



European Network for
Rural Development

Green/bioeconomy and sustainability in Wales, UK

LAG Arwain Sir Benfro



Our motivation for working with this topic

We aimed to involve the local community in generating a local 'green' economy while developing new skills as well as employment. Our schemes contribute to the national objectives under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act (Sustainable Development legislation).

This is what we did and do

We established a community renewable energy network of experts, community groups and businesses. This led to the development of Cwm Arian Renewable Energy (CARE) scheme who secured LEADER funding to support and develop 13 community renewable energy projects. A 500kw wind turbine project was set up which is hoped to generate an income of 200 000 GBP/year for an estimated 20-25 years. In the process, we supported awareness-raising and capacity building for improving the knowledge of 'grassroots' groups on carbon reduction.

Another project established the very first 'Green Shed' in Wales. This is a hub for innovation and learning about the Circular Economy, as well as an actual place to reduce the amount of waste produced, through re-use and 'upcycling'. It includes a shop, café, remakery, conference space and studios. During the nine-month scoping phase Pembrokeshire Remakery, based at the shed, diverted 15 tonnes of waste and contributed to saving 51 tonnes of CO².

Those actors/ groups/ individuals were important

We worked with the local community groups, experts and local businesses. Our actions influenced and were supported by decision-makers at the regional and national level.

Our learnings/ this is what we can recommend

Working with 'grass-roots' community groups, in a networking framework that included 'experts' and businesses, has added knowledge, skills and dynamism to our initiatives. These projects demonstrate that local communities working from the 'bottom up' can make a strong contribution to delivering and influencing national objectives.



Find out more

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Funded by the

