

## **Growth Deal Climate Change FAQs**

### **Is this paper about agreeing a regional position on climate change?**

No, this paper is about agreeing a position for the delivery of the Growth Deal projects only.

### **What are we trying to achieve?**

We are seeking to achieve the best affordable solution for each project in terms of minimising emissions and biodiversity impacts, in support of national and global efforts to tackle climate and ecological change. Simply put, we are looking for our projects to deliver the most energy efficient assets or buildings possible, to minimise the carbon footprint of construction and to have a positive impact on biodiversity.

### **What is operational carbon?**

Operational carbon is the amount of carbon dioxide emitted through the running or operational use of a building or asset. For example, lighting, heating and maintenance.

Net zero operational buildings are highly energy efficient with all remaining energy from onsite and/or offsite renewable sources.

### **What is embodied carbon?**

Embodied carbon is a term that captures all the carbon emitted throughout the life of a building or asset. In addition to operating carbon, this includes emissions from sourcing materials, processing, transport and construction as well as emissions generated from demolition and waste at the end of life.

### **What is biodiversity net gain?**

Biodiversity Net Gain is “an approach to development that leaves biodiversity in a better state than before.” When applying biodiversity net gain principles, developers are encouraged to bring forward schemes that provide an overall increase in natural habitat and ecological features on-site, in nearby sites or through ‘offsets’ (i.e. paying to improve biodiversity somewhere else).

### **What is net benefit for biodiversity?**

This means the same as biodiversity net gain, but is the term used in Wales.

### **Why are we trying to reduce emissions and increase biodiversity?**

As the levels of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases increase, more heat is “trapped” in the earth's atmosphere and global temperatures rise. This ‘global warming’ is causing significant changes in the timing and length of the seasons as well as frequency of extreme weather – flooding, droughts, hurricanes, and wildfires. The effects of climate change on North Wales will include rising sea levels and impacts on agriculture and infrastructure due to increases in extreme weather. Communities with robust biodiversity are likely to be better able to adapt to climate change and climate variability than impoverished ones.

**What will be the impact on projects?**

At this stage this is unknown. While there are potential implications in terms of cost and scope, there are also significant opportunities. It is recognised that projects are at different stages of development. Projects at an early stage of development will be able to embed the position statement in the design and development of those proposals. Other, more mature projects may not be able to meet all the aspirations without significant additional cost. In these instances, the Portfolio Management Office will work with project sponsors to achieve the best affordable solution for the project.

**How will the NWEAB consider this position statement when making decisions?**

The Portfolio Director will work with external specialists to put in place the necessary process to underpin this position statement. The NWEAB members will be provided with the necessary information to make an informed decision on project business cases having considered the economic, social and environmental impact of projects on North Wales.