



time to change:

THREE YEARS ON

**2010 PROGRESS REVIEW OF THE
SWANSEA ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Swansea's first Environment Strategy – *Time to Change* – was published in September 2006, by Swansea Environmental Forum (SEF), to provide a coherent framework and long-term vision for the protection and enhancement of the natural and built environment in Swansea. This report outlines the findings of a review undertaken to assess what progress has been made during the first three years.

Strategy Action Plans were produced in 2006 and 2008 to show how local organisations would help progress the 22 priorities outlined in the Strategy; and a set of indicators has been developed to help SEF monitor and measure change. An initial review was undertaken in 2007/8 to assess the viability of the indicators and check progress with the first Strategy Action Plan. This second review provides a more comprehensive assessment and will be used to produce a public summary report and feed into the process of developing the third Strategy Action Plan.

The Forum's strategic work is carried out within the context of the Community Strategy and in support of the Better Swansea Partnership (BSP). Since 2008, SEF has had a particular focus on five *shared priorities* which were agreed with the BSP as needing greater attention and the support of the wider partnership. These are air quality, climate change, carbon management, bathing water quality in Swansea Bay and biodiversity; and it comes as no surprise that most of these issues are highlighted in this review as areas where *insufficient progress is being made and more decisive action is needed*. One other area that clearly requires greater attention and better resourcing is the strategic priority BE4: *the protection and promotion of historic buildings and heritage sites*.

However, the findings of this review also point to good progress being made in several areas such as waste management, river water quality, social housing and environmental education. There is clear improvement within each of the Environment Strategy's five themes and a good proportion of actions proposed in the Strategy Action Plans have been completed.

Evidence suggests that more people are accessing the natural environment in Swansea and that more information and interpretation is available to help them make the most of their experience. However, despite an increase in the mapping of green space and surveying of protected sites, more action needs to be taken to ensure that Swansea's natural assets are safeguarded.

Redevelopment projects across the City and County of Swansea continue, particularly in and around the City Centre, and there has been an increase in the number of building schemes that meet high standards of environmental design. However, greater account should be taken of the impact that development can have on flood risk, water quality, road use, access to services and biodiversity; and more will need to be done to improve existing properties if the Wales Housing Quality Standard and carbon management targets are to be met.

Public transport facilities and services are being improved in Swansea and there is an increase in travel planning by organisations but use of the car still dominates and is the main cause of increasing air pollution and road congestion problems.

Though environmental awareness and community activity continue to increase, most people are still reluctant to undertake significant lifestyle changes and environmental sustainability is not yet fully embedded in decision-making processes in the home and organisations.

The tightening of regulations and the raising of national and international standards may help to drive forward change but the current recession and cuts in public and private resources may make it increasingly difficult to take the required actions. Progress made in recent years has been supported and enhanced by the strong partnership work that exists in Swansea. If further progress is to be made in improving our environment and tackling environmental concerns even greater collaboration with a wider range of organisations and community groups will be needed.

INTRODUCTORY SECTION

Background to the Environment Strategy

Swansea Environmental Forum is the lead strategic partnership for all aspects of the natural and built environment in the City and County of Swansea. It is an independent organisation, initially set-up in 1985, that brings together individuals, statutory bodies, businesses and voluntary groups to promote environmental sustainability and develop collaborative projects to improve the environment.

In 2004, SEF was formally designated as the strategic partnership for the environment theme in the Swansea Community Plan and in the following year started work on producing Swansea's first Environment Strategy – *Time to Change*. This was published in September 2006, together with a summary document and the first Strategy Action Plan.

The Strategy was developed through extensive collaboration over an eighteen month period with a large number of professionals across a wide range of environmental and other fields. There was also an open public consultation period and a number of consultation events.

The Strategy provides a coherent framework and a long-term vision for the protection and enhancement of the natural and built environment for the benefit of everyone in the City and County of Swansea and the wider community. Although several strategies and plans covering specific environmental issues such as biodiversity, waste and transport, already existed, this was the first time that the environment as a whole had been addressed in a single local strategic document.

The Strategy is arranged around five key themes – The Natural Environment and Biodiversity; The Built Environment and Energy Use; Water, Land and Waste Management; Sustainable Transport and Air Quality; Environmental Awareness and Action – and for each of these key themes, it provides an overarching vision followed by an outline of key issues. The Strategy identifies 22 priorities (strategic aims) and an initial set of 33 indicators to be used to measure progress.

The Strategy Action Plan followed the same thematic arrangement and provided actions and milestones listed under each of the priorities. Secondary indicators were also included in this Action Plan offering additional or alternatives to the original indicators listed in the Strategy. The first Action Plan covered the period 2006-8 and it was agreed that further action plans should be produced every two years. It had been anticipated that after an initial period of reflection and discussion, additional actions and partners would be identified and included in redrafted editions – but this didn't happen.

A one-year review of the Strategy was undertaken in autumn 2007 and published in January 2008. This first Strategy Review reflected on the impact that the Strategy and Action Plan were making and the progress being made on the agreed priorities and actions. The indicators were also reviewed and baseline data collected. An attempt was made to agree a definitive list of 51 indicators comprising most of those included in the Strategy together with many subsequently proposed in the first Action Plan. During this review, research was undertaken on footprinting methodology and the potential for this to be used as the overarching indicator for the Strategy but it was decided that the costs and time associated with collecting data and calculating footprints would be prohibitive.

In February 2008, work began on a second action plan taking into account recommendations made in the Strategy Review. Following further consultation with appropriate officers and forums, the Strategy Action Plan (2008-10) was published in May 2008. It is intended that a third action plan will be prepared in May 2010.

Purposes of the Environment Strategy

In the introduction to the Environment Strategy, SEF listed seven purposes for its production. Each of these is taken in turn and progress considered:

Provide an overarching vision and strategic framework for tackling local environmental issues – this was achieved through the development and publication of the Strategy though it is still not

necessarily referred to as the overarching document by those involved in delivering aspects of environmental work or preparing other strategic documents or policies;

Raise the profile of the environment within the context of Swansea's community plan and sustainable development to ensure environmental issues are considered in decision making at all levels – the profile of environmental issues has been raised in the context of the community plan over recent years but is still not necessarily considered effectively in decision making processes;

Increase awareness of all aspects of the natural and built environment in Swansea and issues that affect them – though 1,000 copies of the full Strategy and 5,000 copies of the Summary were printed and most have been distributed, it is difficult to assess how many have been read and to what degree readers' awareness has been raised; posters were also produced, in partnership with Swansea University, highlighting the 'top tips' given in the Summary document;

Emphasise the significant contribution the environment makes to the economy and quality of life in Swansea; – the Strategy did emphasise these points but, as above, it would be difficult to assess how many people read the Strategy and were influenced by the points it raised;

Focus the future work of Swansea Environmental Forum, as the lead partnership for the environment within the community planning process, and its partners – the Strategy has helped to focus the work of SEF and it is evident that it has focused the work of some partners, for example, Swansea Environmental Education Forum and the Built Environment and Energy Subgroup; the 'Big Issues' work, which is clearly linked to the Strategy, has also had some influence on others;

Identify targets and indicators against which progress can be measured – this was a core aspect of the Strategy though it became clear during both reviews that identifying viable indicators is not an easy task and is still on-going; the action plans provide the opportunity for targets to be set;

Highlight links and promote closer working arrangements between the environment and the other key themes and partnerships of the community plan: health and well-being, learning, prosperity and community safety – the Strategy highlighted the links and some progress has been made to promote closer working with some of the other strategic partnerships through meetings and joint events.

In general, it would be fair to say that the Strategy has or is achieving most of the purposes for which it was produced.

Monitoring and Reporting Progress on the Environment Strategy

At the time that the Strategy was published, it was agreed that it would initially be monitored on an annual basis and that a formal progress report would be produced and published every two years. It was also agreed that after the first two years, SEF would review the frequency and form of future monitoring and reporting procedures. In practice, this proposed scheduling has slipped a little.

The first Strategy Review was initiated in July 2007 and started in September 2007 – exactly one year after the Strategy was published. The review process took over four months and the Review document was published towards the end of January 2008. This second Strategy Review process started in December 2009 and has also taken just over four months. A summary report will also be published in May 2010. Though this full review has taken place eighteen months later than originally agreed, it has allowed more time for measurable progress to be made.

Recommendations of the First Environment Strategy Review

The first Strategy Review, published in January 2008, included 13 recommendations which are listed below with an assessment of progress:

Keep the priorities as they are in the Environment Strategy (with the exception of a slight amendment to the wording of WM6) – this was done;

Retain the current structure of the action plan for the second edition but ensure that the actions and, particularly, the milestones / targets are specific and additional – the milestones in the second Action Plan were renamed 'specific/additional actions' and were generally more specific;

Engage key partnerships and forums (not just officers) more fully in the development of actions, milestones, targets for the second edition of the action plan – where possible, forums, subgroups and partnerships were engaged in the process of developing the second Action Plan;

Extend involvement in the development of the action plan to include community regeneration groups and the other key community plan partnerships – though proposed actions of a wider range of organisations were included in the second Action Plan, community regeneration groups and other community plan partnerships were not engaged in the process;

Agree a new indicator set following further discussion with relevant partnerships, forums and officers – a new indicator set was developed through discussion with others but this remains weak in some areas;

Promote and support the development of a set of indicators for the community plan and agree four or five key environmental indicators that could be part of this set – this proposal was postponed by the community plan support officers and the focus switched to developing the ‘Big List’;

Reject the notion of ecological footprinting as a suitable performance measure for the environment strategy – this was agreed;

Promote the adoption of the ecological footprint as an overarching indicator and the use of REACT by the CCS and BSP as a method of prioritising actions and monitoring progress – little has been done on this though it has been agreed to include carbon footprint statistics in the 2010 version of the community plan;

Organise a conference event or series of seminars, for interested members and partners, with a focus on the four or five environmental outcomes submitted for the ‘Big List’. Explore and expand on these and produce a plan of action plan for each – SEF has organised seminars events and meetings on each of the agreed ‘Big Issues’ and some progress has been made with these, though an action plan has only been drafted for one (see below);

Explore the potential for using a sustainability charter to rally support across the BSP and the community plan partnerships for the principles of sustainability and commitment to practical actions towards a more sustainable Swansea – this has not yet been progressed but remains on the Forum’s work plan and is likely to be picked up soon; WAG is soon to launch its own sustainability charter and will promote its adoption by other organisations, which may diminish the value of a separate, local charter;

Seek agreement with CCS and other key organisations to ensure that the Environment Strategy is included in the list of documents that must be considered in all major strategies, development plans, feasibilities and consultations – this has not formally been done but the Strategy has been included on such lists;

Continue to engage with environmental partnerships in neighbouring counties working towards greater synergy in strategies and exploring opportunities for collaboration – formal meetings across south-west Wales region have not taken place since 2008 but informal contact has been maintained with the two neighbouring counties;

Issue a press release to show how the strategy review has highlighted positive progress made over the past year – this was not undertaken.

Community Plan and Shared Priorities

In May 2004, Swansea’s first community plan, *Ambition is Critical*, was launched by the Better Swansea Partnership (BSP), setting out a shared vision for making Swansea a better place in the context of sustainable development. It is within this context that SEF is the lead strategic partnership for all aspects of the natural and built environment in the City and County of Swansea.

In 2007, the BSP asked each of the designated strategic partnerships to identify a small number of outcomes (later to be actions or issues) that they felt were of major importance but could only be achieved through cross-partnership collaboration and with high level support. These were to form a ‘Big List’ which the BSP would make their focus for the following few years.

An initial meeting of Forum’s Executive members was held towards the end of 2007 (a year after the publication of the Strategy) to determine which outcomes would be put forward for the environment theme. Throughout 2008 there was extensive discussion and debate between SEF and BSP support officers leading to the following issue-based shared priorities being agreed:

- improving air quality
- preparing for climate change

- energy and carbon management
- achieving Blue Flag status for Swansea Bay
- protecting and promoting biodiversity

SEF began the process of actively progressing each of these shared priorities at the end of 2008. Swansea Biodiversity Partnership agreed to take the lead on the biodiversity priority (with the Biodiversity Action Plan as a starting point) and the Council's Sustainability Unit agreed to take the lead on the carbon management priority (with the Swansea Energy Action Plan as the basis). The latter issue was raised at a Built Environment and Energy Subgroup (BEES) meeting in March 2009 but this group didn't meet again and little further progress was made in 2009. In March 2010, BEES met again and agreed to form a climate change task group.

SEF contracted a consultant to progress the other three shared priorities (air quality, Swansea Bay and climate change adaptation) and after an initial scoping exercise, meetings were arranged with relevant officers and stakeholders to explore the issues and start work on an action plan for each priority. An air quality task group was established in early 2009 involving officers from several Council departments and service unit and an action plan was drafted. A Swansea Blue Flag Symposium was organised at the end of March 2009 with over 30 delegates from a wide range of stakeholder organisations and a task group formed. A climate change adaptation seminar was organised in partnership with Swansea University, also held towards the end of March 2009. A meeting was held with representatives of two Swansea University departments in October 2009 to discuss the potential for research projects that could support progress with the shared priorities. Since then, however, progress on these three issues has been limited.

Wider Context and Influences

Success in attaining positive progress with the Environment Strategy priorities can be strongly influenced by a wide range of factors and the wider context within which actions are being taken. These can include public opinion and media interest, and changes in legislation or policies at a local, national or international level. Awareness of and interest in environmental and sustainability issues, both by the public and government bodies, does seem to have increased in recent years. Numerous new pieces of legislation, plans and strategies have emerged either relating directly to environmental issues or taking sustainability perspectives into account. Concerns about climate change in particular have featured heavily in the media and influenced government policies.

However, some would say that change in the practices of individuals, communities, organisations and government bodies remains slow or shallow relative to the significance of the environmental issues that need to be addressed. Even where there is consensus about the extent or form of environmental problems, there is often disagreement and controversy surrounding the potential solutions and actions that need to be taken. Though acceptance of the scientific evidence for climate change had been growing at the time that the Environment Strategy was being produced, scepticism rose rapidly in 2009 in response to media furore surrounding errors made by climate scientists. This suggests that the willingness to act on environmental issues is not yet deep-rooted within society. Economic priorities and constraints still seem to take precedence over environmental concerns. The current recession and cuts in public and private resources may have a negative impact on future actions.

The development and implementation of the Environment Strategy for Wales follows a similar timetable to the Swansea Environment Strategy – it was launched in 2006, there have been two action plans, a one-year review was undertaken and a major progress report was published (October 2009). There are currently 102 indicators used in the Wales strategy and the latest report suggests that 27 of these show improvement whilst just 6 show decline. However, almost a third of the indicators are still being developed, have not yet been fully defined or have no data beyond the baseline.

Footprinting continues to be used as an indicator by many government bodies though it should be noted that the development of methodologies makes comparisons from year to year difficult. The Stockholm Environment Institute calculated the ecological footprint of Wales for 2006 as 4.41 global hectares per person. This is more than double the average 'earthshare' of 2.1ghp estimated by the Global Footprint Network for 2005. The ecological footprint of Swansea for 2006 was 4.45ghp a little higher than the Welsh figure but lower than the UK ecological footprint of 4.64ghp.

REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT SECTION

Progress Assessment Process

This Strategy Review is focussed primarily on the progress made towards achieving the 22 priorities (strategic aims) presented in the Strategy. To assess progress, information was gathered relating to the agreed indicators, the actions proposed in the two Strategy Action Plans and additional data, actions and other information that came to light during the process.

Following the first Strategy Review a set of 51 indicators were agreed. Of these, just 35 (68%) provided suitable data in this second Strategy Review, with no data available for 7 indicators and a further 9 proving inadequate or offering insufficient data to enable progress to be assessed. However, baseline data was gathered for many of these and it seems likely that most will be useful in future reviews. In addition, 26 additional data sets provided useful information that was included in the Review. Caution should always be taken when using data, particularly when it is derived from surveys which have been carried out with relatively small samples e.g. Swansea Voices Surveys, data from which are used for several priorities, involves a citizen's panel of approx. 1,250 people.

The first Action Plan (2006-8) included approximately 140 specific actions of which 57% were completed by the end of March 2008. There was a wide variance in completion between sections with just 33% of the Natural Environment and Biodiversity actions being completed but 73% of the Water, Land and Waste Management actions being completed. The second Action Plan (2008-10) listed over 150 specific actions of which 61% were completed with at least 50% of the actions in every section being completed; including 88% in the Environmental Awareness and Action section. This variance could be attributed to a number of factors including some partners submitting more ambitious actions.

It was agreed to assign each priority a RAG status (red, amber, green) to provide a very simple summary of progress. Each priority has been given an overall RAG status but a full breakdown of the assessment for each priority, based on the following set of criteria descriptions, is given in Appendix 1.

	GREEN	AMBER	RED	N/A
indicator data	significant improvement is evident	some improvement is evident	change is minimal or negative	no indicator or inadequate data
other data	significant improvement is evident	some improvement is evident	change is minimal or negative	no additional data considered
action plan (2006-8)	all or almost all actions achieved (85-100%)	most actions achieved (50-85%)	most actions not achieved (less than 50%)	
action plan (2008-10)	all or almost all actions achieved (85-100%)	most actions achieved (50-85%)	most actions not achieved (less than 50%)	
additional actions	several additional actions achieved	some additional actions achieved		no additional actions considered
comparison with Wales	better than average	about average	below average	not considered
OVERALL STATUS <i>(taking into account the above aspects)</i>	good progress has been made towards achieving the priority	some progress has been made but the breadth or rate of progress could be improved	insufficient progress is being made and more decisive action is needed	

The following pages provide the detailed review and assessment for each priority in turn.

NE1: Establish and maintain data on the natural environment and monitor change

SUMMARY

Priority habitats have been mapped, some species surveys are being undertaken and a map of green spaces in Swansea is almost complete. However, a more co-ordinated approach to monitoring change and better use of recording systems is now needed.

RED

LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Swansea Biodiversity Partnership
City and County of Swansea (Nature Conservation)
Countryside Council for Wales

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

	2007	2008	2009
Trends in a selection of key indicator species	-	-	-

Further work needs to be undertaken to provide baseline information and pull together existing data from several different organisations (some example of species surveys are given below) and more resources are needed for carrying out surveys and monitor change. The BARS Database (Biodiversity Action Reporting System), which has been used for UK Biodiversity Action Plan reporting since 2005, may provide useful indicator data.

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

SEWBREC (South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre) has become established as the key body for handling biodiversity data for South Wales. A lack of resources has meant that an SLA agreement has not yet been established between SEWBREC and Swansea. However, there has been an increase in the amount of data on species and habitats actions being sent to the online recording system BARS, though greater use could be made of this system. By March 2010, there were 458 actions listed on the system relating to Swansea and 51 progress reports for targets in the Swansea Biodiversity Action Plan had been registered.

All Priority Habitats were mapped by the summer 2007. Some species survey work has also been undertaken by SBP partners including Himalayan balsam in the AONB, rhododendron in all leisure parks, annual bat surveys at Dunvant Brickworks and on Mumbles, and a barn owl survey with nest box installation. Surveys of inter-tidal climate change indicator species and non-native species are being carried out on a regular basis. A Marsh Fritillary and Marshy Grassland monitoring survey, commissioned by CCW, is due to be completed by the end of March 2010.

A review is being undertaken of the candidate SINC sites which includes resurveying most of these. A study of ecological connectivity has been carried out to prepare maps to help in prioritising actions for climate change adaptation.

The Nature Conservation Team has almost completed the process of gathering details on the condition and use of green spaces in Swansea, using the CCW Green Toolkit. Using some of the data collected, a Green Map of green spaces in Swansea is also being produced through a partnership between the NCT and Sustainable Swansea. This will be available digitally by the end of March 2010 and later in the year will be published as a printed leaflet. The NCT has submitted an application for a *Communities and Nature* (CAN) grant from CCW which will enable a strategic approach to improving access to and use of green spaces in Swansea (see also NE4).

LANDMAP (Landscape Assessment and Decision Making Process) is a GIS-based mapping system managed by CCW in conjunction with the Wales Landscape Partnership Group. The project was initiated in the mid-90s but has been extensively developed in the last six or seven years. Its purpose is to record and present information on Welsh landscapes, including geological, habitat, historical and cultural aspects, and was completed across Wales in 2008.

NE2: Protect and safeguard our valued natural assets and halt loss of biodiversity

SUMMARY

Swansea has many sites designated for the protection of wildlife and measures are being put in place and training is being provided to ensure that these are safeguarded.

RED

LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

City and County of Swansea (Nature Conservation, AONB)
 Countryside Council for Wales
 Swansea Biodiversity Partnership
 The Gower Countryside Forum

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

	2007	2009
Total area of LNRs, AONB and SINCs		
- LNRs and AONB	200 km ²	200 km ²
- SINCs	96 km ²	96 km ²
	2001-2006	2007-20013
Percentage of SSSI features in or recovering towards favourable condition	(29%)	-
<i>Percentage of SAC and SPA features in or recovering towards favourable condition</i>	46%	-
Percentage loss of important habitats	-	-

The area of LNRs (Local Nature Reserves) and AONB (Area of Outstanding natural Beauty) in the City and County of Swansea have remained the same.

The area of SINCs (Sites for Interest for Nature Conservation) is estimated at 96 km², which is about a quarter of the City and County of Swansea. This figure is based on SINC Candidate Sites proposed in 2005 but further work is currently being undertaken to make the data more robust and the boundaries of existing sites and new sites are being reviewed.

There are six Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and one Special Protection Area (SPA) that fall within the City and County of Swansea and in total, there are 50 listed features across these seven sites. It should be noted that five of these straddle county boundaries (Burry Inlet SPA, Crymlyn Bog SAC, Carmarthen Bay Dunes SAC, Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries SAC and the Limestone Seacliffs of South West Wales SAC) and just two sites lie entirely within the City and County of Swansea (Gower Ashwoods SAC and Gower Commons SAC).

The SAC and SPA Condition Assessments (CCW) for the period 2001–06 recorded 23 features as favourable and 27 features as unfavourable. Therefore 46% of features were reported as in or recovering towards favourable condition. (It should be noted that CCW have advised that as it would be difficult to separate out the features that don't occur specifically within Swansea, the indicator data includes all features within the whole of each designated site). The next reporting period for SAC and SPA Condition Assessments is 2007–13.

In 2003, CCW carried out a Rapid Review monitoring exercise of SSSIs and recorded that of the 49 features on Swansea's 23 biological SSSIs, 10 were favourable, 24 were unfavourable and 15 were "unknown" (i.e. there was not enough information to classify them either way). Since the Rapid Review, there has also been a substantive exercise checking all SSSI qualifying features, updating the datasets and adding new features including intertidal species features. It should be noted that the Rapid Review did not include data on Swansea's 6 geological SSSIs which in future will be included. There has been no further report on SSSI condition since the Rapid Review as effort has been focussed on the monitoring of SAC and SPA features.

Since the Swansea Environment Strategy was published CCW has been working with WAG on an Actions Database for international sites and SSSIs as part of the implementation of the Environment Strategy for Wales. By early 2010, CCW had identified actions for all local SSSIs. These actions are to be shared with key public and voluntary sector partners with site ownership through an extranet. Implementation has begun and therefore it may be useful in future for SEF to consider reviewing the wording of the indicator to link with this key area of work.

Resources have not yet been identified to develop a mechanism for measuring the loss of important habitats. However, the Council's NCT review all planning applications (approx. 2–3,000 each year) and it has been estimated that as many as 75% of these result in some loss of biodiversity. It has been suggested that a mechanism may be developed to assess the types of habitats affected and the level of impact that new developments have. This may lead to providing data for this indicator.

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINCs) in Swansea have been identified and agreed by the local authority but work is still ongoing to ensure that the data is sufficiently robust to be used in the Local Development Plan. No additional LNRs have been designated or existing LNRs extended in the past few years but some new potential sites have been identified.

A review of planning consents in SACs has been undertaken by the NCT, in response to a request by CCW. Though many consents were found to be still in place in SAC areas, it was not felt necessary to revoke any of these.

The *Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act* came into being in 2006 and guidance on the "biodiversity duty" under Section 40 of the Act was published in May 2007. This duty affects all public bodies including local authorities, emergency services, health bodies, museums, etc. which must have consideration for biodiversity conservation when doing their work. In response to the new NERC duty, the NCT has provided training to Council members, planners and senior managers in the Environment Department. The Council has also agreed that each department should produce a corporate biodiversity plan. Making local public bodies and officers aware of their duties under the NERC Act is currently the main aim of the Better Swansea Partnership shared priority on biodiversity (see page 6) and it is hoped that training will be extended to other organisations in 2010.

A review of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) had been delayed while the Swansea Biodiversity Partnership awaited guidance from the Wales Biodiversity partnership. Four ecosystem-themed subgroups have been established – Marine and Coastal; Woodland; Wetland; and Grassland, Heathland and Farmland – and these are now taking a lead in reviewing aspects of the LBAP. It had been hoped that an LBAP officer would be employed but at present these duties are being shared between existing NCT staff while match funding is being sought for a dedicated post.

A review of the Gower AONB Management Plan is underway and a draft is expected by October 2010. This will take account of key changes and developments since the Plan was originally published e.g. the stronger emphasis on climate change and renewable energy, and the introduction of the RDP.

NE3: Maintain and enhance the quality and diversity of the natural environment

SUMMARY

The area of land in Swansea managed under agri-environment or organic farming schemes has significantly increased. Swansea's parks and green spaces have a high approval rating and some have attained Green Flags and Green Pennants.

AMBER

LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

City and County of Swansea (Nature Conservation, Parks)
 Countryside Council for Wales
 Swansea Biodiversity Partnership
 Welsh Assembly Government

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

	2007	2008	2009
Percentage area of green space actively managed	-	-	-
Number of Green Flags and Green Pennants	3 / 1	3 / 1	4 / 1
Area of land managed under agri-environment agreement	5,483ha	-	9,371ha
- <i>Tir Cynnal</i>	1,842ha	-	3,052ha
- <i>Tir Gofal</i>	3,298ha	-	5,455ha
- <i>Organic Farming Scheme (area)</i>	343ha	-	864ha
- <i>Organic Farming Scheme (schemes)</i>	118	-	341
	2005	2007	2009
<i>Rating of Council parks and green spaces (Swansea Voices Survey - v. good / f. good)</i>	87%	87%	91%

No data is currently available for the *Percentage area of green space actively managed* indicator. Once the mapping of green space in Swansea is complete (see NE1) then it may be possible to identify how much is actively being managed for biodiversity or other uses.

The Green Flag and Green Pennant are national awards given to well-managed parks and open spaces, with the latter award for those that are managed by community or voluntary groups. Awards are given on an annual basis and so the status must be applied for each year. Green Flags have been awarded consistently to three sites in Swansea for several years (Victoria Park, Clyne Gardens and Singleton Botanical Gardens) but the number increased to four in 2009, with the addition of Brynmill Park. Rosehill Quarry was awarded a Green Pennant for three years in a row (2005-2007) but the Rosehill Quarry Group decided not to apply in 2008 as they felt it hadn't brought them any noticeable benefit. However, Oystermouth Castle Woods (managed by Mumbles Development Trust) received a Green Pennant for the first time in 2008 and retained it in 2009.

The area of agricultural land in Swansea that is managed under agri-environment or organic farming schemes has increased significantly in the past few years. (It should be noted, however, that the data for organic farming in 2009 is measured under the new OFS2 system which came into affect in April 2008 and therefore may include land that is not organic registered – the 2007 data only includes registered organic land). Resource management plans became a compulsory part of all agreements signed after 2007 and species packages have been built into the negotiations of these agreements. In the last round of Tir Gofal applications, those which had a SSSI on their proposed agreement land were prioritized, resulting in more SSSIs being brought into the scheme. From 2012, the five existing agri-environment schemes will be replaced by one scheme, Glastir, which is better positioned to meet current and future environmental challenges.

Swansea Voices surveys indicate a high approval rating for Swansea parks and green spaces run by the Council. This has increased from 87% in each of the first three surveys (2003, 2005 and 2007) to 91% in the February 2009 survey.

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

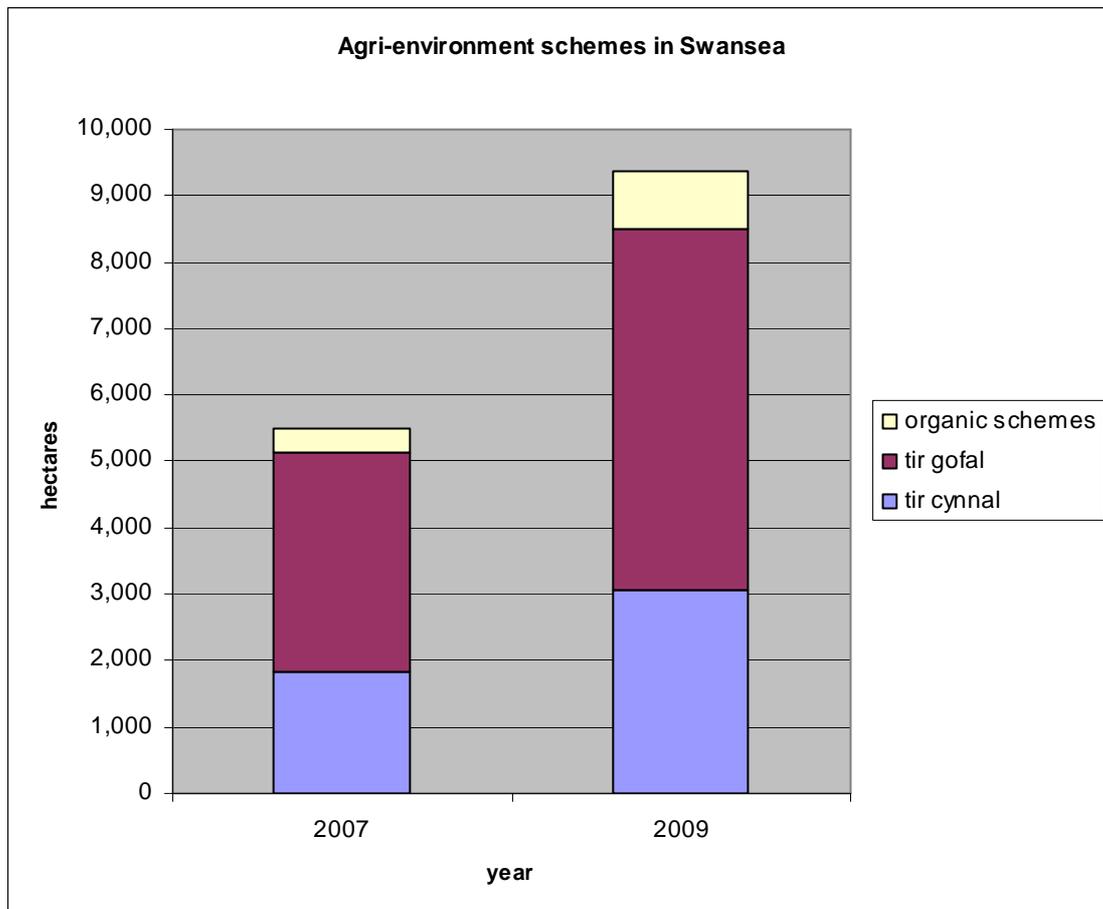
CCW have completed SAC management plans and these are available to view on their web site.

Bishops Wood LNR lost its Green Flag status in 2005 and applications submitted for Mumbles Hill LNR in both 2004 and 2005 failed. The local authority has not submitted Green Flag applications for LNRs since 2005. LNR management plans have not been updated for some time though some work has been done on the management plans for the Mumbles LNR, Bishops Wood LNR and the Clyne Valley Country Park.

The Council's Specialist Parks and Community Parks officers manage, develop and promote the network of extensive parks within Swansea. In 2005 a new education facility, Ty'r Blodau, was established in Singleton Botanical Gardens and in 2008 the Discovery Centre was opened in Brynmill. These venues are used as a base to explore gardening, wildlife and the history of the parks. The *Junior Park Rangers* scheme, set up in 2003, currently has 800 members. Though funding and staffing for the Community Parks Team have reduced in recent years, it continues to involve children and young people in a wide range of activities within local parks, including environmental activity.

There is still a need to establish a broad local forum or network for coastal and marine management though the Marine and Coastal subgroup of the Swansea Biodiversity Partnership and the Swansea Bay Blue Flag Task Group are perhaps fulfilling some elements of that role.

The concept of a 'percent for wildlife'-type scheme has been explored and agreed in principle as a voluntary scheme but further work is needed to develop the idea fully. The Council's NCT has produced an internal report that explores proposals for visitor payback scheme at sites run by the Council.



NE4: Promote awareness, access and enjoyment of the natural environment

SUMMARY

Evidence suggests that more people are accessing the natural environment in Swansea and that more information and interpretation is available to help them make the most of their experience.

AMBER

LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

City & County of Swansea (Nature Conservation, Countryside Access, AONB)
 Swansea Environmental Education Forum
 Swansea Biodiversity Partnership
 Swansea Rural Development Partnership
 Rural Swansea Action

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10
Number of wildlife sites with interpretative information	-	-	-	-	145
Length of easy-to-use footpaths and other rights of way	46.4%	47.3%	55.8%	59.1%	51.2%
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Number of people accessing a selection of key sites (Rhossili, Penmaen and Cwm Ivy)	379,735	648,651	571,960	638,285	-
<i>Biodiversity events in annual environmental events booklet</i>	97 (34%)	98 (34%)	85 (30%)	78 (24%)	121 (38%)

Data on interpretative information was collected as part of the research undertaken in developing a Green Map of green spaces in Swansea (see NE1) and a total of 145 sites were found to have interpretative leaflets and panels. Though it is not certain that this figure includes all interpretative information at all wildlife sites in Swansea, it could provide a baseline for future comparison.

After three years of improvement in the measure for footpaths and rights of way, there was a drop in 2009. However, this indicator is based on an annual random survey of 10% of the network and so the figure for any individual year should not be taken as an indication of the trend, which should be assessed on the output over a number of years. The figure for 2003/4 was 44% and though it has dipped on a couple of occasions, the trend has clearly been upwards.

Visitor counters are currently in place at a number of designated sites across Swansea including National Trust sites (Rhossili, Penmaen and Cym Ivy), Council sites (Bishops Wood LNR, Mumbles Hill LNR and Clyne Valley Country Park), Oxwich NNR and the RSPB Cwm Clydach Reseve. There are also counters on footpaths in Port Eynon, Landimore, Brandy Cove and between Caswell Bay and Langland Bay. Most of these counters were put in place in 2006/7 or 2007/8 but in some cases the data is incomplete due to equipment faults or path changes. CCW plan to install a counter at the Crymlyn National Nature Reserve. A combination of counters may provide useful data on visitor numbers for future reviews. The proposed CAN project in (see NE1) will require evidence of increasing visitor numbers so counter data will be collected and surveys undertaken which will also provide information for this priority.

The Swansea Environmental Events leaflet has been produced each year since 2000 (see EA2) and many of the events listed relate to biodiversity. The proportion of biodiversity related events has varied decreasing from almost 50% in 2005 to just 24% in 2009. The number and proportion increased significantly in the 2010 leaflet. It should be noted that because of the timing of its publication and limitation of space, this leaflet does not include all biodiversity related events taking place in Swansea.

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

SEEF and many of its members promote awareness of and access to the natural environment through schools and other educational establishments (see EA1). Enjoyment of the natural environment has also been promoted at public events such as the Ecozone at Swansea Show and at the annual Gower Show. Swansea Show didn't take place in 2009 but there were Ecozones at the launch of the Hard Rain exhibition outside the National Waterfront Museum in June 2009 and at the Bae Fest in September 2009.

The Rural Development Plan (RDP) for Wales is part of a European Union programme to promote economic regeneration in rural areas with a total pot of £800 million across Wales over a five year period to 2013. The local RDP – Swansea Rural Local Development Strategy – was produced by the newly formed Swansea Rural Development Partnership, and launched in 2007. The Partnership's first funding bid secured £350,000 to deliver five projects in Swansea:

- Rural Swansea Walking and Cycling Marketing Campaign
- Improvement of Walking Facilities in Mawr
- Rural Youth Project
- Local food for Local Markets
- Local Arts, Crafts & Natural Products for Local Markets

The first of these projects involves the production of a promotional leaflet to highlight walk leaflets and transport links. The Walking Facilities in Mawr project will result in path improvements and leaflets being produced for two circular walks. A local action group – Swansea Rural Action – has also been formed to ensure maximum engagement of stakeholders and to implement the last two of the five projects. A second business plan was submitted in March 2010 outlining a £12million tranche of project proposals for the second phase, March 2011 to December 2013.

The Swansea Community Woodland Project, involving a partnership of several local organisations, published a comprehensive booklet in 2008 with information on 31 woodland sites and also provided interpretative panels at some sites, including Dunvant Brickworks and Cwmllywd LNR).

The National Trust has five interpretative panels at 3 sites (Penmaen, Welsh Moor and Rhossili) and three further panels are planned for Rhossili. There are 9 walks leaflets which cover the five National Trust areas (North Gower; Rhossili and South Gower Coast; Penamen, Nicolastan and Penmaen Burrows; Pennard and Bishopston Valley; and Gower Inland Commons) and 5 additional guided walks downloadable from the Internet. The Council is producing three leaflets that will bridge the gaps on the Gower coast not covered by the NT leaflets, two of which will be produced by the end of 2010.

As part of a strategic approach to interpretation in Gower, AONB gateway signs have been erected at key entry points and beach information panels have been upgraded at several sites. In 2007, a new interpretation panel and welcome signs were been installed at Crymlyn Bog NNR and a new reserve leaflet was produced. In early 2010, a further interpretation panel was installed in the nearby Ashlands sports field.

The Rights of Way Improvement Plan was published in 2008 and is being implemented. Work on the Gower Coast Path is nearing completion with some minor works still to be completed and one or two legal issues that need to be resolved. It is expected that a path around Gower will be in place by the end of 2010.

For information on volunteering and conservation projects, please refer to EA3.

BE1: Improve the quality and attractiveness of the city centre, other settlements, neighbourhoods and streetscapes

SUMMARY

There has been a significant amount of redevelopment in Swansea City Centre and around the riverside and waterfront areas. Street cleanliness has improved and public satisfaction with local neighbourhoods remains high.

AMBER

LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

City and County of Swansea (Regeneration, Streetscene)
Keep Wales Tidy
City Centre Partnership

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

	2005	2007	2008
Percentage of public satisfaction with their local area (Swansea Voices Survey - v. good/ f. good)	91%	91%	93%
<i>Neighbourhood - general cleanliness (SVS-vg/g)</i>	72%	67%	70%
<i>Neighbourhood - overall appearance (SVS-vg/g)</i>	73%	68%	70%
<i>City Centre - general cleanliness (SVS-vg/g)</i>	66%	43%	61%
<i>City Centre - overall appearance (SVS-vg/g)</i>	41%	36%	46%
	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9
Percentage cleanliness at high standard (A, B+ and B using LEAMS)	91.7%	91.2%	92.5%
<i>Cleanliness Index</i>	-	65.95%	65.7%

Data for the first indicator comes from Swansea Voices surveys involving a citizen's panel of approx. 1,250 people aged 16+. Consistently, over 90% have stated that their own neighbourhood is a very good or fairly good place to live. Responses to other questions in the surveys show that around 70% assess the cleanliness and appearance of their neighbourhood as very good or good but the City Centre fares less well.

The second indicator is based on an annual inspection using the LEAMS (Local Environmental Audit Management System) grading system and the percentage of sites at grades A-B. Despite the high figure, Swansea sits within the lower half of the league table of local authorities in Wales that use this system. The Cleanliness Index is calculated using data from inspections by Keep Wales Tidy and the local authority throughout the year. Swansea's figure is close to the Wales average.

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

There have been a number of new initiatives that are having a positive impact on littering, flyposting and other anti-social behaviour. In 2007, WAG issued a new code of practice on litter and refuse, Streetforce officers were introduced in Swansea to deal with a wide range of enforcement issues, and additional cleansing staff, sponsored by the Business Improvement District, were also introduced in the City Centre.

There have also been a number of projects to improve local environments. Pride in Our Communities, a national partnership initiative sponsored by the Welsh Assembly Government and coordinated by Environment Agency Wales, funded a local officer in 2008 to work in the Blaenymaes, Penlan and Townhill area. The aim of the project is to on a one-year scheme reduce waste and fly tipping, promote composting and environmental volunteering and to raise awareness of climate change. The local scheme was led by BTCV but was funded for only one year.

Also in 2008, a Tidy Towns initiative was started in Swansea as a partnership between the City and County of Swansea and Keep Wales Tidy with three-year WAG funding. Two officers (one employed by the Council and the other by KWT) support communities make their areas cleaner, safer and tidier. They have already engaged a range of communities and types of groups in a variety of activities. The

staff report visible results in three areas in particular – Morriston, Brynmill/Uplands and Pontardulais – but have also worked in other areas across the whole county. (See also EA1 and EA3). The NEAT (Neighbourhood Environment Action Team) project has been expanded from four to six teams which are working closely with the Tidy Town initiative to improve neighbourhoods and encourage local involvement and ownership. The Council is also trialling area working with street cleansing teams which complements this approach.

Swansea's Unitary Development Plan (UDP) was published in 2008 and set out the policies and proposals for the future development and use of land and environmental conservation in Swansea for the period to 2016. However, the UDP is now being replaced by the Local Development Plan (LDP) which is expected to be more concise than a UDP and have a greater emphasis on sustainability and the engagement of interested groups during its development. A Delivery Agreement for the Swansea LDP was agreed with WAG in 2009 and it the development process will start in 2010 with completion of the Plan expected in 2014. The Plan will then be monitored annually and reviewed every four years. In the meantime, commitments made in the UDP are still being executed, including the preparation of SPG covering issues such as residential developments, parking, rural buildings and community facilities.

The City Centre Framework, launched in March 2007, set out guidance for a number of redevelopments and improvements for the city centre and connecting areas including the former David Evans store, the pedestrianised area around Oxford Street, the St.David's Centre and Quadrant area, and the bus station. The Princess Way retail redevelopment (the former David Evans store) has been completed as have improvements to pedestrianised areas of Princess Way and Oxford Street, including new paving, lighting and street furniture. There have also been several developments in the nearby Marina and Waterfront areas, including the 29-storey tower in Meridian Quay and the refurbished Swansea Leisure Centre. Major transport infrastructure changes, to support the introduction of the ftr Metro, involved considerable changes to the Kingsway and West Way and the existing bus station was closed in June 2009 to enable its redevelopment (see ST1). The Framework also includes aspirations for a European Boulevard from Quay Parade to the first part of Oystermouth Road, with public spaces linking the city to the waterfront, and also major changes to the Parc Tawe area and north of the main shopping precinct.

Swansea City Centre was designated a Business Improvement District in 2006 - the first in Wales. The BID involves businesses working together to improve the city centre and address what they consider to be key issues e.g. transport and access, brightening the city centre, and safety and security.

A master plan for the Felindre brown field site was developed by WAG and work is currently underway to draw various plans for the site together and clarify the best way forward. A significant amount of funding has been secured through planning gain from a new supermarket development in Pontardulais. A contextualising plan for the main street in Pontardulais is being prepared that will inform an action plan for the regeneration of the town centre and potential bids for funding applications.

A Building Façade and Shop Front Design Guide for the city centre was published in 2008. Work on a Gower design guide started early in 2010 and is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

A public art piece was installed on Princess Way funded partly through the Percent for Art principle with planning gain from the David Evans site redevelopment. A public arts strategy for SA1 is being developed with over £1million secured through Section 106 Agreements extracted from developers over the last 3-4 years, and the first project has been commissioned. A wider strategic plan for public art across the City and County has not yet been developed but public art is included in the SPG: Planning Obligations published in March 2010.

BE2: Promote sustainable buildings and more efficient use of energy

SUMMARY

The number of new developments built to BREEAM standard in Swansea is increasing. Carbon emissions from Council properties are reducing. However, more needs to be done across all sectors if carbon management reduction targets are to be achieved.

AMBER

LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

City and County of Swansea (Housing, Corporate Building & Property Services, Sustainability)
Swansea Built Environment and Energy Subgroup
Housing Associations / Registered Social Landlords (RSLs)
Private developers

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

	2006	2007	2008	2009
SAP rating for housing in Swansea				
- social housing	-	(79)	-	64
- private housing	-	(61)	-	55
Number of developments meeting Ecohomes or BREEAM standards	3 (3 ex/vg)	9 (8 ex/vg)	15 (13 ex/vg)	24 (18 ex/vg)
	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9
CO₂ emissions in CCS corporate buildings (average tonnes CO ₂ /M ²)	0.069	0.067	0.066	0.065

SAP (Standard Assessment Procedure) rating is the method of calculating the energy efficiency for homes. The figures for 2007 were obtained using an old system and cannot be compared with the more recent figures that were calculated using the newer SAP2005 methodology which was adopted in 2008. The SAP rating for private housing is based on a sample of just under 5,000 properties.

BREEAM is an environmental assessment method for buildings and is managed by the BRE (formerly the Building Research Establishment). It involves a scoring system with a five star scale – Pass, Good, Very Good, Excellent and Outstanding. The number of developments in Swansea that meet the BREEAM standard has increased significantly in the past few years from just 3 in 2006 to 24 by the end of 2009. Of these, 5 were rated *excellent*, 13 were rated *very good* and the remaining 6 were rated *good*. The developments include two schools and three Ecohomes.

To calculate the average tonnes of CO₂ emissions from CCS corporate buildings, the total tonnage of CO₂ emissions across all the Council's non domestic properties is measured and then divided by the total floor area of these properties. The figure for 2003/4 is being used as the baseline against which there has been an 8% reduction in the past six years.

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Since October 2008, all buildings over 1000m² that are owned by public bodies and frequently visited by the public are required to publish a Display Energy Certificate (DEC) where it can easily be seen by members of the public. In addition, all commercial and domestic buildings, regardless of size require an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) when the building is sold, rented or constructed. Both DEC's and EPC's rate a property's energy performance using a simple A to G system. Domestic EPC's are also a key part of the Home Information Pack (HIP) which most home owners have to provide when selling their home.

All non-domestic buildings that are funded or supported by WAG are now expected to achieve a BREEAM *very good* rating, as a minimum (with the CO₂ standards of the excellent rating). All housing developments of 5 or more units (and funded or supported by WAG) are expected to achieve at least Level 3+ in the new Code for Sustainable Homes – this will be extended to smaller housing

developments in 2010 and will eventually progress to Code Level 6. The Welsh Housing Quality Standard (see BE3) also sets a minimum SAP rating of 65 for all social housing.

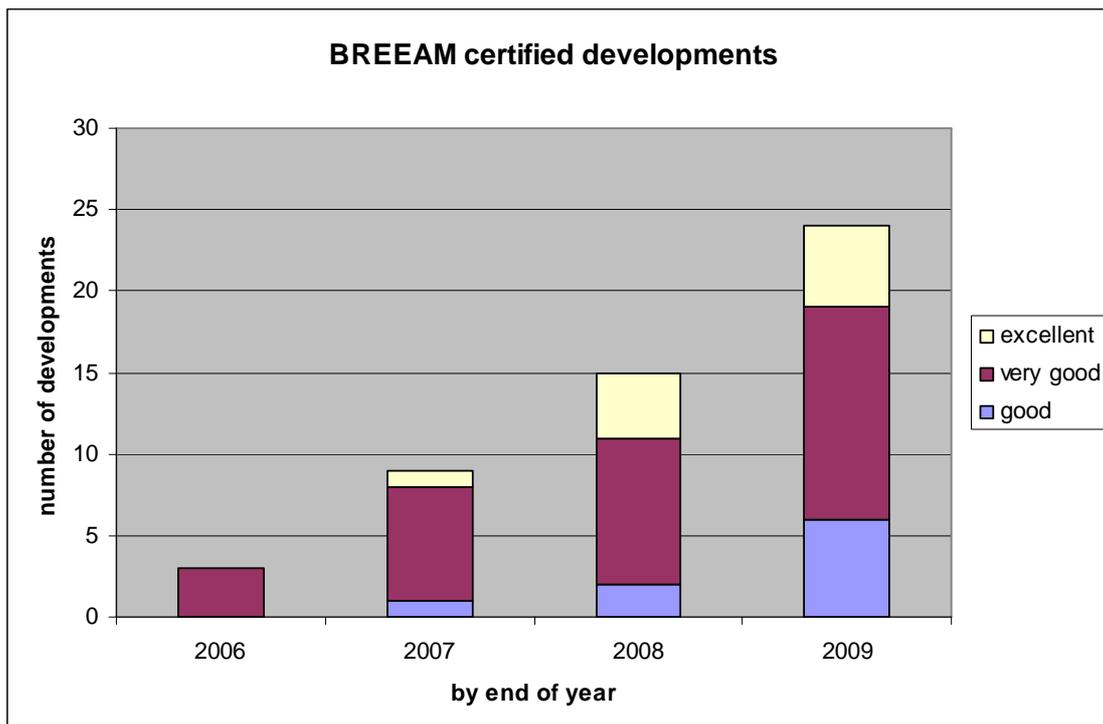
In 2007, Swansea Council adopted a Corporate Energy Management Policy and in 2008, the SDU published the first Swansea Energy Action Plan (SEAP). The latter was the result of a two-year European WISE plans partnership project and provided a vision and strategic objectives for reducing carbon emissions and improving energy efficiency in Swansea. The vision set the target to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in Swansea by 26-32% by 2020 and 60% by 2050, in line with national UK targets. The action plan was due to be reviewed and revised in 2009 but due to staffing and resource restriction within the SDU, as yet this task has not been undertaken. The SEAP included an initial list of 16 local actions some of which have clearly been achieved e.g. Canolfan Gorseinon Centre was completed to BREEAM standards and was commended in the BREEAM Awards Wales 2009, the Hazel Court Residential Complex was constructed with a biomass boiler and combined heat and power units, and the new Llwynderw Welsh-Medium Primary School and Penyrheol Comprehensive School were built to BREEAM *Very Good*, with high standards of energy efficiency and renewable energy generation.

Proposals for a tidal lagoon in Swansea Bay have been explored and promoted by various groups.

Three useful guides have been produced in Swansea in recent years that promote sustainable building and more efficient use of energy. *How to Create a Better Home – A Residents Guide* is a simple fold-out leaflet, published in 2006, that is distributed by the Council with planning application forms. In 2008, a wider and more detailed *Design Guide for Householder Development* was published which incorporated information from the leaflet and advice other design issues such as trees, run-off from parking areas, etc.

A Sustainable Design Guide for Developers was also published in 2007 and it was anticipated that this publication would be adapted for Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG). However this has been put on hold until the publication of WAG's Technical Advice Note (TAN) 22: Planning for Sustainable Buildings to ensure synergy. Such SPG may include minimum targets for reducing carbon emissions through energy efficiency and renewables.

A web-based Technical Design Guide, including the use of energy efficient technology within the refurbishment and construction of Council buildings, has been developed within a partnership between the Consortium of Local Authorities in Wales (CLAW), BRE, Carbon Trust Wales and WAG.



BE3: Ensure the supply of high-quality, affordable and social housing within mixed, settled and inclusive communities

SUMMARY

There has been notable progress in the provision of affordable housing, making improvements to private and social housing, and dealing with problem buildings but the big challenge facing social housing providers is how to meet the Welsh Housing Quality Standard by 2012.

AMBER

LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

City and County of Swansea (Housing, Planning, Environmental Health)
Housing Associations / Registered Social Landlords (RSLs)
Private developers

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10
Proportion of social housing meeting WHQS	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Proportion of new housing that is affordable</i>	2%	2%	9%	29%	-
<i>Number of affordable homes built</i>	13	12	102	299	
Proportion of private housing left vacant	4.4%	3.4%	3.59%	3.47%	3.24%
Number of homes brought back into use and problem buildings demolished or renovated <i>(total since 2004)</i>	24	33	53	73	-

The Welsh Housing Quality Standard, introduced by WAG in 2002, sets a minimum standard for existing social housing in Wales to help ensure that everyone in Wales has the opportunity to live in a good quality home within a safe and secure environment. The standard includes 40 measures (15 primary and 25 secondary) which should be implemented including energy efficiency (minimum SAP rating of 65 using the 2005 SAP methodology – see BE2). As it was felt that the interpretation of the standard by social landlords was variable across Wales, revised guidance was issued in July 2008 to help clarify the minimum standards expected and standardise its implementation. There is still no common methodology for measuring WHQS so WAG has established a national task and finish group to investigate ways to ensure compliance and to develop a set of indicators by summer 2010. In order to meet the standard, the local authority proposed a transfer of its housing stock to a new housing mutual, which could raise the capital needed to make significant improvements to the properties. Tenants were balloted in March 2007 on the proposed stock transfer and overwhelmingly voted against it – the Council is still developing plans that are acceptable to WAG. The main housing associations operating in Swansea state that they are working towards reaching the WAG target for all social housing to meet WHQS by 2012 but some feel that complete compliance may be too ambitious. For example, one RSL is confident of meeting the primary measures, where practicable, but is prioritising secondary measures in consultation with individual tenants.

The total number and proportion of affordable housing built in Swansea has increased in the last few years though these figures can fluctuate greatly from year to year (171 were built in 04/05 and 56 in 03/04) and are dependant on development proposals coming forward and going through the planning process, which can take a number of years to complete. However, the indications are that the trend is upward for both total number of affordable homes built and the proportion of all new housing that is affordable. (It should be noted that the figures provided from 2007 onwards have been adjusted to include new built properties developed by the private sector but subsequently bought by RSLs).

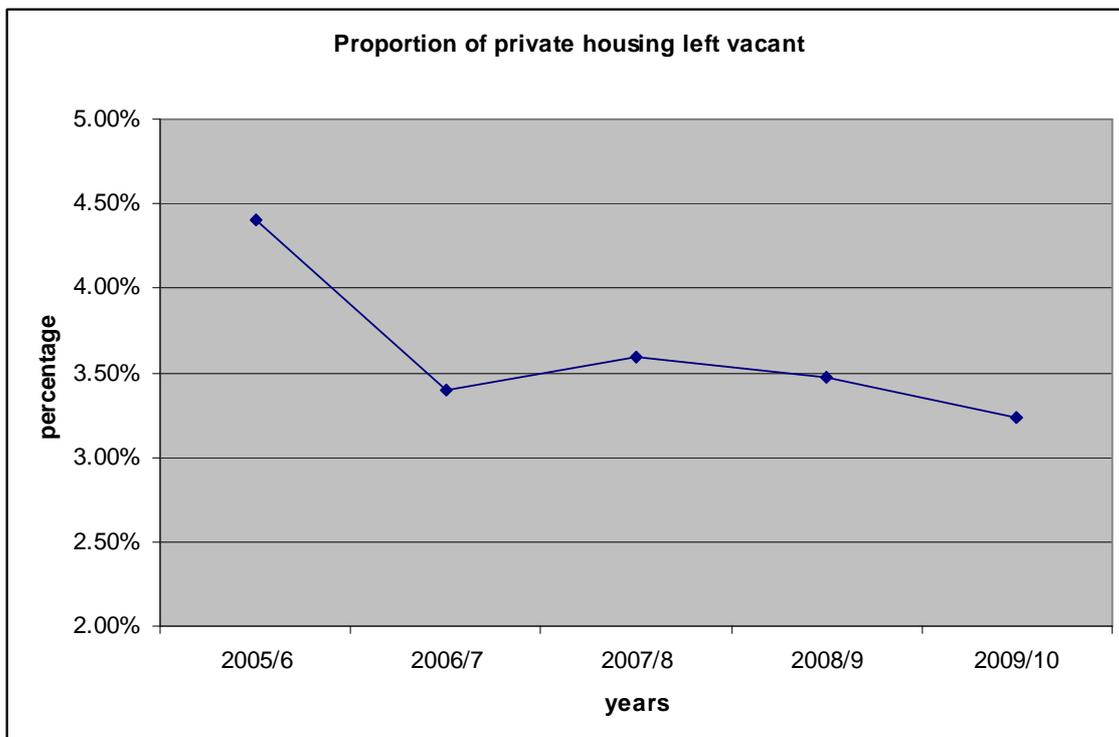
The level of empty properties in Swansea has been gradually falling in recent years and is consistent with the average figure for Wales. The number of disused homes or problem buildings being dealt with by the Council has continued to increase.

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

A new Local Housing Strategy was published by the Council in September 2007 which included targets for affordable housing based on the Local Housing Market Assessments (approx. average of 30% affordable housing in developments or 221 affordable homes per year). The UDP, published in 2008, lowered the threshold at which the Council will consider the inclusion of affordable housing in housing development proposals (from 40 units or 1.5 hectares to 25 units or 1 hectare). In 2008, the Council produced an Affordable Housing Delivery Statement which estimates the needs and potential supply of affordable housing in specific areas across Swansea. As well as increased collaboration within the authority, housing officers have been meeting with colleagues at a regional level to discuss and work together on issues such as the provision of social housing and dealing with empty properties. Supplementary Planning Guidance: Planning Obligations, published in March 2010, included a section on affordable housing and set a 25-30% target for new developments. Viability testing for levels of affordable housing is now being considered in the context of the Local Development Plan with new software and common methodology may be used or developed to test viability on a range of issues.

Following a trial of an enforced sales procedure for empty properties that took place in 2008, the Council developed a protocol and is expecting to undertake a couple of enforced sales each year. A review of the Empty Property Strategy is expected to take place shortly. A *Grants for Nominations* scheme has also been developed where private owners are offered refurbishment grants on condition that their property is used to house nominated tenants for an agreed period.

The Hafod Renewal Area programme has seen the refurbishment of 620 homes with a further 85 on-going. A neighbourhood renewal assessment is about to be carried out which will help determine the way forward. The programme managers are looking to secure funding to extend the programme for a further two years which could enable 175 additional properties to be refurbished. A city-wide local private sector house condition survey is also planned which would feed into housing renewal policies for future years.



BE4: Protect and promote historic buildings and heritage sites

SUMMARY

Some work has been done on surveying and interpreting historic buildings and heritage sites in Swansea but progress is slow and resources for this work are very limited.

RED

LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

City and County of Swansea (Planning, Regeneration)
Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT)
Swansea Civic Society
Sylfaen Cynefin

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

	2007	2008	2009
Percentage of buildings at each level on the 'Buildings at Risk' register - <i>not at risk</i>	-	71.95%	-
- <i>vulnerable</i>	-	20.31%	-
- <i>at risk</i>	-	7.74%	-
Number of venues and visitors in 'Open House' events	31 / 1,000	43 / 1,500	50 / 1,750
Number of historic buildings, heritage sites and character areas interpreted	-	-	-

A *Buildings at Risk* survey took place in Swansea in 2007–8 involving an assessment of just over 500 listed buildings of which approx. 8% were assessed as *at risk*. Swansea was one of the last local authorities in Wales to commission a *Buildings at Risk* survey – most other counties have already had two surveys and some are about to have their third. The latest figures for the whole of Wales show 9% as *at risk*, 74% as *not at risk* and 17% as *vulnerable*. The proportion of buildings *at risk* or *vulnerable* have generally fallen across Wales over recent years. The main reason for vulnerability in Swansea is a lack of maintenance.

The number of venues and visitors supporting the Open House day/weekend in Swansea has increased considerably over recent years. Although it has become a larger and increasingly popular event, its future is very uncertain as Sylfaen Cynefin, the not-for-profit company which has organised and promoted the project in Swansea has limited resources.

Measuring and recording the number of historic buildings, heritage sites and character areas interpreted is difficult and the number of publications or interpretative panels is low. A description of some of the materials produced is given below but further thought is needed to find a way of collecting and presenting data in a useful, uniform and coherent way.

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

The Swansea City Centre Heritage Trail was published early in 2007 with a focus on Wind Street and the High Street. As well as being available in hard copy format, it can be accessed via both the CCS and BBC websites. A leaflet was produced in 2009 about Pennant Sandstone, which is inspired by and focused on the paths in front of the National Waterfront Museum.

A *Short History of the Hafod Copperworks* was published in 2007 and was produced as a supporting document to the Tawe Riverside Corridor Strategy. A heritage strategy for the area is now almost complete. Work on a new housing development at the site of the Upper Bank smelting works led to hidden structures from the early copper and zinc works being revealed by an archaeology team brought in to record findings, said to be of international importance. The Swansea Community Boat Trust published the *Tawe River Navigation Heritage Trail* in November 2008 – a leaflet that guides visitors to 36 historic sites from Swansea Waterfront along the river to the Liberty Stadium and the Hafod Copperworks.

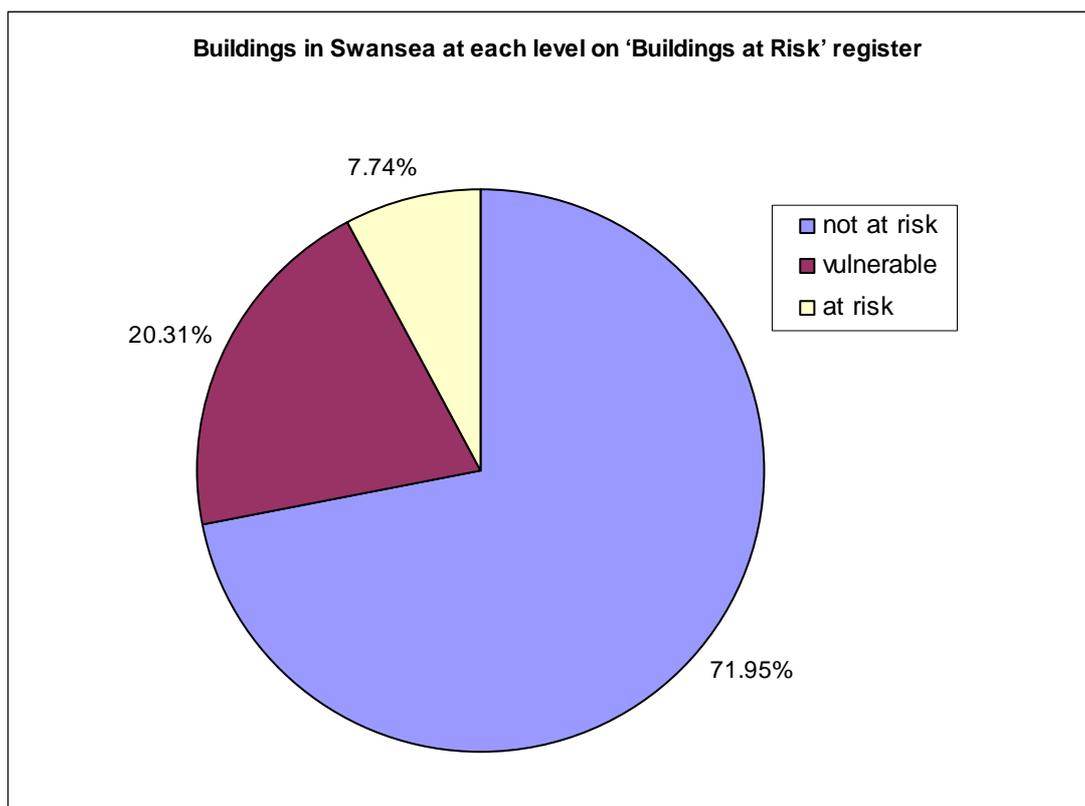
Heritage features relating to Dylan Thomas have been highlighted in recent years with a blue plaque erected on his childhood home and new signage to Cwmdonkin Park, with plans for major developments to the site.

The Penllergare Trust has continued to develop its plans for the restoration of cultural and historic features in Penllergare Valley Woods and has secured significant funding to support its educational work, woodland regeneration and volunteer programme.

Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT) has been working with the Council's AONB team to produce interpretation panels for the Port Eynon Salt House which are due to be installed shortly.

Work on an interpretation leaflet about Early Christian Monuments in Gower, which was proposed by Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT), has been delayed while stones at Llangennith and Llangyfelach were being relocated to improve their display. However, in Summer 2009, GGAT produced a leaflet as a guide to the historic churches on Gower that were enrolled in the Open Doors event in September 2009. GGAT is also working in Llangyfelach to produce an interpretive panel for Early Christian Monuments there and it is hoped that this will be in place by the end of March.

A scoping exercise is currently being undertaken to help prioritise Conservation Area appraisals.



WM1: Protect and improve river and ground water

SUMMARY

Increased collaboration between key organisations involved in the improvement of river and ground water quality is helping to maintain high standards, deal with pollution sources in Swansea and ensure good progress towards new EU targets.

GREEN

LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Environment Agency Wales
Dwr Cymru Welsh Water
Swansea Bay Bathing Water Quality Working Group

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

	2005	2006	2007	2008
Percentage of watercourses achieving good status				
- GQA chemical (grades A+B)	81%	84%	77%	85%
- GQA biological (grades A+B)	94%	94%	94%	94%
Percentage of RQO compliance	73%	89%	82%	98%

The General Quality Assessment (GQA) Scheme is used by the Environment Agency to classify the quality of rivers and canals using four measures: chemistry, biology, nitrates and phosphates. The primary indicator in the Swansea Environment Strategy relates to the percentage length of river at grades A and B using the chemical and biological measures. For GQA Biology, the percentage at grades A and B has remained high and fairly consistent over the past few years with the percentage at grade A increasing. There have been no measurements below grade C in the last few years (where data is available). For GQA Chemistry, the percentage at grades A and B have fluctuated over the past decade between 70% and 90% but the percentage length of river at grade A has increased significantly in recent years from a low point of just over 22% in 2004 to 73% in 2008. The percentage graded as D (fair) or E (poor) has remained at around 3–5% over the past decade.

River Quality Objectives (RQOs) relate to whether a stretch of river will reliably support the types of fishery expected there, and by inference, is likely to be suitable for wildlife, recreation and abstraction. A water quality classification is applied to each stretch of water and then compliance checks undertaken. The percentage of RQO compliant stretches of river in the Swansea area increased to a record high of 98% in 2008.

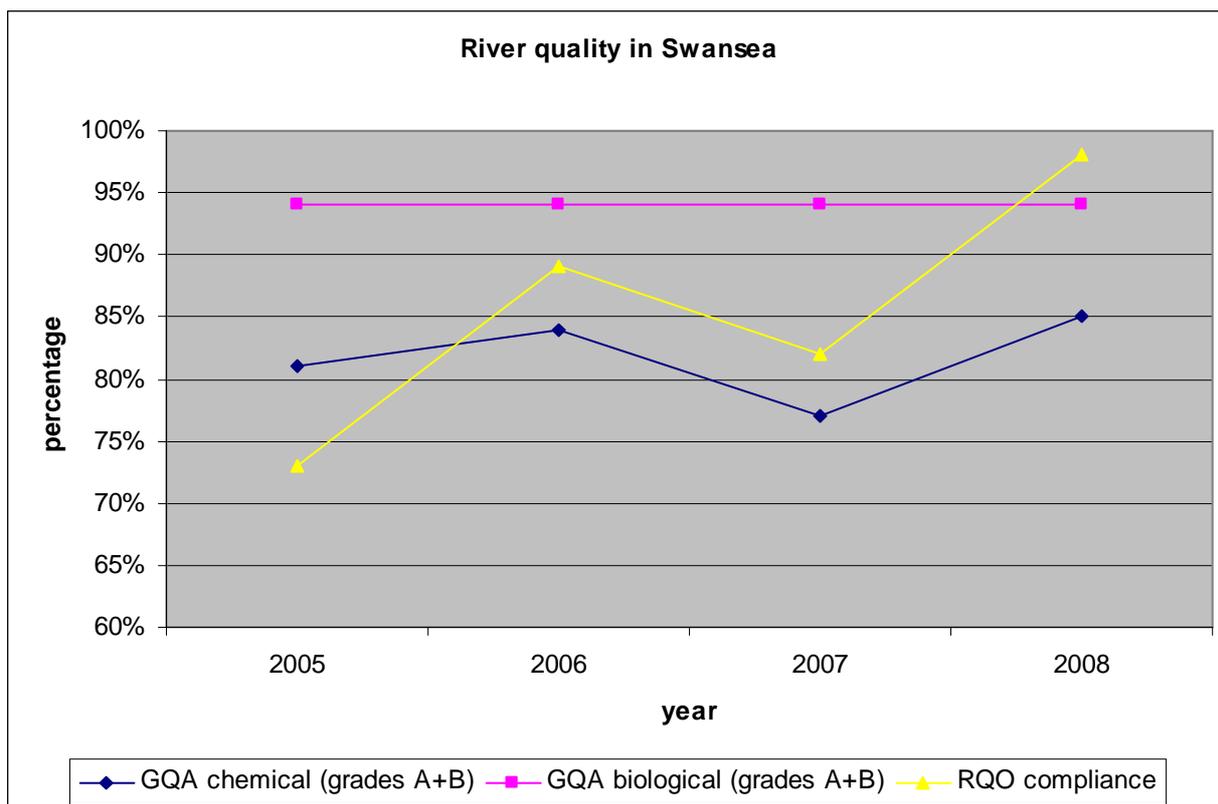
ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

The Water Framework Directive covers the protection of surface waters and groundwaters. It places a requirement on bodies such as the Environment Agency to improve water-based ecosystems, promote sustainable water use, reduce groundwater pollution and implement actions to mitigate the effects of floods and droughts. All areas of water are required to achieve good status by 2015.

As pollution problems with river or groundwater impact on bathing water quality, these issues have been a key focus of the Swansea Bay Bathing Water Quality Working Group (see WM2 for further details). Progress is being made in identifying and trying to tackle sources of diffuse pollution and misconnections in sewage and surface water systems. Joint pollution surveys have been undertaken, polluted areas have been identified and, where appropriate, notices have served on misconnections. Environment Agency Wales officers have visited industrial sites in Llansamlet, Cwmdru and Fforestfach to inform businesses of their obligations, particular where vehicle washing is involved. Some progress has been made targeting sites in Limeslade and Hafod Industrial Estate. Also, Welsh Water has installed telemetry on a significant number of combined sewer overflows to enable them to monitor and respond more quickly to unauthorised overflows.

New developments and building work can exacerbate run-off and pollution problems. The *Design Guide for Householder Development*, published by Swansea Council in 2008, encourages residents and developers to reduce surface water run-off by finishing new driveways and parking areas in porous materials.

Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS) have been prepared across Wales as the mechanism for balancing the needs of water abstraction and the aquatic environment, and to provide the vehicle for reviewing time-limited abstraction licences. The *Tawe, Loughor and Gower CAMS* was published in September 2007 following a consultation process involving a stakeholder group, an awareness raising leaflet and consultation meetings. Environment Agency Wales has subsequently published annual updates in December 2008 and 2009.



WM2: Maintain and improve bathing and drinking water quality

SUMMARY

Compliance with guideline standards for bathing water quality and the attainment of recognised awards have both varied in recent years. Though collaborative working is helping to improve bathing water quality, more effort and resources will be needed to prepare for and comply with the requirements of the new Bathing Water Directive, particularly with the complex case of Swansea Bay.

AMBER

LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

City and County of Swansea (Pollution Control)
Environment Agency Wales
Dwr Cymru – Welsh Water

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Percentage of coastal waters at guideline standard for bathing water	87.5%	100%	87.5%	75%
Number of Blue Flags / Green Coast Awards in Swansea	4 / -	5 / 5	5 / 5	5 / 4
- Wales	45 / -	50 / 49	48 / 46	42 / 44

The guideline standard was met at all of Swansea's eight sampling points in 2007, with Swansea Bay meeting the standard for the first time. But Swansea Bay failed again in both 2008 and 2009 with Limeslade also failing in 2009. Variation in compliance is not necessarily an indication of overall improvement or deterioration as water quality is complex and affected by many factors. The main reason for the variation in recent years has been attributed to rainfall, with the higher rainfall in 2008 and 2009 leading to failure. The nature of the compliance system means that sometimes a change in status can be based on marginal passes or failures.

The number of *Blue Flags* and *Green Coast Awards* in Swansea has remained fairly constant at around 9 or 10 in total. Across Wales, the number of *Blue Flags* and *Green Coast Awards* has decreased in recent years.

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

The Swansea Bay Bathing Water Quality Working Group, a strategic partnership involving key local players in water quality improvement (including the City and County of Swansea, Environment Agency Wales and Dwr Cymru Welsh Water), was established in March 2007 and continues to meet on a regular basis and promote collaborative working.

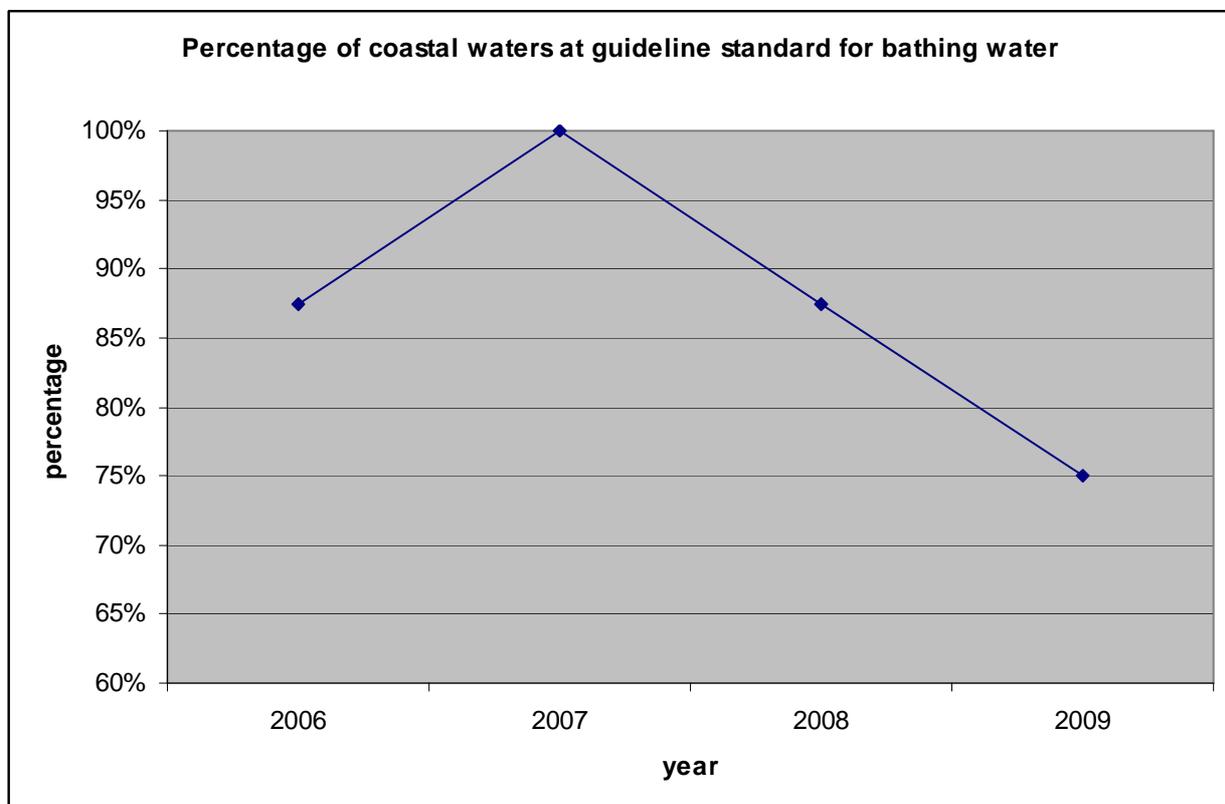
The current EU Bathing Water directive specifies two categories of water quality standards - mandatory and guideline standards. EU member states are expected to make efforts to reach compliance with the guideline standards, which are also a requirement for Blue Flag and Green Coast beach awards.

Water quality in Swansea Bay is one of the five big issues or shared priorities agreed by SEF and the BSP (see page 6). Though Swansea Bay met the guideline standard for bathing water for the first time in 2007, this standard will need to be met consistently if a Blue Flag status is to be achieved. It is agreed that this may be helped by a greater integration of bathing water quality objectives and wider economic development, conservation and leisure goals in a broad strategy for Swansea Bay. A symposium was held in 2009, bringing together a wide range of stakeholders and experts to consider the prospect of a Blue Flag for Swansea Bay and subsequently a task group was established to explore the proposal further. Discussions have also taken place with local universities to explore potential research projects that could support progress towards this.

The revised Bathing Water Directive (rBWD) was introduced in 2006, was enacted in the UK Bathing Water regulations in 2008 and is expected to be fully operational by 2015. It will affect the way bathing water quality is monitored and classified, and also how information on bathing water quality is provided to the public. There will be four classifications of bathing water quality - *excellent*, *good*, *sufficient* and *poor* - and these will be based on 4 years of data. These classifications aim to raise the standards with *excellent* being approximately twice as stringent as the current *guideline* standard, *good* being similar to the current guideline standard and *sufficient* being tighter than the current mandatory standard. The target set by the directive is for all bathing waters to achieve the *sufficient* status by 2015. The *poor* classification will mean that bathing waters are non-compliant. There is also a discounting scheme within the new directive which enables failures to be discounted if they can be predicted and the public informed.

An effective modelling system to help predict and explain failures in Swansea Bay is essential if Swansea Bay is to avoid the *poor* category – but an effective model has not yet been developed. However, Environment Agency Wales has recently commissioned the Centre for Research into Environment and Health (CREH) to undertake a desk-top study on bathing water quality issues in Swansea Bay. Funding opportunities are also currently being explored to facilitate a major sampling and analysis project which would help to identify reasons for failure and the main predictors of failure. It is hoped that this would then enable the Council to successfully use the discounting scheme being introduced under the rBWD. A source apportionment study is also needed to identify the main sources of pollution affecting bathing water quality in Swansea Bay and inform decisions on where to concentrate resources.

Responsibility for monitoring and enforcing standards for public water supplies in Wales lies with local authorities and the Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI). Compliance with the required standards is high across Wales. Local authorities also have a duty to monitor private drinking water supplies in their area. New regulations have recently been introduced by WAG requiring risk assessments to be carried out on most supplies by 2015. A local private water supply inspection programme must therefore be developed in the near future.



WM3: Restrict development on flood plains, reduce flood risk and improve flood awareness

SUMMARY

Awareness of flood risk appears to be improving but some developments are still being permitted on flood plains. Climate change is expected to increase the occurrence of river flooding and cause sea level rise, which would increase the risk of flooding properties and coastal erosion.

AMBER

LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Environment Agency Wales
City and County of Swansea (Planning)

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

	2005	2007	2010
Number of properties at high risk of flooding	4,429	-	4,589
<i>Percentage of properties at risk from flooding</i>	4.1%	-	4.1%
<i>Percentage of at risk properties on flood warning system</i>	-	8%	56%

There are currently 4,589 properties within the Extreme Flood Outline for the City and County of Swansea (3,939 residential, 650 commercial) – slightly up from the 2005 total. This represents 1 in 25 of all properties in Swansea, approximately the same proportion as in 2005. The figures and proportions can be affected both by new building developments and changes in the way flood risk mapping is done.

The Environment Agency's flood warning system is not available to all at risk properties and where it is available not all properties are registered. The 2007 figure for properties on the flood warning system only relates to an area along the River Tawe between Morriston and Hafod where 695 properties at risk from a 1 in 100 year flood were serviced by a flood warning system. The overall take-up of eligible properties across Swansea was estimated at that time as being 8-10%. The most recent figures provided showed a sharp increase with 793 properties registered out of a total of 1,421 eligible properties. The main reason for the marked increase is probably the introduction of a pre-registration system (see below). It should be noted that these figures do not include the recently introduced 'Extended Direct Warnings Service' for ex-directory properties as the data is not yet available.

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

The Environment Agency Wales has identified the high risk areas in the City and County of Swansea to be Morriston, Hafod and Gorseinon (at risk from river flooding), Swansea City (both from the river and sea), and Blackpill (from the sea). The Agency seeks to reduce the risk at these locations by increasing awareness, resilience and maintenance of existing defences. In 2009, Environment Agency Wales introduced automatic pre-registration for all at risk properties that are serviced by a flood warning system. This involves mail dropping and identifying contact numbers through BT. This has proved problematic where properties do not have a landline and properties also have the option to opt out of the system if they wish. The EA aims to have 72% of eligible properties within the south-west Wales region on a flood warning system by 2011 and have currently achieved 68%.

The local authority is exploring mechanisms for advanced warning systems for Swansea Vale and has undertaken flooding consequence assessments for Swansea Bay. The Flood and Water Management Bill is currently passing through Parliament and is expected to become law this year. This is expected to give local authorities greater responsibility for leading the co-ordination of flood risk management in their areas and will encourage the take up of sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) by removing the automatic right to connect to sewers and allowing councils to adopt SUDS for new developments and redevelopments.

WM4: Restore contaminated land ensuring minimum risks to the environment and public health

SUMMARY

Restoration of contaminated land in Swansea is being achieved as part of development and regeneration schemes but there is currently no proactive programme in place for dealing with contaminated land and a map of contaminated land is still incomplete.

AMBER

LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

City and County of Swansea (Pollution Control)
Environment Agency Wales

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

	2007	2010
Area of contaminated land remaining in Swansea (hectares)	2,172	2,149

The latest estimate of the area of contaminated land remaining in Swansea is 2148.5 hectares, a reduction of 23.5 hectares or about 1% of the area estimated in 2007. The figures are approximations based on the redevelopment of contaminated sites which have not all been subject to formal validation as yet – redevelopment is either complete and validated or remediation has been carried out and validation awaited with development in progress.

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 places a duty on local authorities and the Environment Agency to identify and deal with contaminated land. Responsibility for implementing Part 2A was subsequently devolved to WAG which issued the Contaminated Land (Wales) Regulations in 2001 with a new regime for the identification and remediation of contaminated land. The regime places duties on local authorities to inspect their areas; identify contaminated land; and address the issues in line with the "suitable for use" approach and the "polluter pays" principle.

Within Swansea, the mapping of contaminated sites is ongoing and has not yet been completed and made publicly available. There are no resources designated by the Council for the proactive restoration of contaminated land in Swansea so contaminated land restoration is currently only being made through development and regeneration schemes. Progress has been made over recent years on restoring contaminated land through developments in the Lower Swansea Valley, the docks area, and sites in Pontardulais and Gorseinon.

WM5: Reduce waste going to landfill and increase reuse, recycling and composting

SUMMARY

The increase in recycling, composting and reuse in Swansea continues, the amount of residual waste going to landfill is falling and fly tipping incidents are reducing. Participation rates however will need to be increased if proposed new national targets for recycling and composting household waste are to be met.

GREEN

LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

City and County of Swansea (Waste Management)
 Swansea Waste Disposal Company
 Swansea Waste Forum
 Swansea Community Recycling Alliance Partnership (SCRAP)
 CYLCH

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9
Percentage commercial waste recycled or composted	15%	19%	18%
Average household waste arising / municipal waste arisings (kg per person)	520kg / 620kg	510kg / 610kg	480kg / 570kg
Percentage of municipal waste recycled / composted	29% total (21% / 8%)	30% (22% / 8%)	32% (23% / 9%)
Percentage of waste at civic amenity sites that is recycled or composted	31%	50%	54%
Amount of material reused	195 tonnes	344 tonnes	519 tonnes
<i>Percentage of LAS allowance used</i>	66.5%	68.7%	67.9%
Number of fly tipping incidents	7,416	7,335	5,088

Recycling and composting rates have continued to increase in the kerbside collection scheme, though the increase has slowed in the last few years. Recycling at civic amenity sites has increased significantly with the range of materials that can be segregated increasing. The recycling rate for the Council's commercial waste service has fluctuated and remains low relative to the others (It should be noted that the figure does not include recycling of commercial waste by other operators).

The amount of material segregated for reuse, primarily by community furniture reuse projects, has also increased (though it may be that some of the increase is due to improved recording). It should be noted that the recycling and composting rates in the indicators relate to waste managed by the City and County of Swansea and Swansea City Waste Disposal Company. Other commercial waste management companies will be recycling some materials collected from local businesses.

Total waste arisings in Swansea have started to reduce (though the figures may be affected by the economic downturn). One of the main drivers for diverting biodegradable municipal waste (BMW) from landfill is the *Landfill Allowance Scheme (LAS)* which sets an annual (and reducing) limit on the amount of BMW that each local authority in Wales can landfill. In Swansea, this limit was set at 73,243 in 2008/9 but as only 49,762 tonnes was landfilled Swansea was said to have used approx. 68% of its allowance. This is better than average in Wales.

There has been a significant reduction in fly tipping incidents, with the decrease in Swansea exceeding the Welsh average.

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

In 2009, the kerbside scheme was expanded to include weekly collections of kitchen waste, green garden waste and cardboard. Approximately, 2,500 homes that do not receive the kitchen waste service because of collection access difficulties were offered free compost bins and about 10% took up this offer. It is now planned that plastic will be added to the kerbside scheme in spring or summer 2010 but discussions are still ongoing about the inclusion of textiles. It is also expected that residual waste collection will become fortnightly, alternating with the dry recyclate collection weeks. The introduction of plastics to the kerbside collection scheme in 2010 is expected to encourage more people to participate in household segregation.

Three local community reuse schemes and one commercial organisation collaborate with each other, the local authority and Swansea City Waste to collect, refurbish and redistribute furniture and other household items in Swansea, collecting either directly from homes or from the Baling Plant. A scheme is in place for these organisations to receive reuse credits – a fee for the amount collected for reuse (by weight). The Council has recently established a bulky household collection, reuse and recycling centre in Clydach to support this work.

In 2008/9, the Council's Waste and Resource Management Team conducted research on levels of participation in the dry recyclate kerbside scheme. This was carried out in a variety of areas and revealed an average participation rate of 60%, ranging from 36% in less affluent areas to 80% in more affluent areas. The research involved door knocking to encourage greater participation. A separate study was undertaken in summer 2009 looking specifically at participation in the kitchen and garden waste collection scheme. An average participation rate of just 17% was observed. Further door-knocking programmes are being planned to encourage participation on a face-to-face basis. The Council also plans to give extra help to residents in flats so that they can participate in recycling.

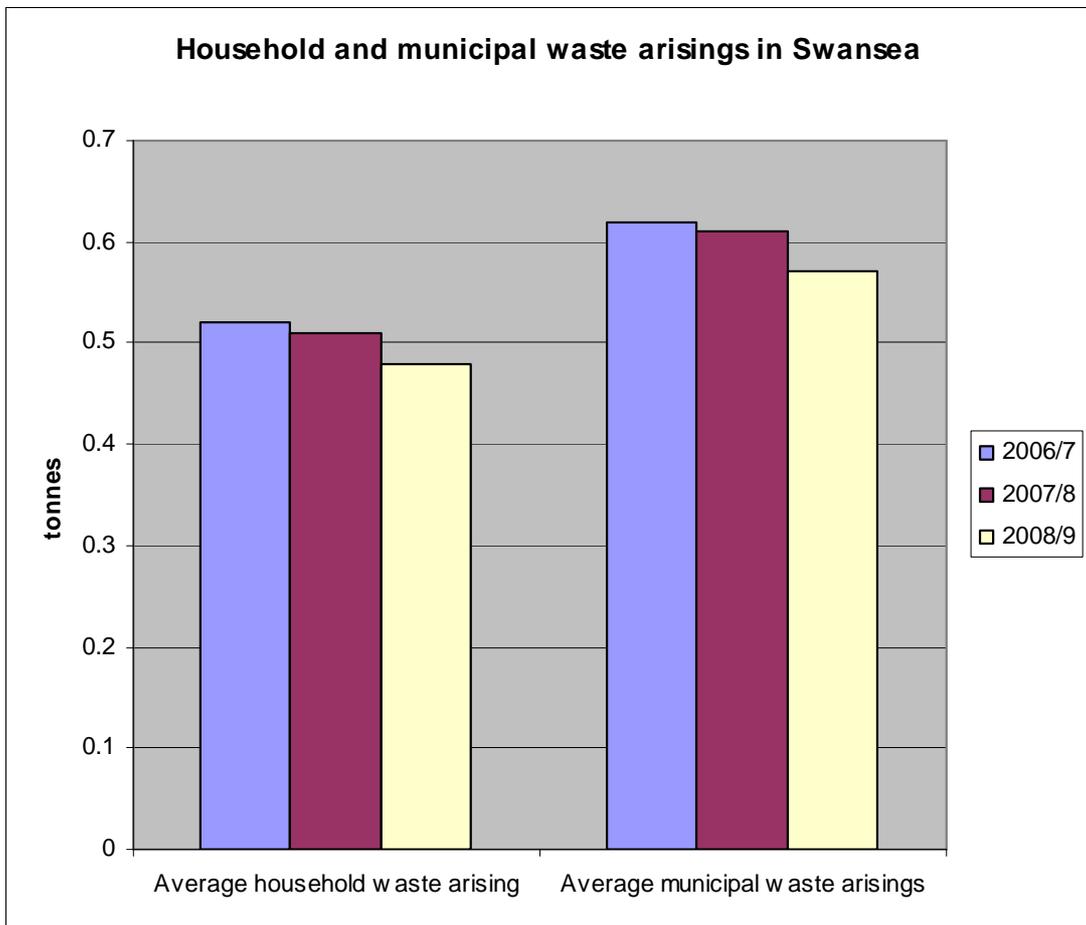
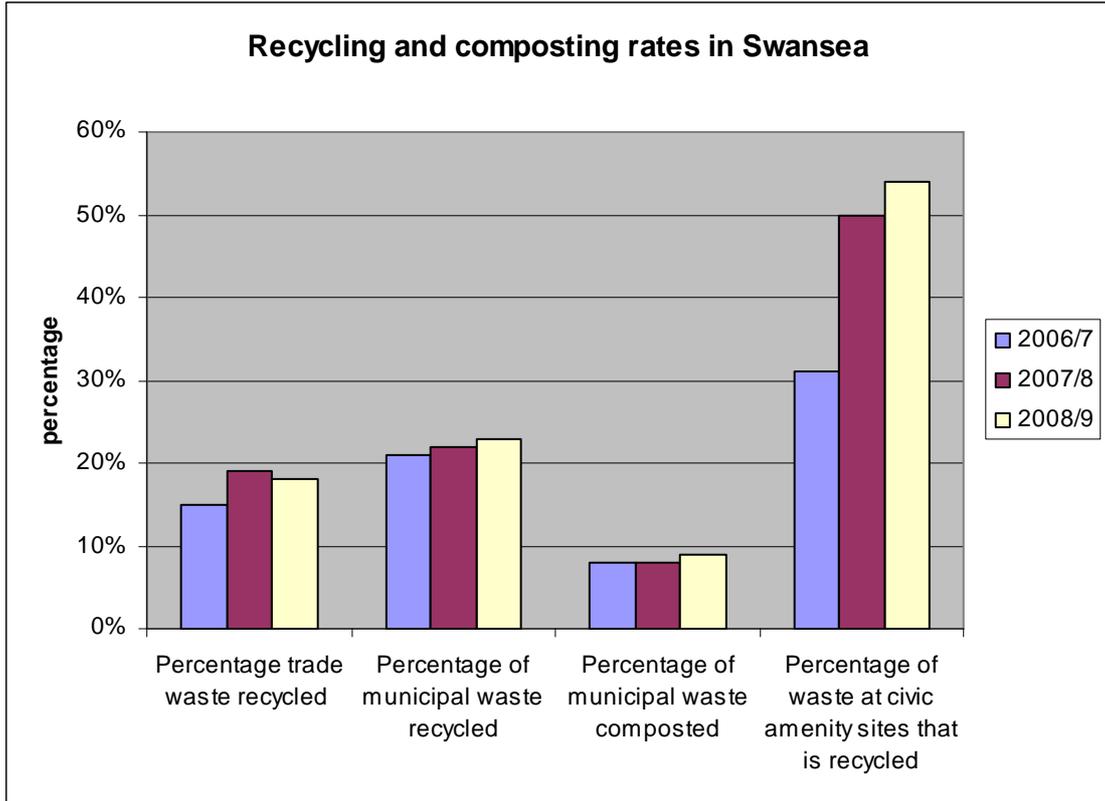
Though it was previously proposed to develop plastic bag free schemes in Swansea, this has become less of a priority with greater numbers of people now using alternatives and the Welsh Assembly Government considering applying a nation-wide levy to help reduce single-use plastic bag use further.

A recycling incentive scheme was run in both 2007/8 and 2008/9 which offered participants the opportunity to win their Council tax free for a year (sponsored by Corus). It is felt that enforcement options should only be considered as a last resort and once a full recycling service is in place. In 2009, partners in the Swansea Waste Forum and SCRAP collaborated in organising a week-long awareness-raising events programme – Swansea Wise Up to Waste Week. The Council has made improvements to recycling service web pages which now include games for children and teachers' resources, and Swansea Waste Forum has launched a new website and now arranges regular seminars on waste management issues.

The Cylch Investment Programme (CIP) was launched at the Cylch conference in 2008. It is an investment programme which aims to provide financial and other support to Cylch members to enable them to improve their financial sustainability. Three projects in Swansea have so far benefitted from this assistance.

Partnership working is very strong in Swansea within the waste management sector facilitated through SCRAP and the Swansea Waste Forum. A project officer is in place to develop SCRAP by helping to secure funding and raise the partnership's profile, and also facilitates the Swansea Waste Forum.

In 2009, WAG consulted on a new waste strategy for Wales which included two key targets; first, that by 2025 all sectors in Wales are recycling at least 70% of their waste; and second, that by 2050 Wales would achieved zero waste.



WM6: Provide and develop suitable sites and sustainable technologies for dealing with waste

SUMMARY

Facilities at the Baling Plant and civic amenity sites in Swansea have improved and a new bulky household collection, reuse and recycling centre has been set up in Clydach. Talks on developing regional waste management or resource recovery facilities are ongoing.

AMBER

LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

City and County of Swansea (Waste Management)
Swansea Waste Disposal Company
Environment Agency Wales

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

No indicators were agreed for this priority.

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

The Tir John landfill site was closed in 2005 and was reopened in late 2009. During the interim period, municipal waste was transported for disposal in three other counties at great financial and environmental cost.

Facilities at the Baling Plant have been extended and improved over recent years to accommodate additional and more efficient segregation of materials. An in-vessel composter was installed in November 2006 to mix and treat food and garden waste and more recently a machine to melt polystyrene has been installed so the material can be transported for recycling more easily. The sorting line for the kerbside collection bags was re-orientated and a new line for paper sorting is being set-up which will also accommodate the plastic sorting that will be needed to support the kerbside collection of plastics. In 2009, a new commercial recycling compound was opened at the Baling Plant encouraging local builders to segregate their waste for a nominal charge. There have been several improvements to many of the local civic amenity sites, or community recycling centres, including plastic compacters introduced at three sites, polystyrene collection at two sites and Tetra pack collection facilities at each site. There is better onsite signage and staff have received training to encourage segregation.

The Council has recently established a bulky household collection, reuse and recycling centre in Clydach (see WM5).

Environment Agency Wales has implemented the new environmental permitting regulations that came into force in 2008. The new system provides a single, streamlined and risk-based framework for permitting and compliance unifying previous regimes for Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC) and Waste Management Licensing (WML). In 2009, the Waste Batteries and Accumulators Regulations and the Mining Waste Directive were included in the system.

The South West Wales Regional Waste Plan 1st Review was published in 2008 and identified both the types of waste management or resource recovery facilities required in South West Wales and types of locations likely to be acceptable. Discussions did take place between Swansea and Carmarthenshire Councils on the proposal to develop a regional integrated waste management facility but these did not prove fruitful. A wider partnership of local authorities across south-west Wales is now developing plans for the regional procurement of facilities and services to deal with food waste and residual waste.

ST1: Promote more sustainable forms of travel and transport

SUMMARY

Public transport facilities and services are being improved in Swansea but car use is at present largely static. Though the strategic Cycle Network in Swansea is well used, urban cycle routes and cross-city links remain underdeveloped.

AMBER

LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

City and County of Swansea (Transportation, Highways)
 SWWITCH (South West Wales Integrated Transport Consortium)
 Sustrans
 BayTrans (Swansea Bay Sustainable Travel and Tourism Partnership)
 Swansea Bay Alternative Travel Forum

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Modal split on key routes into Swansea	83% car 17% bus	-	-	-	-
<i>City Centre User Survey:</i>					
- car (incl. p&r)	49%	56%	55%	51%	51%
- bus / train	31%	24%	28%	29%	28%
- foot	16%	17%	16%	19%	19%
Number of cyclists using Celtic Trail	-	228,000	142,000	-	-
<i>Cycle route counter data – Blackpill Lido</i>	-	-	-	148,600	149,300
<i>Cycle route counter data – five locations</i>	-	-	-	350,000	394,000
Number using park and ride facilities	208,512	255,552	304,235	334,440	324,118
	2003	2005	2007	2008	2009
<i>Main form of transport for shopping (SVS):</i>					
- car / van	69%	74%	77%	-	78%
- bus / train	11%	20%	13%	-	10%
- walking / bicycle	6%	14%	8%	-	8%
- other	14%	4%	2%	-	4%
<i>Main form of transport for leisure (SVS):</i>					
- car / van	66%	63%	67%	-	67%
- bus / train	11%	17%	13%	-	11%
- walking / bicycle	11%	20%	16%	-	19%
- other	12%	5%	4%	-	3%
<i>Main form of transport for work (SVS):</i>					
- car / van	69%	49%	61%	-	64%
- bus / train	11%	7%	9%	-	6%
- walking / bicycle	11%	9%	8%	-	11%
- other	9%	36%	21%	-	18%

The last survey of transport modes on major routes in Swansea was carried out by the Council in 2005 and although it had been expected that further surveys would take place, they haven't as yet because they are very costly and resources have not been available.

The Swansea City Centre Partnership conducts an annual survey of visitors to the city centre which reveals that just over half respondents travel to the city centre by car, van or motorcycle and below 30% travel by bus or train. Walking has steadily increased from 15% in 2002 to 19% in the last two years.

The data collected through the Swansea Voices surveys suggests that whilst travel by motor vehicle for leisure and work purposes appears to have decreased a little over the past 5 years, travel by motor vehicle for shopping has increased noticeably, rising from 69% to 78%. Use of public transport for work tends to be lower than for leisure or shopping and appears to have decreased whereas walking and cycling is more popular for leisure than the other two purposes. (Please note that the 2005 survey allowed multi-responses so the figures do not add up to 100%).

The figures given for cyclists using the Celtic Trail are extrapolated estimates based on Cycle Route User Surveys carried out by Sustrans at Blackpill. Though the total estimated usage figure for 2006 showed an increase from surveys conducted in 2000 and 2004, the figure for 2007 shows a considerable drop. This was probably due to the very wet summer that year and the survey report does suggest that the greatest fall in use of the cycle route was for leisure purposes and that the numbers of commuters using the route held up. After the 2007 survey funding ran out and further surveys have not been undertaken.

Cycle counters are in place in 10 locations on cycle paths around the Swansea area. The total annual figures given for Blackpill Lido are extrapolated from 24 hour averages. The combined figures for five other locations includes data from counters on cycle routes at Ashland Sports Club, Fabian Way (west of the park and ride bridge), Tawe Sail Bridge (west side), Swansea Civic Centre, and north of the Pill footbridge at Blackpill. It should be noted that the 2009 figures are based on data for February to July and is expected to be higher once the other summer months are included. For various reasons, the data sets are not complete and for more accurate figures to be produced there needs to be greater consistency in surveying and data sets. The Council's Transportation Department has recently invested in overhauling the cycle counter infrastructure and more reliable data will therefore be available henceforth.

Patronage of the park and ride facilities in Swansea has continually increased until 2009 when the annual figures for the Landore and Fabian Way sites dropped a little. This may suggest that the patronage at these sites has reached a natural peak but there may be many other factors at play. Use of the park and ride sites varies considerably from month to month with a very noticeable peak in each December – sometimes double the patronage of other months – which reflects the general increase in travel during the festive period.

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

The Regional Transport Plan (2010–2015) was published in 2009 with a strategic vision and clear priorities for transport improvements in south-west Wales. It provides a five year programme with over 70 projects across the region including the redevelopment of Swansea bus station, the development of Gowerton train station, extending the Landore park and ride and developing a park and ride facility for the west of Swansea. Funding for these projects is dependent on support from WAG and other sources.

The infrastructure works for the ftr Metro were completed in 2009 and a regular, frequent and hosted service is now running between the Morriston and Singleton Hospitals via key points including the Liberty Stadium, the bus and rail stations, the Civic Centre and Swansea University. Feedback from users is reported as positive and patronage is above initial expectation. Funding for the redevelopment of Swansea bus station has also been secured and this is expected to be completed by Christmas 2010. Funding for the first phase of a redevelopment of Swansea High Street train station has also recently been identified and work is due to start in 2010.

Swansea's third Park and Ride facility was established in Fforestfach towards the end of 2006 but as yet a fourth site, to serve the west of Swansea, has not been identified. Express routes from both the Landore and Fabian Way sites have been put in place.

The Swansea Bay Sustainable Travel and Tourism Partnership (BayTrans) was established in 2006 and involves transport operators, local authorities, countryside bodies and voluntary organisations, working together to develop and promote sustainable travel opportunities for local people and visitors to access the countryside of Gower and the Valleys of Neath Port Talbot. Work towards introducing an integrated Swansea Bay Public Transport Tourist Ticket for local bus and train travel is still ongoing.

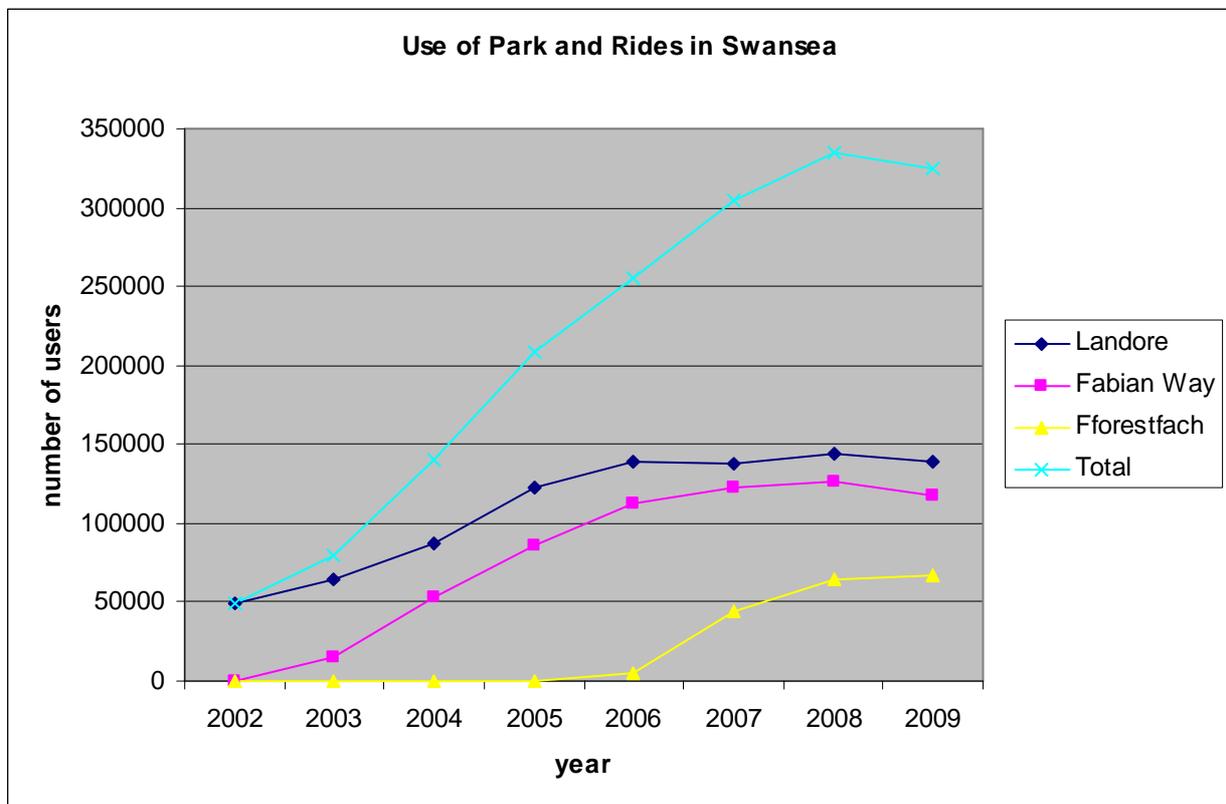
However, the Plus Bus scheme has been introduced in Swansea allowing passengers wishing to use both rail and bus within a single journey to purchase just one ticket for both rail and bus travel.

The Swansea Bay Alternative Travel Forum (SBATF), a partnership of major public bodies in Swansea, met regularly for about a decade to promote and exchange good practice in travel planning and sustainable travel activities at their facilities. One key initiative was the production of the Swansea Bay Alternative Travel Map, the 3rd edition of which was published in 2008. This group has however met less frequently in the last year and looks likely to wind down having seen its initial aims effectively progressed and some activities superseded e.g. the production of a comprehensive walking and cycling map in 2009 which was produced in partnership between CCS, WAG, Sustrans, Wheelrights and SA1. The Swansea Transport Forum has not met for a couple of years and though transport strategy is now primarily developed on a regional basis, it may still be beneficial for a local group to meet so that transport issues can be discussed strategically at a local level.

Work is due to start on the Connect 2 cycle path project in the Clydach area and is expected to be completed in 2013. There have been significant developments of the Penclawdd-Gowerton cycle track to the east of Penclawdd and the project is on reserve for Connect 2 funding. Several stretches of cycle track have been or are being created around the marina and riverside areas through 106 planning gain agreements with developers in those areas. Luminous traxeyes have been installed along the Blackpill to Dunvant route. Some new city centre routes have been developed or incorporated into major infrastructure changes e.g. cycles can use the former Metro bus lanes and a new signposted cycle route links the train station and Walter Road.

The Council has agreed to install cycle parking facilities at its three multi-storey city centre public car parks – the stands have been ordered and should be in place in the first half of 2010, after consultation with cycling groups on best placement.

A contract for developing a transport modelling system for the city centre and Tawe bridge area has been started and is due to be completed by the end of March 2010. This is expected to help in managing traffic and informing development in the area.



ST2: Improve access to services, workplaces and community facilities

SUMMARY

An increasing number of organisations, schools and partnerships are preparing travel plans and promoting sustainable travel to staff, students and customers. Accessibility to key services and facilities is good for most people living in Swansea but car use remains the most popular mode of transport.

AMBER

LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

City and County of Swansea (Transportation, Highways, Road Safety)
SWWITCH (South West Wales Integrated Transport Consortium)

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

		2007	2008	2009	
Number of travel plans produced by local organisations and schools		-	-	-	
Number of organisations and schools with local travel plan awards	bronze	-	-	36	
	silver	-	-	16	
	gold	-	-	1	
	schools	1	3	5	
Accessibility index for Swansea		-	-	-	
<i>City Centre User Survey (very or fairly easy to access)</i>		89%	96%	95%	
		2003	2005	2007	2009
<i>Ease of getting to facilities and services (SVS – very or fairly easy)</i>					
- local shopping facilities		93%	95%	94%	92%
- city centre shopping facilities		87%	88%	82%	82%
- GP		89%	93%	92%	91%
- parks and open spaces		92%	92%	89%	90%
- public transport (bus stop / train station)		88%	90%	88%	88%
- recycling facilities		63%	72%	66%	68%
- civic amenity site		62%	68%	63%	67%
- sport / leisure centre		77%	68%	66%	72%
- County Hall, Guildhall, council offices		75%	78%	76%	78%
- local library		88%	86%	84%	88%
- cultural facilities (cinema / theatre)		79%	83%	80%	78%
- local hospital		71%	78%	74%	78%
- pharmacy or chemist		94%	96%	96%	96%
- place of work		62%	72%	64%	71%

It has not been possible to determine how many organisations in Swansea have produced travel plans. However, the Council's Road Safety Team state that 26 primary schools currently have travel plan in place, with a further 7 schools in the process of developing them.

SWWITCH has held its first annual travel plan award ceremony in September 2006 but data on the number of awards given at each ceremony is not available. The number of awards in the first four award ceremonies (up to and including September 2009) given to Swansea organisations totals 53. This is 87% of all the awards given out in the region. It is expected that over 30 further awards will be given in 2010, most of which will again be for Swansea organisations.

Nine school travel plan awards have been given in the past three years with a further three awards due to be handed out shortly. Ten of these twelve awards are bronze but one school has also gained silver and gold awards i.e. ten different schools have gained awards and one has had three awards.

Accessibility, in this context, means peoples' ability to get to key services that they need. An accessibility index score for Swansea has not yet been calculated but SWWITCH has undertaken work on accessibility across south-west Wales using accessibility planning software (*Accession*). They have also undertaken connectivity studies to measure the level of public transport between key settlements and strategic employment sites.

Accessibility maps and connectivity radar diagrams are included in the appendices of the Regional Transport Plan (RTP) and these suggest that accessibility within Swansea is generally good with the exception of western Gower, and that Swansea and most of its satellite communities are well served by public transport. Accessibility and connectivity are also listed as indicators in the RTP so it may be possible to use data from this source in the future to monitor change.

In the City Centre User Survey 2009, 95% of all respondents found access to the City Centre 'very easy' or 'fairly easy'. This was a notable increase from a low of 86% in 2005 but the same as the figure from the 2002 and 2003 surveys.

The data from Swansea Voices Surveys suggest that the proportion finding it easy to get to local shops has remained roughly the same, at about 93%, but accessibility for city centre shopping is lower and has reduced a little from 87% in 2003 to 82% in 2009. The accessibility of many community facilities and services has remained fairly consistent and high at about 90% e.g. local pharmacy, parks and open spaces, GP and public transport. A notable proportion of those surveyed (over 20%) found it difficult to get to council offices, sport and leisure facilities, local hospitals and recycling facilities.

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

WAG published its Technical Advice Note 18 (TAN18) in 2007 which describes how to integrate land use and transport planning, explains how transport impacts should be assessed and mitigated, and provides advice on issues such as public transport, walking and cycling, parking, and the location of development. TAN18 also promotes the production of travel plans by developers and the planning department in Swansea would expect to see a travel plan produced for all major developments. The Welsh Assembly has also placed a requirement on all hospitals in Wales to produce a travel plan by the end of March 2010 and all new schools are expected to have a travel assessment undertaken.

SWWITCH organised its fourth annual travel planning conference in 2009, attracting about 100-120 delegates from across the region. At this event, the SWWITCH Travel Plan Awards are given to businesses, organisations, schools or community groups that meet one of three standards of achievement: Bronze awards are given in recognition of an organisation completing a Travel Plan to an acceptable standard; Silver awards are given in recognition of ongoing commitment to Travel Planning; and Gold level awards recognise regional excellence and best practice in Travel Planning. An annually-renewable Platinum level was introduced in 2009 to ensure Gold award winners continue their work and it is anticipated that two organisations, one of which is expected to be from Swansea, will receive this new award this year. SWWITCH is the only consortia in Wales to run such an awards scheme.

The Council has worked with a number of schools each year through the *Safe Routes to Schools* scheme – securing funding to help schools develop travel plans and to undertake capital works to improve road safety around schools. The number of schools has varied from 5 in both 2007/8 and 2009/10 to 9 in 2008/9. The Council's Road Safety Team also work with a wider number of schools, promoting safer and more sustainable travel.

The *Safe Routes to Schools* scheme was re-styled nationally as *Safe Routes in Communities* in 2007. Schools that have completed a School Travel Plan are eligible to enter the bidding process for *Safe Routes in Communities* funding from WAG, as are community groups that have completed a Community Access Plan – outlining measures and initiatives that encourage residents to access local services and facilities by walking, cycling or using public transport, and so reduce the reliance on cars for local journeys. In Swansea, a *Safe Routes in Communities* project has been undertaken with the Craigfelan community in 2009/10 and one is being planned for Caemawr and Clase in 2010/11.

In 2008, SWWITCH launched the Schools Transport Project which aims to improve school transport services across the region by improving risk assessment, monitoring and reporting systems, delivering training programmes to school transport staff and introducing a code of conduct and pupil contracts. Additionally, 24 local schools have gone through a 2 day travel plan champion training event run by SWWITCH.

SWWITCH has also introduced travel champions training sessions for businesses and for health care professionals e.g. a dozen appointment call centre staff have received training on how to advise callers about getting to health services. A *Smart Travel* leaflet is being produced to send out with appointment acknowledgement letters and to display in GP surgeries (initially on a six month trial). It is also proposed that a link to Transport Direct or Traveline Cymru will be provided on the NHS Direct website.

SWWITCH continues to promote car sharing through the swwitch2share regional scheme which currently has about 2,000 registered users. (It should be noted that participants are removed from the database if they remain inactive for six months). The current rate of email exchanges between those registered is about 36%, up from about 25% in 2005. The local authority, the local health authority, the education sector (local universities and colleges) and Admiral, each run their own independent car sharing schemes. These are not all currently well used and would probably benefit from further promotion. It is also likely that many people make car sharing arrangements without registering with a formal scheme.

The Swansea North Integrated Transport Initiative (SNITI) group – covering Swansea Vale, Llansamlet Enterprise Zone and Morfa – continues to meet regularly and some progress is being made. For example, a park and ride service was established in 2009 enabling employees of the Land Registry, HSBC and DWP to park at the Liberty Stadium and use a dedicated bus to their workplaces in the Enterprise Zone. It is hoped that the Liberty Stadium park and ride scheme for Llansamlet Enterprise Zone workers will continue to develop and be extended to include links to public transport systems. A survey will soon be undertaken to help assess the potential for improved bus services in the SNITI area.

Swansea's first park and share scheme was launched at the Felindre site in November 2009 with capacity for over 300 cars. It was primarily established as a park and ride scheme for DVLA staff but the general public are also welcome to use the site to park and then car share to their final destination. There are currently no accurate data on use of this facility but it is estimated that 50-60 vehicles use the car park, though most of these will be DVLA staff.

It is expected that in 2010/11 the travel planning activities currently undertaken by regional transport consortia, such as SWWITCH, and the associated staff will be taken in-house by the Welsh Assembly.

ST3: Improve air quality and reduce air pollution

SUMMARY

Poor air quality in Swansea is primarily due to vehicle emissions and is getting worse in some areas as car use and congestion continues to increase. Greater collaboration between council departments and other bodies is crucial if progress is to be made.

RED

LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

City and County of Swansea (Pollution Control)

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Number of days when air pollution is moderate or higher	138	58	142	126
Number of roadside NO₂ monitoring sites exceeding annual mean limit	-	17	23	(22)
<i>Number of roadside NO₂ monitoring sites close to exceeding annual mean limit</i>	-	10	14	(9)
Number of PM_{2.5} monitoring sites exceeding annual mean limit	-	0	0	0
Number of PM₁₀ monitoring sites exceeding annual mean limit	-	0	0	0
<i>Number of PM₁₀ exceedences of 24-hour mean limit</i>	- Swansea AURN	7	6	4
	- Morfa	22	15	26
	- Morriston	10	12	6

UK Air Quality Strategy and Air Quality Standards Regulations, launched in 2007, set targets and assessment requirements for seven pollutants and the air quality monitoring program in Swansea has been developed to assess compliance with five of these – benzene, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), particulates, sulphur dioxide (SO₂). However, the measurement of carbon monoxide and sulphur dioxide may come to an end soon as the related equipment has not been included in the 2010 service and maintenance contract, in a drive to reduce Council costs, and will no longer be repaired if faults occur. Data for these pollutants will no longer appear on the website. Real-time measurement of SO₂ will continue at the St Thomas DOAS to check elevated levels linked to industrial operations in the region and further afield.

The main focus in Swansea has been on NO₂, because of failures in the Lower Swansea Valley area. More recently there has also been an increasing interest in particulates (in particular PM_{2.5} or PM₁₀). It should be noted that a specified number of exceedences of the targets are allowed before it is classed as a failure of the regulations. The figures for number of NO₂ monitoring sites exceeding or close to exceeding annual mean limit may be affected by the increase in monitoring stations (see ST4). The figure for NO₂ in 2009 is unconfirmed as some lab results were still awaited.

Though no monitoring sites have exceeded the annual mean limit for PM_{2.5} or PM₁₀, some sites have come close to doing so and therefore these indicators may be useful in the future. There have been exceedences of 24-hour mean limit at the three PM₁₀ sites but in each case it has been below the permitted 35 exceedences in a year.

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

The Environment Act 1995 required local authorities to designate any areas where it is likely that the standards for any of the identified pollutants would be exceeded as Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs). At the end of 2001, after a comprehensive assessment process, Swansea Council declared that areas of the Hafod were likely to fail the NO₂ annual mean limit.

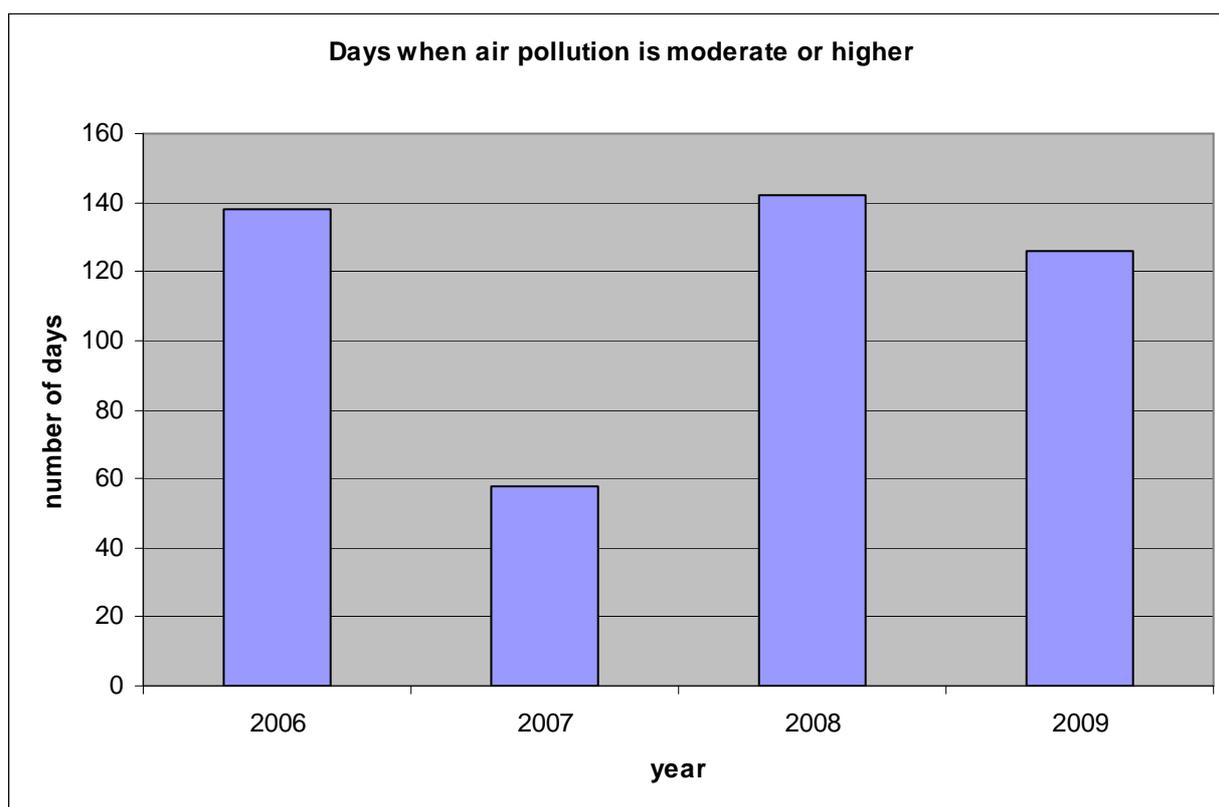
Subsequent Air Quality Progress Reports and Updating and Screening Assessments have confirmed that it may take some time for Hafod to comply with national targets. The failure to comply may be confounded by proposed developments around Morfa Road and delays in the development and use of Nowcaster.

The Nowcaster model – a near real-time traffic emissions forecasting system using traffic flow and meteorological data – has now been validated and is being further developed. However, funding has not yet been identified for roadside signage that could be used to encourage drivers to avoid certain areas when air quality is poor.

It is anticipated that the Swansea AQMA will be formally extended in 2010 to include parts of Fforestfach and Sketty which are failing to meet the NO₂ annual mean objective.

In recognition of the growing problem of air quality in Swansea and the difficulties associated in dealing with traffic growth, the main cause of the problem, SEF agreed to make air quality one of its shared priorities (see page 6). A task group was formed in 2009 bringing together officers from different departments and services within the Council to discuss the issue and draft an action plan.

In March 2010, a *Review of Local Air Quality Management* report was published by Defra and the Devolved Administrations assessing the operation of local air quality management (LAQM) in the UK. Whilst the report acknowledges that the reviewing and assessment aspects of LAQM is generally done well, it suggests that measures put in place through LAQM action planning have had very limited impact.



ST4: Improve air quality monitoring and reporting mechanisms

SUMMARY

Air quality monitoring stations and equipment in Swansea have continued to improve and the number of monitoring locations has increased. Detailed and almost real-time air data is available via a comprehensive website but proposed personal alerting systems have not yet been fully developed.

AMBER

LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

City and County of Swansea (Pollution Control)

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<i>NO₂ monitoring locations</i>	-	71	134	137	274
<i>Number of hits on Swansea Air Quality website</i>	163,139	168,538	202,668	211,791	-

No indicators were formally agreed for this priority. However, some interesting data was found: the number of NO₂ monitoring locations has increased significantly over recent years and the number of hits on the award-winning Swansea Air Quality website has increased year on year since its launch in 2005.

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

There are 8 air quality monitoring stations in Swansea each with a different selection of air quality and/or meteorological measuring equipment. In addition, there are currently ten 'standalone' PM10 dust monitoring stations.

The first FDMS PM_{2.5} monitor on the UK AURN network was set-up in the monitoring station at the junction of Carmarthen Road and Lion Street in January 2008.

The Swansea air quality website (www.swansea.airqualitydata.com) is one of the most comprehensive and accessible of its kind in the UK. It was improved and re-launched in June 2007 and won the best UK air quality website award. Some additional features were also added in 2008.

An alert system based on air quality data is available live from the website. A proposed personal pollution alerting system is ready but further discussions about its potential use need to be had with Public Health Wales staff and local chest physicians.

Financial constraints may impact on proposed and potential developments as monitoring equipment is switched off (see ST3) and improvements or new initiatives postponed.

EA1: Encourage and support good practice in ESDGC in local education establishments

SUMMARY

Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship (ESDGC) is becoming mainstreamed within most educational establishments in Swansea and participation in Eco-schools and other environmental education activities has increased in the past few years as opportunities have increased.

GREEN

LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Swansea Environmental Education Forum
Keep Wales Tidy
Cyfanfyd (EES)

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Percentage of schools with Eco-School Green Flag	-	23%	-	38%
Percentage of schools at other Eco-School levels	- registered	92%	-	98%
	- bronze	-	47%	70%
	- silver	-	35%	55%
	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9
Percentage of schools in local award schemes	92%	92%	96%	-
Number of supported schools visits to key sites and facilities <i>(and number of pupils)</i>	-	139 (3,990)	242 (4,448)	346 (4,749)
Number of ESDGC training sessions for school staff	6	8	10	4
Number of school staff attending ESDGC training sessions	81	107	127	74
<i>Number of times Green Boxes loaned out</i>	33	29	-	-

The number of Swansea schools progressing with the Eco-School scheme has increased substantially over recent years. Nearly all schools in Swansea are now registered with the scheme and of those that achieve bronze level, most progress to silver and go on to get the Green Flag within a few years. At the end of 2009, there were 40 Eco-School Green Flags in Swansea and several others expected in the first term of 2010 (though some schools requiring renewal may lose their Green Flag). The percentage figures for Swansea are a little higher than for the whole of Wales where 93% of all schools had registered with Eco-Schools and 36% had attained the Green Flag status by March 2010.

By 2008, nearly all schools in Swansea were participating in the Swansea Schools Recycling Awards, a scheme run by the Council's recycling service and the Environment Centre. Over the six years of this award scheme, 60 schools achieved the gold award and participation rates reached 96% of schools. A further award scheme was introduced in 2007 focussed on water conservation and energy efficiency – 47 schools (almost 50%) participated in this. These schemes were superseded in 2008 by the Swansea Sustainable Schools Scheme (see below).

The indicator relating to supported schools visits combines data from five key sites and facilities (Bishops Wood, Forest School, Wetlands Centre, Swansea Community Farm and Environment Centre). There has been an increase in the number of visits and/or pupils attending sessions at each of the sites, which is also shown in the total figures.

The number of ESDGC training sessions for school staff does appear to have increased over recent years. The figures used for this indicator, however, relate only to the sessions listed in the annual SEEF INSET booklet, which were variable and not a true reflection on what was actually delivered. The booklet was not published in 2009/10 and is not expected to be produced in 2010/11 either.

It is evident that an increasing number of training sessions for teachers and other ESDGC practitioners are now being provided by Forest School, Cyfanfyd, Down to Earth and others. For example, Down to Earth currently have a target of delivering training in informal ESDGC methodologies to at least 45 youth workers, teachers and others each year.

The Green Boxes are a set of themed resource boxes with a selection of books and educational resources. They were set-up, maintained and, until recently, administered by the SEEF co-ordinator, and have proved to be popular with schools. In 2008/9, the Green Boxes were updated and from September 2009, the ELRS (Education, Learning and Resource Service) in Port Talbot agreed to administer the scheme on behalf of SEEF. In the first half of the 2009/10 school year, 17 boxes were loaned to Swansea schools suggesting that the arrangement is working well and that there is still a good level of interest in the resources.

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

In 2006, WAG published a national action plan for ESDGC (Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship) and in the same year Estyn (the education and training inspection service in Wales) produced a report establishing a baseline for ESDGC in schools and FE colleges. A key set of actions in the national action plan was the development of 'common understanding' documents for different sectors of education e.g. schools, higher education, work-related learning, youth work and adult continuing education. The *ESDGC: A Common Understanding for Schools* guidance document was published in July 2008 and aims to support the delivery of ESDGC based around seven interlinked themes. Similar documents were later published for other education sectors e.g. the further education sector in September 2008. Another action common to each sector was the call for all educational establishments and services to appoint an 'ESDGC Champion'.

In September 2008, a new curriculum for schools in Wales was introduced with ESDGC given greater prominence in various subjects and in the new PSE Framework. The Foundation Phase, which had been piloted for a few years, was also formally adopted throughout Wales and is being rolled out to replace the Key Stage 1 curriculum with more skills and play based activity, including a focus on using the outdoors.

Enabling Effective Support (EES), a DFID-funded programme run in Wales by Cyfanfyd, supported the development of local or regional networks to support ESDGC in schools. In Swansea, SEEF took on this role and benefited from some project funding (see EA3).

SEEF was originally established in 1999 with a membership of about 50 ESDGC providers in and around Swansea. Its aim is to improve the quality of environmental education and ESDGC through collaborative and strategic working and by supporting the sharing of information and resources. An annual INSET programme was published by SEEF from 2006/7 but was not produced in 2009.

For several years, SEEF held a termly members meeting but in July 2007 the frequency and format of SEEF meetings was reviewed and it was decided that there would be an annual members conference plus one other event each for teachers and lecturers. SEEF's activities and development is overseen by a Working Group and there are also subgroups for Schools, HE/FE/adult education and Youth, though the latter has only met sporadically.

An ongoing focus for SEEF has been to support outdoor education and school grounds development. Following a successful training and networking event for outdoor learning providers organised by SEEF in early 2007, an audit of provision took place and a directory of information for schools and colleges entitled *Using Sites for Studying the Natural Environment in and Around Swansea* was launched at an outdoor education conference for teachers in March 2007, together with the teachers guide to the Swansea Sustainability Trail (see EA4). More recently, in early 2010, CCW funded the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) to undertake a research project looking at the provision of outdoor education in Swansea and making recommendations for its improvement and development.

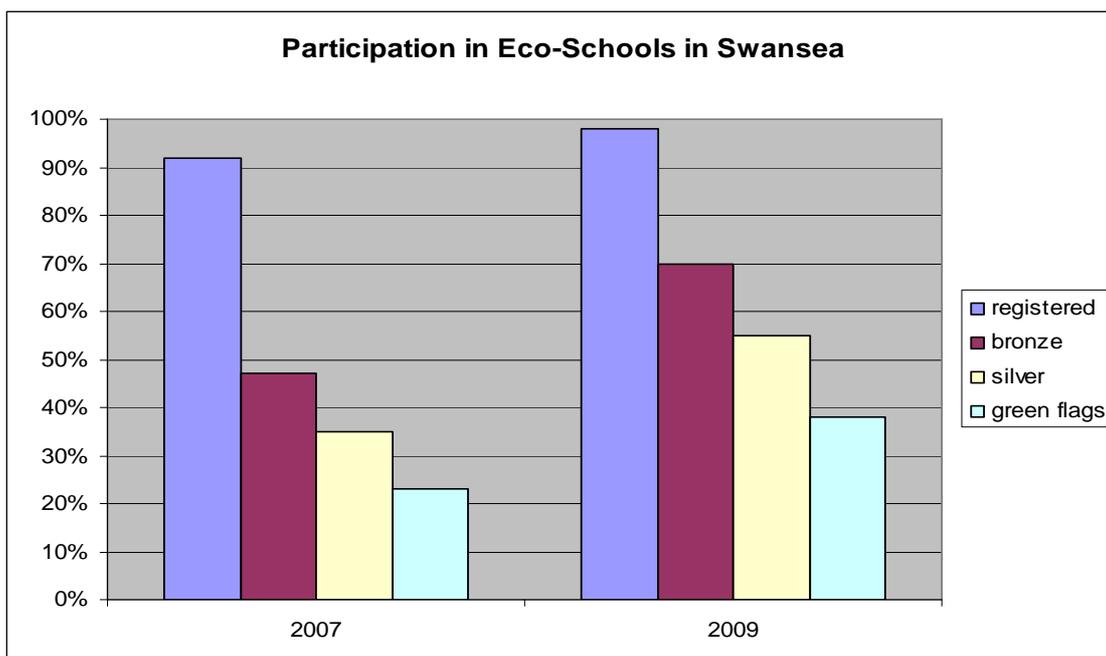
In 2008, SEEF commissioned a research project to review how ESDGC was being delivered in local secondary schools. The findings showed that the standard was generally poor and inconsistent so

SEEF agreed that the secondary school sector would become a priority from 2008/9. In early 2009, SEEF established a network of secondary school ESDGC co-ordinators in Swansea and in March 2010 awarded grants to four secondary schools to support the development of their school grounds. Some schools have received support for their grounds developments from the Council's Nature Conservation Team, the Tidy Towns initiative (see BE1) and the Down to Earth Project (see EA2), but a county-wide strategy has not yet been developed and generic guidance materials have not been provided to date, though SEEF has obtained funding to produce the latter in 2010.

The success of the recycling and water and energy award schemes prompted SEEF to develop a broader and more comprehensive scheme to encourage schools to move forward in eight thematic areas. The Swansea Sustainable Schools Scheme (4S's) was launched in autumn 2008 incorporating the recycling award (as waste and litter), and the water and energy award, together with standards for animal welfare, biodiversity, global citizenship, transport, food and farming, and school grounds and buildings. The first round of assessment under the 4S's will take place in 2010 with awards presented at the Sustainable Swansea Awards ceremony. The 4S's scheme is expected to drive schools towards higher standards of ESDGC in both school management and curriculum activity and was designed to complement and support achievement in national initiatives such as Eco-Schools, Healthy Schools and Fairtrade Schools. Though it is anticipated that there may be low participation in the scheme initially, it is hoped that this will increase.

In the HE and FE sectors, some progress has been made on developing environmental management systems at both universities and both colleges and audits of ESDGC have taken place. A Foundation Certificate on Sustainability was developed in 2007, complementing the existing Higher Education Certificate in Sustainability. However, modules were not taught in either certificate in 2009. In 2007, a PP4SD project based in Swansea University developed and used SD training materials related to land based industries and early in 2010, the same group of staff led an application to gain UN recognition for Wales as a Regional Centre of Expertise for ESDGC. RCE Wales will facilitate collaboration to research, develop and promote Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship.

After more than a year in development, a SEEF website was launched at the start of 2010. This facility has pages for schools, youth, life-long learning and informal learning, and includes an events calendar and discussion forums. Core funding from the LEA for the SEEF Co-ordinator has not been secured for 2010-11 so the co-ordinator post is likely to come to an end at some point in 2010. This is almost certain to result in a reduction in SEEF activities, communication and monitoring of progress. Links with practitioners, schools and other beneficiaries will be maintained through the website.



EA2: Actively promote sustainable living

SUMMARY

There has been an increase in the number of events, training opportunities and information resources available in Swansea that relate to sustainability and environmental issues. The number of organisations arranging activities and providing resources for the public and community groups has also increased.

GREEN

LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Sustainable Swansea Initiative
Swansea Environmental Education Forum

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Number of hits on Sustainable Swansea and Environment Centre websites	Sustainable Swansea	13,975	28,467	-	25,9023	-
	Environment Centre	11,150	15,015	30,419	36,017	-
<i>Number of events listed in annual environmental events leaflet</i>		282	292	288	331	316

The total number of hits on the two websites has clearly increased. Both websites were redeveloped in 2008 and though there was minimal disruption with the Environment Centre website, it has only been possible to obtain data for the new Sustainable Swansea website from mid-2009. The 2009 entry is therefore derived from the number of hits between May 2009 and March 2010.

A SEF website was launched in December 2008 and a SEEF website was launched in January 2010. Hits on these two new sites could provide useful data which could be included as part of the indicator in future. The average number of hits per month on the SEF website is currently over 3,000.

The annual environmental events leaflet has been produced since 2000 and early editions listed approximately 250 events taking place from April to December. From 2006 the leaflet was extended to include March events and in 2010 included the last week of February. The total number of listed events has increased in the past few years to around 300. It should be noted that the leaflet does not provide an accurate or complete indicator of the number of environmental activities taking place as not all relevant events are included in the leaflet because of space restrictions and design considerations. Attempts have been made to gather information on attendance at events listed in the leaflet but this has not proved successful.

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Sustainable Swansea, a partnership initiative managed by SEF, was established to help make Swansea a more sustainable place to live, work and visit through awareness raising projects, by demonstrating and highlighting good practice and by providing the tools, knowledge and enthusiasm to effect sustainability. The core project of Sustainable Swansea is the Swansea Sustainability Trail (see EA4) but the initiative has also developed several other projects including the Sustainable Swansea Awards (see also EA4), community green mapping programmes and major public events.

The first Swansea Green Map was published in 2005 and was the first of its kind in Wales. An updated edition published in 2007 and in the same year Sustainable Swansea collaborated with Interfaith Swansea to produce the world's first Green Map of Faiths and Spirituality, launched in 2008. In June 2009, a new international, interactive green mapping online resource called Open Green Map was launched. Sustainable Swansea assisted in its establishment, was the first scheme in the UK to provide material for it and remains one of the most active contributors in the world. In recent years, a key focus for Sustainable Swansea has been the development of community (green) maps through digital media workshops. Community projects have been undertaken in Penlan, Castle and Townhill resulting in community maps being published for each area.

Additional sustainability awareness and digital media workshops have taken place in other areas too, particularly Communities First areas. Following the success of these projects, Sustainable Swansea launched a new community engagement programme in 2009 called Get Sust! which offers a range of activities including digital media outreach work, green mapping, carbon footprint clinics and sustainability advice.

In 2007, Sustainable Swansea organised the *Earth from the Air* exhibition and an associated programme of events, which attracted an estimated 100,000 visitors with about 17,000 attending the *Breathing Cities Springwatch* event – a partnership between the BBC, the Council and SEEF. As a follow-up in 2009, the international photographic exhibition *Hard Rain* was brought to Swansea and a new local photographic exhibition, called *Vital Signs Swansea*, was created to highlight local projects that are making a contribution to sustainability.

The Swansea Fair Trade Forum brings together organisations and interested individuals to help raise the profile of fair trade in Swansea during Fairtrade Fortnight and through other events throughout the year. This Forum works to keep Swansea's Fairtrade status and maintains a Swansea Fair Trade Directory which was last published in 2008 – though the online version has been updated more recently.

The Down to Earth Project was established in 2005 and has quickly developed a reputation for the delivery of training in natural building and ESDGC, winning the Overall Winner Award in the 2008 Sustainable Swansea Awards. The project is currently providing a free training programme in traditional and natural building for disadvantaged adults and delivering a programme of natural building skills for disaffected young people, which together aim to benefit over 300 people over three years.

DACE's Community Progression Project, which ran from 2006-8, funded a series of awareness-raising talks to staff and volunteers at community education centres across four counties in south Wales as part of the promotion of the new Foundation Certificate in Sustainability. In Swansea, this included workshops for community development staff and volunteers in the Blaenymaes ARC and Drop-in Centre.

The Tidy Towns initiative in Swansea has also been promoting greater awareness of sustainability issues and environmental action by community groups and individuals (see also BE1 and EA3).

At a national level, Cynnal Cymru-Sustain Wales has become increasingly influential at promoting and communicating and sustainable development across Wales.

EA3: Promote active citizenship and increased participation in decision-making processes

SUMMARY

There has been an increase in the opportunities available for people of all ages to get involved in community activities and environmental projects. Community organisations continue to emerge and environmental partnerships develop though many initiatives remain vulnerable and dependent on short-term funding.

AMBER

LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Sustainable Swansea Initiative
Swansea Environmental Forum
Swansea Environmental Education Forum

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

	2007	2008	2009
Number of volunteers / volunteer hours in environmental projects (National Trust, BTCV and Swansea Community Farm)	6,076 / 59,522	3,095 / 39,229	1,333 / 28,843

Calculating the total number of volunteers and volunteer hours in environmental projects is not easy as there are so many organisations that could be included, most of which do not consistently record such data. It is not always straightforward to determine whether the work can legitimately be regarded as environmental in nature and volunteer numbers can also fluctuate from year to year for a variety of reasons e.g. availability of volunteer co-ordination or project funding and the type of project work.

The figures above are combined totals gathered from three key local environmental organisations that consistently record their volunteer numbers and hours. This suggests that volunteering in some environmental projects has decreased in recent years. Each project tell a different story:

The National Trust experienced a halving of volunteer numbers and hours from 2007 to 2008 but this was largely due to the Whiteford Lodge being closed and the working holidays that had been based there no longer adding to the figures. The number of volunteers picked up last year though volunteer hours continued to fall a little.

BTCV in Swansea has seen a rapid and significant decline in volunteering in the past three years largely due to local community projects, which involved large numbers of volunteers, coming to an end, and a reduction in funding and staff resources.

Swansea Community Farm experienced a sharp four-fold rise in volunteering between 2003/4 and 2007/8 and though the number of volunteers has dropped a little in the last two years, the number of volunteer hours has continued to rise. (It should be noted that the figures provided by the Farm were for financial years but were combined with the figures provided by the other two organisations for chronological years – 2007/8 with 2007, 2008/9 with 2008, etc.)

There is also anecdotal evidence of an increase in the number of third sector organisations undertaking environmental projects and more organisations, from both the voluntary and statutory sectors, taking on volunteers. Both these trends could contribute to an increase in volunteering.

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

There are many local organisations and projects (in addition to those mentioned above) that promote active citizenship through volunteering in conservation and environment-related activity. For example, in 2008 the Gower AONB Ranger service established a volunteering programme. Many of its activities are undertaken in partnership with other organisations, such as the National Trust, and discussions are ongoing as to how volunteer numbers and volunteer hours might be recorded. It is estimated that about 30 volunteers were involved in the project in its first year.

Also in 2008, Sustainable Swansea reintroduced an environmental holiday play scheme for children based on the successful summer Green Team that had operated in Swansea for over twenty years, initially with the Prince of Wales Committee and latterly with SEEF. The Trailblazers scheme engages young people aged 8–14 in practical activities at sites on the Swansea Sustainability Trail or other partners projects. The success of this initiative led Sustainable Swansea to explore similar opportunities for an older age group. The Trailblazers II (TBII) project was set up to support 14–25 year olds find volunteering opportunities with projects on the Trail and other schemes, and during a 9-month pilot phase, from April to December 2009, engaged 86 volunteers.

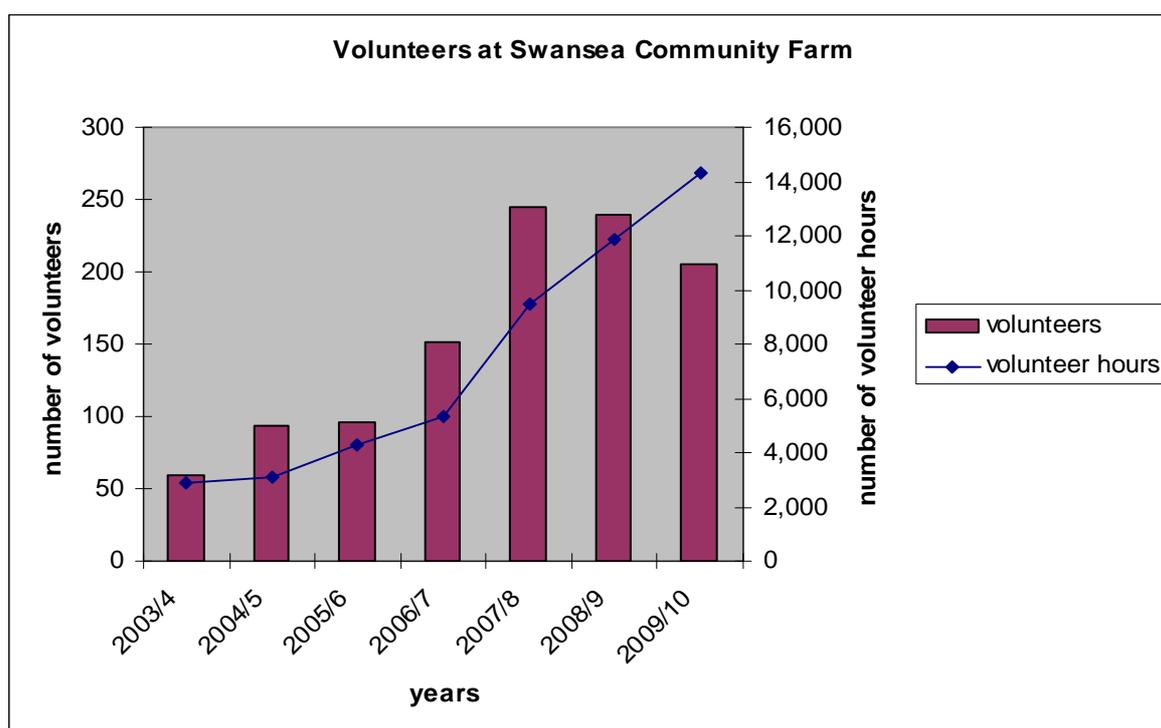
The Tidy Towns initiative (see BE1) has promoted and supported action by individual volunteers and local groups to improve their communities. About 30 new community action groups, affiliated to Keep Wales Tidy, have been established in Swansea to help make their communities cleaner and greener.

There are currently 9 development trusts or partnerships in Swansea and 10 Communities First projects which encourage community participation in regeneration projects. The Sustainable Swansea Initiative has focussed much of its work in these areas (see EA2) and two development trusts are represented on the SEF Executive Committee.

SEF secured core funding in 2007 from the EAW to help with administration and capacity building and with additional grant aid from CCW, SEF was able to undertake further work on the environment strategy, including a one-year review and the preparation of a second action plan. CCW has continued to support SEF’s development and its activities related to the community strategy. This included a comprehensive organisational review in 2008 which focused on SEF’s aims, priorities, structure, procedures and capacity, and led to the preparation of a business plan and marketing materials.

The Environment Centre continued to develop and expand in 2006-8, employing additional staff and managing an increased number of partnership projects. However, in 2008-10 the Centre has found it difficult to maintain this expansion, losing some project staff and become financially less secure.

The SEEF coordinator post continued to be part-funded by the Local Education Authority (LEA) until March 2010 when Council budget cuts has resulted in this support no longer being available. SEEF has received additional project funding through the Enabling Effective Support programme (see EA1) for the last few years, which has supported teachers’ conferences, teaching resources and other activities. The EES programme has now become more regionally focused making funding for Swansea-specific projects uncertain and with the loss of LEA funding, has put the future of the SEEF coordinator at risk.



EA4: Encourage good environmental practice amongst organisations and businesses

SUMMARY

Good environmental practice in Swansea continues to be highlighted and promoted through the Sustainable Swansea Awards and Swansea Sustainability Trail but there has been a significant drop in participation in the Green Dragon Awards scheme.

AMBER

LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Groundwork Wales
Sustainable Swansea Initiative
Swansea Environmental Education Forum

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

		Mar 2007	Feb 2010	
Number of Green Dragon Awards (level 2+)	- Swansea	63	22	
	- Wales	<i>approx. 900</i>	358	
	2005	2006	2008	
<i>Sustainable Swansea Awards applicants</i>		51	57	45
<i>Sustainable Swansea Awards applicants by category</i>	<i>- businesses</i>	8	12	9
	<i>- community projects</i>	22	15	19
	<i>- schools</i>	12	11	4
	<i>- public agency</i>	8	11	8
	<i>- champion</i>	1	8	5

The number of Green Dragon Environmental Standards of Level 2 or above in Swansea peaked at 68 in 2007 but dropped significantly in the last two years. European funding for the scheme ended in that year and though continuation funding extended the programme to March 2008, Arena Network, which ran the scheme in Swansea, subsequently folded. Groundwork took over supporting Green Dragon in Swansea but with the funding gone and higher charges now being made, some organisations are clearly less inclined to remain in the scheme. In Wales as a whole the scheme peaked at close to 1,000 organisations but has fallen by almost two thirds in recent years. (It should be noted that the figure provided for Wales in Feb 2010 includes at least 22 businesses outside Wales.)

The first Sustainable Swansea Awards were launched in 2005, ran again in 2006 and then became a biennial event running in 2008 and being planned for 2010. The total number of applicants and the applicants to each award category has fluctuated but the schools category has seen a notable drop. Nine businesses applied for an award in the 2008 Awards – less than in 2006 (12 applicants) but similar to 2005 (8 applicants). A key criteria considered when assessing applicants in the business category of these awards has been participation in Green Dragon.

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

The Green Dragon Awards scheme was introduced in Wales in 2003 as a stepped approach to environmental management. Participants can attain awards at five levels – 1 being the simplest and 5 being similar to international standards such as ISO14001 or EMAS. The scheme was supported by Arena Network in some areas and Groundwork in other parts of Wales. The awards have to be renewed every year so organisations lose their status if they do not demonstrate that the standard is being maintained. The former Arena Network officer that worked with Swansea businesses has recently established the Wales Green Business Centre in Clydach and has a license with Groundwork to deliver the Green Dragon scheme in Swansea and south-west Wales.

The Swansea Sustainability Trail was developed in 2006 to showcase good examples of sustainability. There are currently 24 projects or sites in and around Swansea that are featured on the Trail and most have been provided with a Trail interpretative panel. A Trail guide booklet was published in 2007 using the Trail sites to explain and illustrate the concept of sustainability and a teachers' education guide was produced in the same year detailing how schools can make use of Trail sites to teach ESDGC.

APPENDIX

Detailed Assessment Matrix

The following table shows the RAG assessment for each strategic priority broken down into six individual components. The assessment criteria descriptions are given on page 8.

Strategic Priority	Indicator Data	Additional Data	Action Plan (2006-8)	Action Plan (2008-10)	Additional Actions	Comparison with Wales	Overall Status
NE1	-	-	Red	Red	Orange	-	Red
NE2	Red	-	Red	Orange	-	-	Red
NE3	Green	Orange	Red	Orange	-	-	Orange
NE4	Orange	-	Orange	Orange	-	-	Orange
BE1	Orange	Orange	Green	Orange	-	-	Orange
BE2	Green	-	Orange	Orange	-	-	Orange
BE3	Orange	Orange	Green	Green	-	-	Orange
BE4	Orange	-	Red	Red	Orange	Red	Red
WM1	Orange	Green	Orange	Green	-	Green	Green
WM2	Orange	-	Orange	Red	Orange	Orange	Orange
WM3	Red	Orange	Orange	Orange	-	-	Orange
WM4	Orange	-	Orange	Red	-	-	Orange
WM5	Green	-	Green	Orange	-	Orange	Green
WM6	-	-	Orange	Orange	Green	-	Orange
ST1	Orange	Red	Orange	Orange	-	-	Orange
ST2	Orange	Orange	Red	Orange	Orange	-	Orange
ST3	Red	Red	Red	Red	-	-	Red
ST4	-	Green	Red	Red	Orange	Green	Orange
EA1	Green	Green	Orange	Orange	Green	Green	Green
EA2	Green	-	Orange	Green	Green	-	Green
EA3	Red	-	Red	Green	Orange	-	Orange
EA4	Red	Orange	Orange	Green	-	-	Orange