

ENERGY

Key policy actions UNISON wants to see from a future Welsh government.

In addition to UNISON Cymru Wales' general manifesto priorities, our members in the energy sector would like the next Welsh government to act in the following areas.

Domestic Energy Efficiency

A commitment to make every home in Wales *Energy Performance Certificate* (EPC) 'C' rated by 2035. This would require an energy performance assessment for every domestic property and would give clarity on what home adaptations are needed to meet the EPC C rating.

This work is essential and would have far reaching effects. Not only would it support the legal requirement to achieve net zero carbon emissions (domestic energy consumption is a large contributor) but it would also contribute to the eradication of fuel poverty and the health challenges of poor housing conditions throughout Wales.

It cannot simply focus on those in fuel poverty though as this needs a total solution and all domestic properties need to be included with financing solutions to follow. Beginning this work now will give the Welsh Government the maximum headroom to deliver on its legal commitment to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

Become a global leader in the deployment and application of Green Hydrogen

When used as a primary source of fuel, hydrogen can be used in the same way as natural gas, both domestically, industrially and in transport but with zero carbon emissions. With support from Welsh Government, Wales could become a world leader in green hydrogen production because it is produced via electrolyzers linked to renewable energy sources such as wind, solar and tidal, creating easy to store and transport energy and addressing the current weakness of global reliance on carbon when intermittent renewable sources of energy switch off.

Wales could run our abundant renewables turbines with power electrolyzers to produce hydrogen at all times and only need our abundant water as the raw material.

Trials are underway on the use of hydrogen domestically because it can be used in the same way as methane gas. This will be hugely important as Wales transitions away from our reliance on gas because it would mean that only a boiler and cooker would need replacing, not the whole central heating system.

A just transition to a low carbon Wales

Just Transition is about the fair treatment of workers and communities more affected by change as we move to a lower carbon world. It is also about a balanced low-carbon energy mix; investment in skills and infrastructure, protecting and creating high quality jobs and employment, with no community left behind.

Twelve years on from the UK Climate Change Act, there is still no plan that puts workers, future skills and affected communities at the heart of energy policy. Whilst much of energy policy is not devolved, there are very many levers available to the Welsh Government to help achieve a just transition, levers such as policy commitments to job security, training and skills development (and where needed re-training), allowing workers and communities to help lead the debate and help determine the solutions, securing the supply of affordable energy (including via public procurement) that work for all of Wales, with no community left behind.

Continued overleaf



If these aims of UNISON Cymru Wales members were enacted, it would

- Bring forward our ambition to make Wales Carbon neutral by 2050.
- Radically improve domestic energy efficiency and reduce and remove fuel poverty and its wider impact on health, poverty and economic inactivity in Wales.
- Help make Wales a global leader in the carbon free production of green hydrogen using our abundant water and renewable energy turbines.
- Help ensure that as Wales moves towards a carbon free future, no worker or community is left behind.