promote social enterprise as the business model of choice for organisations working and wanting to work in this area. There is also an opportunity to build more resilient communities and local economies, through scaling up social enterprises and community and locally-owned businesses with training and skills development in local communities as part of a just green transition.

**Maximising the role of the social enterprise sector in decarbonisation: Social Value**

The Government can play a key role in supporting the development of this sector in Wales by ensuring procurement practices for the decarbonisation of social housing prioritise social value to the same extent as economic cost. Facilitating the opportunities for social enterprise to scale up and deliver these contracts would further their ability to play a key role in decarbonising the private housing sector. We would also welcome further exploration of the role of the Government in nurturing the market to take advantage of this significant investment. The 2020/21 Social Enterprise Mapping exercise highlighted that many social enterprises would like to do more trade with the public sector but lack the knowledge, capacity or skills to do so.

However, we have seen examples across Wales of social enterprises stepping up to provide innovative solutions to social and environmental challenges in sustainable ways.

**Case Study – Creating Enterprise, Conwy**

Creating Enterprise is a social enterprise in Conwy. A subsidiary of Cartrefi Conwy, it started trading in 2015 and has quickly grown into the social contractor of choice for North Wales. It builds environmentally friendly homes using sustainable materials and is innovative in finding new ways to lower its carbon footprint, such as by sourcing eighty percent of its timber from Wales and constructing its frames onsite. As well as having an environmental mission, it has a social mission to create well-paid, full-time employment opportunities for the local community it serves. Its Creating Futures Academy helps local people find and access training, volunteering, and employment opportunities. In November 2020, it was named as the Fastest Growing Company in Wales. As a subsidiary of a housing association, it is a fantastic example of the innovative thinking that can embed social value and social enterprise in the housing sector in Wales. This team is the perfect example of how social enterprise can deliver on its three ambitions: business success, environmental sustainability, and helping people.

**Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith**

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**Amdanom ni**

Asiantaeth ddatblygu yw Cwmpas sy’n gweithio i greu newid er gwell.

Rydym yn gwmni cydweithredol sy’n canolbwyntio ar greu economi decach a gwyrddach a chymdeithas fwy cyfartal, lle mae pobl a’r blaned yn dod gyntaf. Nid yw’r system economaidd bresennol yn llwyddo i fynd i’r afael â’r heriau allweddol sy’n wynebu ein cymunedau heddiw, o’r newid yn yr hinsawdd i galedi economaidd. Does dim rhaid i bethau fod fel hyn.

Fe allai – ac fe ddylai – ein heconomi a’n cymdeithas weithio er budd pobl a’r blaned. Cenhadaeth Cwmpas, a sefydlwyd ym 1982 fel Canolfan Cydweithredol Cymru, yw newid y ffordd y mae ein heconomi a’n cymdeithas yn gweithio.

**Datgarboneiddio tai: datgarboneiddio'r sector tai preifat**

Yn yr ymateb hwn, hoffem ganolbwyntio ar fanteision sicrhau bod menter gymdeithasol yn chwarae rhan allweddol mewn ddatgarboneiddio’r sector tai preifat yng Nghymru. Mae mentrau cymdeithasol yn gweithredu ar egwyddorion y Llinell Driphlyg; pobl, planed, elw. Mae hyn yn sicrhau bod eu pwrpas cymdeithasol, amgylcheddol, economaidd wrth wraidd eu gwaith. Mae gan lawer o mentrau cymdeithasol amcanion amgylcheddol, a mae nhw yn roi gweithio i wella'r ardal leol wrth galon eu nodau cymdeithasol. Mae hefyd yn werth nodi bod llawer o fentrau cymdeithasol wedi ymgorffori egwyddorion economi gylchol yn yr amcanion amgylcheddol hyn.

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi nodi ei hymrwymiad cyfreithiol i gyflawni allyriadau sero net erbyn 2050, gydag uchelgais i wneud hynny hyd yn oed yn gynt. Er mwyn cyflawni hyn bydd angen buddsoddiadau penodol i ddatgarboneiddio’r seilwaith presennol yng Nghymru, mewn meysydd fel tai a thrafnidiaeth.

Dylai polisïau Llywodraeth Cymru sy’n ymwneud â datgarboneiddio hyrwyddo menter gymdeithasol fel y model busnes o ddewis i sefydliadau sy’n gweithio ac sydd am weithio yn y maes hwn. Mae cyfle hefyd i ail-adeiladu cymunedau ac economïau lleol, trwy gynyddu mentrau cymdeithasol a busnesau cymunedol a lleol gyda hyfforddiant a datblygu sgiliau mewn cymunedau lleol fel rhan o drawsnewidiad gwyrdd cyfiawn.

**Mwyhau rôl y sector menter gymdeithasol mewn datgarboneiddio: Gwerth Cymdeithasol**

Gall y Llywodraeth chwarae rhan allweddol wrth gefnogi datblygiad y sector hwn yng Nghymru drwy sicrhau bod arferion caffael ar gyfer datgarboneiddio tai cymdeithasol yn blaenoriaethu gwerth cymdeithasol i’r un graddau â chost economaidd. Byddai hwyluso’r cyfleoedd i fentrau cymdeithasol gynyddu a chyflawni’r contractau hyn yn hybu eu gallu i chwarae rhan allweddol wrth ddatgarboneiddio’r sector tai preifat. Byddem hefyd yn croesawu archwiliad pellach o rôl y Llywodraeth o ran meithrin y farchnad i fanteisio ar y buddsoddiad sylweddol hwn. Amlygodd ein hadroddiad Mapio Mentrau Cymdeithasol 2020/21 bod llawer o fentrau cymdeithasol yn eisiau masnachu mwy â’r sector cyhoeddus ond nad oes ganddynt y wybodaeth, y gallu na’r sgiliau i wneud hynny.

Fodd bynnag, rydym wedi gweld enghreifftiau ledled Cymru o fentrau cymdeithasol yn camu i fyny i ddarparu atebion arloesol i heriau cymdeithasol ac amgylcheddol mewn ffyrdd cynaliadwy.

**Astudiaeth Achos**

Creu Menter yw enw menter gymdeithasol yng Nghonwy. Mae’n is-gwmni i Cartrefi Conwy, a dechreuodd fasnachu yn 2015 gan dyfu’n gyflym yn gontractwr cymdeithasol o ddewis yng Ngogledd Cymru. Mae’n adeiladu tai sy’n gyfeillgar i’r amgylchedd gan ddefnyddio deunyddiau cynaliadwy ac mae’n dod o hyd i ffyrdd arloesol o leihau ei hôl-troed carbon, fel cael 80 y cant o’r pren o Gymru ac adeiladu ei fframiau ar y safle. Yn ogystal â’i chenhadaeth amgylcheddol, mae gan y fenter genhadaeth gymdeithasol i greu swyddi llawn amser sy’n talu’n dda yn y gymuned leol. Mae wedi sefydlu Academi Creu Dyfodol er mwyn helpu pobl leol i ddod o hyd i hyfforddiant, gwaith gwirfoddol, a chyfleoedd cyflogaeth. Ym mis Tachwedd 2020, cafodd y fenter ei henwi yn y Cwmni sydd wedi Tyfu’n Fwyaf Cyflym yng Nghymru. Mae’r tîm yn enghraifft berffaith o sut gall menter gymdeithasol gyflawni ei thair uchelgais: llwyddiant busnes, cynaliadwyedd amgylcheddol, a helpu pobl.