

Newsletter

Spring 2024

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Plattform yr
Amgylchedd Cymru

Environment
Platform Wales



Environmental
research funding
influenced by
EPW

Welcome

Welcome to the Environment Platform Wales (EPW) newsletter. EPW aims to increase the quality and relevance of evidence available for environmental management and policy making in Wales.

We do this by supporting researchers to engage directly with Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales through workshops and working groups and by supporting the development of large-scale funding applications that have direct relevance to Welsh policy makers.



Spoiler Alert! Coal Tip Safety Research Group

Since being requested to help Welsh Government officials connect with academics with research relevant to coal tip safety in Wales there has been investment in:

- 3 x PhD Studentships
- >£1m in research funding bids submitted
- New course modules / MSc dissertation
- Proposals for new legislation in Wales

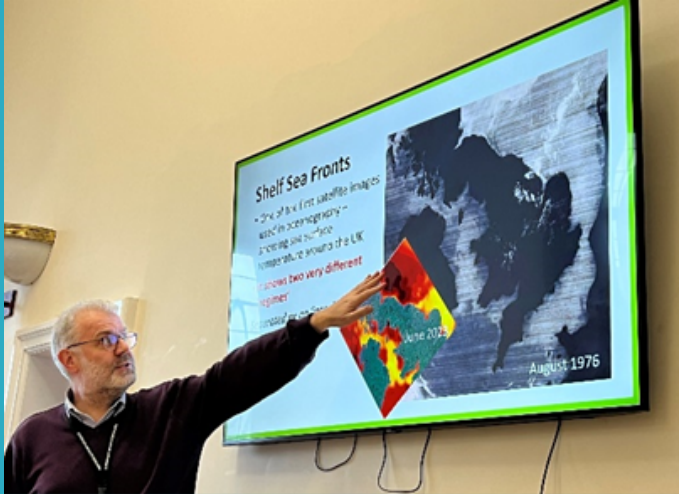
Welsh Marine Evidence Conference makes waves

Environment Platform Wales, Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales hosted the 2024 Marine Evidence Conference in February with the aim of creating stronger ties between research and policy in the Welsh marine environment sector. The event was a great success, with over 150 attendees coming together, in-person in Bangor and also online, to share knowledge and develop networks.

Kirsten Ramsay, NRW's Team Leader Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Advice, said "Bringing together people in a conference like this is really important to discuss how we can carry out research that will feed into policy and management decisions that will protect our marine environment".

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The conference featured over 30 presentations, spotlighting the breadth of collaborative research being undertaken and raising awareness of the future challenges lying ahead. Themes explored over the three days were: Offshore Wind, Tidal Energy and Other Industries, Blue Carbon and Salt Marsh, Monitoring, Status and Baselines, Seagrass Restoration and Water Quality, Fish and Fisheries, Society and Wellbeing, and, Collecting and Using Data. Slide packs from most of the presentations are available on the EPW website [here](#).



Three environmental Research Fellows funded by Welsh Government

The first Fellow to be appointed, Dr Iain Brown (Dundee University) will be presenting an Insights Wales talk about his work developing a framework for the integration of the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources on 24th April @ 1:30pm. You can register to [attend here](#).

New Partnerships and Collaborations

Defusing environmental tensions: Peace and Environment Working Group

Environment Platform Wales has formed a partnership with Academi Heddwch (the Welsh Peace Institute) to bring together academics from our partner universities, policy makers to explore the relationship between the environment and peace. Following initial online scoping meetings, the working group met in Aberystwyth in March for a facilitated workshop focusing on how environmental change might create tensions for communities in Wales. The innovative event was hosted by the Aberystwyth Dialogue Centre with the intent of contributing towards a short policy paper.



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Imagery Re-imagined: Space and Satellite Working Group

In 2023, Space Wales discussed how they are exploring the use of satellite imagery in environmental monitoring and management.

EPW have since supported them to connect with researchers and they are now embarking on a £100k UK Space Agency-funded collaboration to provide knowledge exchange activities between the public sector, academia and SMEs in the areas of harmful algal blooms and commercial seaweed farming. Outputs will be used to inform policy making, improve public sector delivery and for real-time monitoring and response to future threat scenarios, while defining new market opportunities for SMEs to engage in the development of solutions to identified challenges and promoting collaboration across the cluster networks. Workshops are proposed during 2024. Please contact info@epwales.org.uk if you'd like to be involved.

Earth Observation Research

EPW has:

- Supported >£1m of WG investment - making 2000 Planet Lab data licenses available per university for next 2 years.
- Facilitated training events and workshops for end-users
- Planned a knowledge sharing seminar to enable users to share their research with others and develop collaborative initiatives.



Environmental PhD placements in Welsh Government in 2023



Different Perspectives: Designated Landscapes Working Group

Following an Insights Wales webinar with Tirweddau Cymru's (Landscapes Wales') Ruth Lovell, Environment Platform Wales are facilitating the formation of a working group on designated landscapes. The group will be formed of representatives from across our partner universities and an initial online meeting has been arranged for April 22nd which will be hosted by Ruth and colleagues from Bannau Brycheiniog National Park.

Please contact us at info@epwales.org.uk if you'd like to be involved.



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Bright Prospects

Helping our students find their environmental career

Environment Platform Wales has attended a range of events across the Wales targeted at students who are interested in pursuing an environmental career.

Over 750 students were given advice at the 19 events that we attended in 2023.

We have continued this valuable work in 2024, hosting a successful online careers panel event in partnership with Cardiff University's Student Future's team, where over 40 students from across Welsh Universities joined us with a panel featuring guest speakers from RSK Consulting, RSPB, Marine Energy Wales and Wales and West Utilities. EPW have also continued our work raising awareness of chartered environmental institutions, holding a webinar introducing the work of the Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES) and career benefits arising from membership.

Reservoir Water Research Group

Our largest community of research with over 120 members representing 12 universities and 17 water companies across the UK, Ireland and Netherlands. £100k's of funding has been invested in research sub-partnerships of group members.



1000+
Registrants for
Insights Wales

**Insights Wales:
Call for
presentations**

Over 1,000 people have signed up to attend our Insights Wales talk series. Insights Wales bridges the gap between research and policy evidence needs. Do you have research you would like to share or an evidence gap that needs filling? Contact us at info@epwales.org.uk if you would like to present in our next Insights Wales talk series. [You can also register to attend the talks on our website.](#)

800+

Environmental
Researchers



Join our Researcher Database

Environment Platform Wales are establishing a database of environmental researchers based at Welsh universities and institutions. [Add your researcher profile on our website.](#)