

Monmouthshire Environment Partnership Board ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES AND ACTION PLAN 2010/11

1 BACKGROUND

1.1 About the Board

Led by the County Council, the Monmouthshire Environment Partnership Board (EPB) brings together representatives of the key organisations responsible for shaping and delivering the environmental content of the county's Community Strategy.

The member organisations are the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, the Countryside Council for Wales, the Environment Agency Wales, the Forestry Commission, the Gwent Wildlife Trust, Monmouthshire County Council (Countryside, Environmental Health, Planning Policy, Sustainability, Transport, Waste), Monmouthshire GreenWeb, Monmouthshire Community Recycling, Rural Community Action, Energy Savings Trust, Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations and the Wye Valley AONB.

The Board aims to:

- foster communication between the relevant environmental organisations at a strategic level;
- help make partnership projects happen and to promote working together for the benefit of the county;
- assist the identification of environmental needs and action priorities of the people of Monmouthshire;
- contribute to the environmental aims, priorities and project programme of the evolving Community Strategy;
- monitor performance in delivering the Strategy and other relevant action programmes.

This document is particularly intended to address the third and fourth aims.

1.2 EPB Priorities for Monmouthshire 2006–08

Following a conference in 2006 the EPB provisionally concluded that the county's environmental priorities were:

- To safeguard and improve the global and local condition of the environment by increasing understanding, appreciation and responsible enjoyment of its qualities, and by encouraging contributions to its well being;
- To reduce non-renewable energy consumption through the efficient use of energy and to increase renewable energy consumption;
- To make progress towards making Monmouthshire a 'zero waste' county through waste reduction, re-use of waste, recycling and composting;

- To reduce the growth of environmentally damaging vehicle traffic through integrated measures that increase the use of the most sustainable travel modes or reduce the need to travel;
- To maintain, protect and enhance the visual quality, biodiversity and historic value of the urban and rural environments of Monmouthshire;
- To eliminate or reduce other sources of air, land and water pollution in the county.

The EPB has also identified five key project areas in which it hopes to generate increased collaboration and action, all with an emphasis on developing a focus on citizens' needs and their participation. These are:

- Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship – coordination and information sharing at a county level and joint project development;
- Waste – extending the 'zero waste' approach at a community level;
- Energy Efficiency – raising awareness, overcoming barriers and generating community projects;
- Sustainable Transport – better engagement with citizens – e.g. a Transport Forum or events;
- The Rural Landscape – strategic ecological connectivity networks across the landscape.

Work in these key project areas is being progressed variously by sub-groups or Board members. This approach aims to increase collaboration and action within the county.

2 ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OBJECTIVES

The EPB recognises the importance of progressing work within these identified priority areas. The EPB has developed a concise policy framework through which to deliver its focused outcomes, within the context of the Monmouthshire Community Strategy. In addition to tying in with the Community Strategy, the policy framework is allied to the goals of the constituent organisations and to reflect the main strategies and plans of national, regional and local government and environmental organisations.

Thus, this is not a comprehensive evidence-based detailed environmental strategy with targets and indicators. Partners' own strategies and plans, referenced below, provide more detail; the Board does not at present feel the need to, or have the resources to, assemble and monitor a detailed strategy. However, we will aim to keep this statement up-to-date.

2.1 Community Strategy Vision (2008)

By 2020 Monmouthshire will be a place where, *inter alia*:

- People live in more inclusive, cohesive, prosperous and vibrant communities, both urban and rural, where there is better access to local services, facilities and employment opportunities.

- The distinctive character of its built heritage, countryside and environmental assets has been protected and enhanced.
- People enjoy more sustainable lifestyles that give them opportunities for healthy activity, reduced reliance on private cars and minimised impact on the global environment.

Among the more detailed aspirations:

- *Services will be delivered locally wherever this is possible. People will benefit from good walking and cycling routes and have to use their cars less often.*
- *People are able to choose to live in a sustainable affordable home and are supported by services to do so.*
- *Our community will be clean, safe and cared for. People will make a local contribution to tackling the global issue of climate change and will acknowledge the effects that this has on our local environment.*

Priorities identified by the Local Service Board (2008–11) are:

- Transport/access to services and facilities
- Affordable and sustainable housing for our communities
- Taking local action in response to Climate Change
- More integrated, sustainable and accessible public services

2.2 A Summary of Environmental Objectives for Monmouthshire

This summary is intended to capture the main objectives of those organisations, working individually or in partnership, which are engaged in the protection and enhancement of the Monmouthshire environment. Most are represented on the EPB. It is based largely on the EPB Coordinator's review of the main current relevant plans, available on request. These plans are referred to in italics below.

2.2.1 Sustainability and Resilience

We will:

- Seek to mitigate and adapt to the global and local effects of climate change and reduced supplies of oil and other resources.
- Aim to ensure that our actions do not compromise the quality of life of future generations.
- Aim to maintain and, where consistent with our other aims, to improve the quality of life of our citizens by providing environmental services and by encouraging citizen engagement and self-reliance.
- Encourage the production or provision of goods and services as closely as reasonably possible to their use by citizens.
- Encourage all organisations and individuals to make environmental considerations a key factor in their decision-making.
- Encourage all organisations and also individuals to make sustainability considerations of all kinds a key factor in their planning and decision-making processes particularly by promoting the use of a sustainability checklist.

2.2.2 The Natural Environment

We will:

- ❑ Protect and enhance the quality and diversity of the county's best inland and coastal landscapes and most valuable wildlife habitats, while taking account of the need to manage the countryside as a productive resource.
- ❑ Ensure that opportunities are taken to enhance all landscapes and wildlife habitats, minimising the loss of biodiversity particularly by seeking a mosaic of inter-connected semi-natural habitats.
- ❑ Ensure that national targets for species and habitats, and targets reflecting local values, are translated into effective action.
- ❑ Provide a basis for monitoring progress.

(For more detail refer to Monmouthshire and Brecon Beacons National Park Unitary Development Plans, Brecon Beacons National Park Plan, Wye Valley AONB Management Plan, Severn River Basin Management Plan and Monmouthshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan)

2.2.3 The Built Environment

We will:

- ❑ Promote patterns of development that use the spare capacity of the existing infrastructure and services and enhance the viability of existing towns and villages.
- ❑ Improve the quality and attractiveness of our urban and rural settlements.
- ❑ Promote more sustainable homes and other buildings, particularly by more efficient use of energy.
- ❑ Seek the supply of high-quality, affordable and social housing in locations consistent with sustainable development.
- ❑ Protect and encourage the conservation of historic buildings and heritage sites.

(For more detail refer to Monmouthshire and National Park Unitary Development Plans and local regeneration action plans)

2.2.4 Resource Management

We will:

- ❑ Reduce carbon dioxide emissions through energy efficiency and the promotion of renewable energy generation where appropriate.
- ❑ Seek to ensure clean water in rivers, streams, lakes and groundwater.
- ❑ Promote sustainable use of water.
- ❑ Protect coastal areas and flood plains from flood risk so far as is consistent with economic and social considerations.
- ❑ Restrict development on flood plains.
- ❑ Prevent the pollution of land and soil, and deal with any past contamination.
- ❑ Increase the reuse, recycling and composting of waste material, reducing as far as possible the residual amount going to landfill or incineration.
- ❑ Identify suitable sites and sustainable technologies for dealing with residual waste in the short term, while longer term zero waste strategies are being developed.

- Plan for the sustainable use of minerals, minimising harm from their extraction, encouraging their reuse, and safeguarding important reserves.

(For more detail refer to Monmouthshire Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Strategy, Severn River Basin Management Plan, Monmouthshire and National Park Unitary Development Plans, Severn Shoreline Management Plan and (to be reviewed) Monmouthshire Waste Management Strategy)

2.2.5 Movement of Goods and People around the County

We will:

- Aim to reduce the emission of greenhouses gases and air pollution from transport by encouraging more sustainable forms of travel.
- Reduce congestion.
- Improve access for all to services, facilities and employment.
- Improve the quality of our public and community transport.
- Improve walking and cycling networks.
- Increase road safety.

(For more detail refer to Regional Transport Plan, Unitary Development Plans, Air Quality Action Plans and (to be reviewed) Local Transport Plan)

2.2.6 Recreation, Tourism and the Local Economy

We will:

- Maintain, improve and promote access to, and responsible enjoyment of, the countryside.
- Seek equality of access to the countryside.
- Aim to maximise the economic and health values of access to the countryside.
- Encourage economic development that is consistent with environmental objectives, such as green tourism, local food and timber initiatives, and heritage tourism.
- Encourage the take-up of financial support for land and building management consistent with our environmental objectives.

(For more detail refer to Monmouthshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan, Wye Waterway Plan, Brecon Beacons National Park Plan and ROWIP, Wye Valley AONB Management Plan, Monmouthshire Economic Development Strategy)

2.2.7 Engaging with Communities

We will work with other partners and the communities of Monmouthshire to:

- Make urban and rural environments cleaner, greener and more pleasant places to live, work and visit.
- Deal with local problems such as litter, dog-fouling, fly-tipping, vermin, graffiti, eyesores, vandalism, and noise.

(Ongoing work and programmes such as Environmental Grants and Tidy Towns address these matters)

- Raise awareness and understanding of the need to care for the environment in all the areas covered by this statement.
- Encourage and support good practice in education for sustainable development and global citizenship in local educational establishments.

- ❑ Promote sustainable living.
- ❑ Encourage and support citizen engagement in environmental decision-making and volunteering in environmental conservation and improvement.
- ❑ Encourage good environmental practice and, where appropriate working in partnership, by organizations in all sectors.

(For more detail refer to many of the plans cited above)

3 THE EPB ACTION PLAN

The following programme, which will be kept under review and modified when necessary, summarises actions that the EPB will carry out itself or for which the Board will take some responsibility. Our actions are intended to meet needs that we have identified and that are unlikely to happen without our intervention. This is therefore not a summary of the many actions planned by Board partners or others that require no significant action by the Board.

3.1 Energy

3.1.1 A Green Energy Area was coordinated by the EPB at the Monmouth Show in 2007 and 2008 and at the Usk Show in 2009, aiming to raise awareness and encourage individual members of the public, businesses and community groups to reduce energy use, invest in renewables and consider other transport options than individual private car use. Another Green Energy and Climate Change Area will be arranged in 2010 at the Usk Show, and a survey of visitors to the area undertaken to ensure that the most useful information is being made available.

Project	Result	Use	Benefit	Lead Partners	Timescale
Green Energy Area at agricultural shows	A one-stop information area on energy saving, low carbon transport and renewable energy technologies.	Provide advice and information about energy efficiency, renewable energy and green transport options	Reduced energy use, lower carbon emissions.	EPB, Energy Saving Trust, MCC	Annual. Usk Show 11 th Sept 2010, involving 8 groups/organisations including the EPB.

3.1.2 The Brecon Beacons National Park's Big Green Challenge has inspired community groups and individuals to conserve energy and invest in renewable energy technologies. This approach, and the experience gained could inspire people across Monmouthshire. The EPB received presentations

from Grenville Ham on The Green Valleys and Transition Groups in Monmouthshire at its Feb 2010 meeting, followed by further discussion in April 2010. EPB role should focus on disseminating information and on assisting removal of barriers to green energy developments (see 3.1.4).

Project	Result	Use	Benefit	Lead Partners	Timescale
Disseminate information and best practice from the Big Green Challenge across Monmouthshire via GreenWeb and other means.	More people and organisations have the information to enable them to be energy efficient and reduce their CO2 emissions.	Information can be used to reduce energy use and assist people to make informed choices.	Reduced energy use, lower carbon emissions.	BBNP, Green Valleys, Mon GreenWeb	Ongoing. Articles in Monmouthshire GreenWeb on-line newsletter (x4) during 2010-11. Disseminating information to members of EPB and community groups.

3.1.3 One of the priority issues for The Monmouthshire Local Service Board is to develop responses to the issue of climate change. The EPB will assist and support the Local Service Board with climate change related projects, events and initiatives. A practical action will focus on information sharing between EPB members on emissions reductions, including sharing best practice and office visits to explore how best practice has been achieved – eg good housekeeping measures. Smaller organisations in the EPB do not necessarily have resources to ensure continuous and progressive improvement in carbon reduction.

Project	Result	Use	Benefit	Lead Partners	Timescale
Share information and best practice between EPB members on reductions in CO2 emissions.	Learning is shared between EPB members, and CO2 emissions reduce overall.	Sharing best practice. Office visits will be offered to those requiring this.	Effective responses in terms of both mitigation and adaptation to climate change.	EPB partners.	Ongoing. One office visit to be offered during 2010-11.

3.1.4 There is an urgent need to move to a low or zero carbon economy in the light of the twin challenges of climate change and peak oil. A low carbon economy will minimise waste, make efficient use of natural resources, energy will be

generated by low carbon means and local needs will be met by local production. The EPB will support the zero carbon community approach, by focussing on removal of barriers to the development of renewables, which will enable communities to more readily get renewables projects going.

Project	Result	Use	Benefit	Lead Partners	Timescale
Explore ways to remove the barriers to the development of renewable energy, so that these technologies can be more readily adopted by community groups and individuals	Reduced CO2 emissions, more resilient communities.	Support for communities, local networks and groups to reduce carbon emissions, and obtain independent funding to enable further green projects to be developed locally.	Carbon reductions, support for local producers, waste reduction. The introduction of the Feed in Tariffs and Renewable Heat Initiative provides opportunities for community groups to benefit financially over the long term, and establish further green projects.	Local Service Board, EPB, Transition Town and other community groups, MCC, EAW, CCW, WAG and other regulatory bodies.	2010–2011, with review of progress and further actions needed in 2011.

3.1.5 There is a concern amongst ecologists that the rise in interest in small scale renewable energy generation could have a negative impact on protected species and their habitats if insensitively sited. There appears to be a lack of research and expert knowledge in this area, which needs to be rectified in order to ensure that the development of renewable energy technologies is not adversely affected, and that vulnerable species (eg bats and freshwater fauna) are adequately protected. Guidance documents on wind development from CCW, and low head hydropower development from Environment Agency have been sourced and circulated to EPB members. Wye Valley AONB guidance documents on small scale wind, solar power and ground source heat pumps have been sourced and circulated to EPB members. BBNP guidance

documents on development of all renewable energy technologies have been circulated to EPB members. Little guidance is available on the potential hazards that small scale wind and hydropower pose to protected and other species. The demand for the installation of these renewable technologies is likely to grow as the Feed in Tariffs make them more economically attractive to individuals and landowners. Academic research is underway at Bristol University, funded by DEFRA on the impact of wind farms on bats, and at Stirling University on the impact of micro-turbines on birds and bats. Resolving these issues is important in removing the barriers to the development of renewables, while ensuring the safety of protected species.

Project	Result	Use	Benefit	Lead partners	Timescale
Continue to monitor research on the impact of wind turbines and hydro schemes on species, and disseminate to EPB members.	Improved knowledge of the impact of domestic renewables developments on species.	Assist ecologists, energy developers, planners and householders.	Particular species are adequately protected and renewable energy technologies do not suffer from adverse publicity and impacts.	EPB, Wye Valley AONB, BBNP, GWT, EAW, MCC.	Ongoing, and assess the need for further work (locally based) on an annual basis.

3.1.6 There are many funding schemes for energy efficiency and renewable energy developments for householders, schools and businesses. The network of energy efficiency advice centres can offer impartial advice and information, but the services that they provide are not widely known.

Project	Result	Use	Benefit	Lead partners	Timescale
Investigate effective ways to publicise and promote the energy efficiency advice line number.	More people using the services of the South East Wales Energy Advice Centre.	Energy used more efficiently	Financial savings, reduced use of fossil fuels, reduced carbon dioxide emissions.	MCC, Mon GreenWeb, EST	Annual (autumn). Article in Monmouthshire GreenWeb's on-line newsletter, and other locally circulated publications (eg Community Spirit)

3.1.7 Sharing best practice and leading by example – looking at our own practice as partners. See also action 3.1.3 above.

Project	Result	Use	Benefit	Lead partners	Timescale
Sharing best practice and leading by example – looking at our own practice as partners	EPB partners are more aware of their own impact and will know how it can be reduced.	Encourage all partners to reduce their impact re energy.	Reduced carbon dioxide emissions, reduced energy use.	EPB	Ongoing, annual review of best practice

3.2 Waste

A waste forum had been a sub-group of the Environment Partnership Board until 2008. Its aim was to support and facilitate the development and promotion of waste management in Monmouthshire, with the input of and in consultation with the voluntary, community, business and public sectors. It is suggested that a waste Forum is arranged annually.

3.2.1 Annual forum meeting of interested parties to discuss waste issues relevant to Monmouthshire. A waste forum meeting was held in July 2009 associated with the consultation period of WAG Waste strategy (Towards Zero Waste) and an airing of opinions on Monmouthshire CC’s Review of Waste and Recycling. A waste forum meeting is suggested for 2010 on the theme of commercial waste reduction and recycling – to include some or all of the following: packaging reductions, plastic bag levy, electrical goods recycling, green waste recycling and anaerobic digestion, recycling farm waste/energy from farm waste.

Project	Result	Use	Benefit	Lead partners	Timescale
Establish annual Waste Forum, and then arrange annually	Waste Forum established	Provide an opportunity for local people to meet with waste management officers and service providers annually with	Improved services that meet the needs of local people, promote waste minimisation and recycling and assist in meeting MCC targets.	EPB, MCC.	Annual. Business-based waste forum meeting to be held autumn 2010. Review of

		the objective of improving services			need for more frequent waste forum involving pressure groups and interested parties 2010-11.
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3.2.2 Improved coordination of resources to respond to fly tipping.

Project	Result	Use	Benefit	Lead partners	Timescale
Improve the coordination of responses to fly tipping in Monmouthshire. Specific initiatives to be identified and delivered through SE Wales Fly Tipping Forum	Reduced fly tipping, reduced cost to Monmouthshire residents, reduced risk of pollution incidents. Communities take pride in their local environment.	WAG funded 5 year fly-tipping initiative until 2012. This initiative is Fly-Tipping Action Wales. Statutory bodies, landowners, businesses and local communities are working to tackle the issue of fly-tipping across Wales. WAG have sponsored Fly-tipping Action Wales to	Communities, landscape, countryside and all forms of life protected from fly tippers.	EAW, MCC, KWT, CCW, Network Rail, Gwent Police, Sustrans, Forestry Commission	2010-12

		coordinate this work.			
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3.3 Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship (ESDGC)

3.3.1 Establish and continue to support a network of providers of education for sustainable development and global citizenship. The ESDGC sub-group has continued to meet during 2009–10 and has provided a useful forum for information exchange and starting partnership projects between those providing ESDGC services in Monmouthshire.

Project	Result	Use	Benefit	Lead Partners	Timescale
The EPB will establish a network of providers of education for sustainable development and global citizenship in Monmouthshire and continue to support this network via a coordinating role.	Network established. Education for sustainable development and global citizenship flourishes in Monmouthshire, coordination of services improves; information and resources shared.	Enables coordination of services, provision of partnership events, sharing of knowledge, expertise, equipment and services.	Better coordination of ESDGC services. Enhanced ESDGC partnership working developed. ESDGC providers better informed. ESDGC flourishes in Monmouthshire; citizens better informed about issues and solutions.	MCC, EPB ESDGC Sub-group	Ongoing, quarterly meetings.

3.3.2 Publicise and promote environmental and sustainability education provision in Monmouthshire. The Mongreenschools website will be updated and refreshed during 2010–11, providing information on ESDGC service providers in Monmouthshire, case studies of local good practice and information on managing school grounds to benefit biodiversity.

Project	Result	Use	Benefit	Lead partners	Timescale
Publicise and promote environmental and sustainability education	Events, awareness raising campaigns in Monmouthshire	Advice and information provided about ESDGC in Monmouthshire.	Schools and community groups better informed on ESDGC issues, support available	MCC, EPB ESDGC sub-group	2010–11, refresh Mongreenschools website

provision in Monmouthshire.			and activities they can be involved in. Monmouthshire's environment is enhanced. Reduced use of fossil fuels, CO2 emissions and financial savings for schools and community groups.		
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The Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship sub-group members include Monmouthshire County Council, Gwent Wildlife Trust, Gwent Outdoor Education Centres, Brecon Beacons National Park, EPB, Monmouthshire Community Recycling, Keep Wales Tidy (Eco-Schools), Countryside Council for Wales, National Trust, Dwr Cymru – Welsh Water.

3.4 Landscape-scale Biodiversity and Land Management

3.4.1 A sub-group of the EPB has been established and maintained to coordinate or assist with the development of landscape scale and biodiversity linking projects across landscapes, and disseminate best practice to community groups undertaking conservation projects.

A conference was arranged in March 2009 to bring together interested organisations and individuals to launch the Usk to Wye campaign. This ambitious landscape scale project plans to improve links across the landscape, involving organisations, landowners, communities and volunteers. The project was initially led by the Woodland Trust and Gwent Wildlife Trust, but the partnership has been broadened to include Monmouthshire County Council, Usk College, farming interest groups, the Forestry Commission and others. A funding application to Heritage Lottery Fund in 2010 was unsuccessful, but the Partners have identified various areas of work that can still be pursued. Ongoing support from the EPB is anticipated.

An emerging, and highly relevant area of work for the sub-group is the concept of Networked Environment Regions, where models are prepared that identify key environmental services in a region and seek to link these together and embed them in spatial planning strategies at national, regional and local level. The concept aims to make the environment more resilient and capable of meeting the needs of people, wildlife and the economy, for example provisioning services such as food and water, cultural services such

as recreation and heritage, regulating services such as climate and pollution and supporting services such as biodiversity, nutrient and water cycling.

Project	Result	Use	Benefit	Lead partners	Timescale
Establish and maintain a sub-group to develop, and/or coordinate landscape scale and biodiversity linking projects across landscapes and disseminate best practice.	Sub-group established and maintained	Develop and/or coordinate landscape scale biodiversity and land management projects, and disseminate information to community groups undertaking conservation projects to ensure that opportunities are optimised to link habitats.	Prevent duplication, sharing of knowledge, expertise and resources to protect biodiversity from threats such as habitat fragmentation and climate change	EPB ecological connectivity sub-group	Ongoing, EPB to provide admin and coordination support in the short-medium term.

The ecological connectivity sub-group members include Monmouthshire County Council, Gwent Wildlife Trust, Forestry Commission Wales, Brecon Beacons National Park, EPB, Countryside Council for Wales, Wye Valley AONB, The Woodland Trust, Forgotten Landscape Partnership.

3.5 Movement of Goods and People around the County

3.5.1 Annual forum meeting of interested parties to discuss transport and travel issues relevant to Monmouthshire. The Wales Transport Plan was published in March 2010, and will provide the context for the finalising of the Regional Transport Plan and the development of a Local Transport Plan. It is therefore timely to arrange a Transport Forum during 2010.

Project	Result	Use	Benefit	Lead Partners	Timescale
Establish annual Transport Forum.	Transport Forum established and	Provide an opportunity for local people to	Improved transport services through the	EPB, Transport sub-group,	Annual, the first to be arranged

	maintained	meet with transport planners and providers annually with the objective of improving services	input of local transport users, transport planners and providers.	MCC, SEWTA	in 2010-11
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3.5.2 Encourage reduced CO2 emissions from vehicles amongst EPB partners, including promotion of the SEWTA regional car share scheme. Information about the SEWTA car share scheme is included in invitations to EPB meetings to encourage EPB members to use this service. In April 2010 there were 84 people in Monmouthshire signed up with the car share scheme; 30 of these in the Monmouth area and 23 in Abergavenny.

Project	Result	Use	Benefit	Lead Partners	Timescale
Encourage EPB partners to reduce emissions from car transport by encouraging car sharing and low carbon travel	Reduced CO2 and other polluting emissions from partners' business travel.	To reduce the number of single occupancy car journeys by EPB partners.	Car travel reduced, traffic reduced, carbon dioxide and other emissions reduced.	MCC, EPB, SEWTA	Ongoing, promote scheme to EPB members for use to access quarterly meetings.

3.6 Involved and Active

This is a new area of activity identified by the guidance document "Environmental Issues for Community Strategies" (Sept 2008). It should also assist other partnerships in Monmouthshire to deliver their own Action Plans.

3.6.1 Coordinate opportunities for volunteers to get involved with environmental projects, working with other partners.

Project	Result	Use	Benefit	Lead partners	Timescale
Coordinate opportunities for volunteers to get involved with	More volunteers helping with environmental projects	More work undertaken to improve the Monmouthshire environment	Improved environment, more volunteers involved with	GAVO, EPB	Ongoing

environmental projects, working with other partners.			environmental projects		
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3.6.2 Explore use of a standardised approach to volunteering initiatives (Health and Safety, CRB checks etc). This is relevant to ESDGC strand and also to the work of Tidy Towns.

Project	Result	Use	Benefit	Lead partners	Timescale
Explore use of a standardised approach to volunteering initiatives (Health and Safety, CRB checks etc).	Efficient use of resources and manpower, volunteers able to move easily between projects/ organisations	Organisations taking on volunteers have standard practice to follow. Consistency for volunteers.	Volunteering is made easier; practices standardised across organisations.	GAVO, MCC, GWT, BBNP, WVAONB, EPB	Review in April 2011

3.7 Environment Partnership Board Coordination and Development

3.7.1 Quarterly meetings of EPB.

Project	Result	Use	Benefit	Lead partners	Timescale
Arrange quarterly meetings of the Environment Partnership Board	Meetings held quarterly	Provide a networking opportunity for partners, sharing of knowledge, expertise and resources.	Improved coordination of environmental projects and enabling partnership working.	EPB	Ongoing, 4 meetings per year to be arranged.

3.7.2 Responding to initiatives and strategies ranging from Local Development Plan to Regional Transport Plan and Tidy Towns Initiative.

Project	Result	Use	Benefit	Lead partners	Timescale
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To respond to initiatives, consultations and strategies as appropriate	Providing an Environment Partnership Board perspective to a range of bodies and organisations.	Ensuring that the Environment Partnership Board views are represented on documents and bodies as required.	Ensuring that environmental and sustainable development opinions are heard and acted upon.	EPB	Ongoing, as required.
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3.7.3 Increase awareness of the Environment Partnership Board and its areas of expertise.

Project	Result	Use	Benefit	Lead partner	Timescale
Increase awareness of the Environment Partnership Board and its areas of expertise.	More statutory groups, third sector organisations, groups and other forums and partnerships are aware of the EPB and its role.	People more inclined to attend EPB events, and are able to influence our work.	Creates opportunities for partnership working, sharing resources and enabling beneficial projects to happen.	EPB	Ongoing. During 2010 attending Usk Show, GreenWeb newsletter item summer 2010, attending internal and external meetings where the work of the EPB can be promoted.

3.7.4 Maintain the relationship between the EPB and other Partnerships, including the Monmouthshire Biodiversity Partnership and Local Service Board.

Project	Result	Use	Benefit	Lead partner	Timescale
Maintain the	Partnerships	Knowledge	Monmouthshire's	EPB	Ongoing,

relationship between the EPB and other Partnerships, including Monmouthshire Biodiversity Partnership and the Local Service Board.	mutually better informed, and opportunities for joint working can be maximised	shared and networks strengthened.	condition is improved.		ensure reports from Monmouthshire Biodiversity Partnerships at EPB meetings, and updates between EPB and Local Service Board.
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3.7.5 Actively seek opportunities to work more closely with Monmouthshire's statutory partnerships to ensure that environmental issues are incorporated in their plans and fully considered.

Project	Result	Use	Benefit	Lead partner	Timescale
Build links with Monmouthshire's statutory partnerships – Health, social care and wellbeing; Children and young people; Community safety.	Environmental issues fully considered and incorporated alongside other issues in statutory strategies and plans.	Environmental issues that are relevant to the statutory partnerships – eg climate change impacts and community safety are included in their future plans.	Statutory Partnerships are aware of environmental risks and opportunities, and are assisted in incorporating these issues in their own plans and strategies.	EPB.	Ongoing, during 2010–11 explore potential for joint projects and integrating environmental issues into the work of the statutory partnerships and the developing Community Strategy review.