

# Benefits of being a WEL member

## What's Wales Environment Link?

Wales Environment Link (WEL) is a network of some of the most dynamic, innovative and practical NGOs in Wales. Collectively, they represent over **420,000 members and supporters across Wales and own or manage 5% of its land area**. By joining the network, you would benefit from a range of WEL services.



### Information & political monitoring

A wide variety of topics, covering everything from biodiversity to marine to planning policy, is sent straight to your inbox. Depending on your interest and work areas, you'll receive valuable information from WEL staff every day. WEL also receives weekly reports from newdirect, a political monitoring company, ensuring you get all the information you need from the Senedd every Friday. It's an incredibly valuable resource which saves staff a lot of time, as well as briefing all staff in the WEL network on political developments, policy movement, new consultations and upcoming debates.

### Policy networks and training



Our main focus of work is in running policy groups that meet on a regular basis. These change and adjust according to WEL members' priorities and current work streams; check out our website for recent work. **WEL also provides free or subsidised training on advocacy and communications to all WEL members.** This includes training on how the Senedd works, how to engage effectively with politicians, understanding the legislative process, using social media for environment campaigns and training on how to use our Basecamp platform. Some of our training is delivered in-house and some is delivered by external experts and trainers.



### Working together

By having such a wide network, made up of large UK-wide organisations and small Wales-only organisations, we can help each other. **WEL builds trust and capacity amongst its members, supports collaborative working and facilitates consensus in addressing important environmental issues.** Members tell us that they value being able to learn from each other, share

To find out more, get in touch with our Joint Directors: [susan@waleslink.org](mailto:susan@waleslink.org) and [karen@waleslink.org](mailto:karen@waleslink.org)

information and expertise, and that the network provides opportunities to 'see the bigger picture' and puts issues that they're working on in a wider context.

## Advocacy



WEL highlights networking opportunities and holds our own events at the Senedd. We meet with MSs regularly and link them up with WEL members through the Species Champion project. We also foster good relationships with Welsh Government – through regular meetings with the relevant Ministers – and organisations like Natural Resources Wales and the Future Generations Office.



## Online networks

WEL is forward thinking and technology is used wherever it makes collaboration and coordination easier. **We use an online platform called Basecamp, which is very easy to use and empowers members to directly collaborate within the WEL network,** without using email. It encompasses more communication tools, with one-to-one messaging; group chatrooms and forums.

## UK-wide Links



**WEL has three sister organisations across the UK based in Scotland, England and Northern Ireland.** On UK-wide issues, we work together and learn from each other's practices through Environment Links UK. This is particularly helpful for eNGOs that work in all four nations. We also work with Greener UK, a campaign-focused organisation based in London.

### How do you join?

We have a sliding scale of members' fees, depending on your organisation's total income. Get in touch with WEL staff to find out more.

Membership is open to any not-for-profit, non-governmental organisation working within Wales, whose charitable objectives complement ours, is welcome to apply for membership. Members should work within Wales on national issues and be able to demonstrate independence from government or commercial interests in its decision making (i.e. organisations who are not hosted and managed by government or its agencies, or operating solely as a 'for profit' organisation).

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