



## Marine Litter Action Plan for Wales 2017-20

### 1. A strong evidence base – build an understanding of what works, recognising that different types of litter requires different solutions, to inform the action plan

- 1a. Undertake a review with all Local Authorities in Wales of effective practice in reducing litter highlighting riverine pathways and specifically with coastal authorities on managing marine litter with support of WLGA (Welsh Local Government Association)
- 1b. Undertake a review of practice and build connections with marine litter action groups across UK, EU and globally and specific initiatives (such as the Global Ghost Gear initiative)
- 1c. Build links with relevant Higher Education research projects – involve Higher Education institutions in Wales and build partnerships with other leading research centres e.g. Plymouth University
- 1d. Review the evidence base to establish agreed communication messages around sources, spread and impact in Wales to provide a coordinated message

### 2. Focus on preventative action to prevent the problem at source as core strategy

- 2a Identify priority preventative behaviour change actions and work with lead partner campaigns (e.g. Welsh Water Stop the Block)
- 2b Targeted engagement on preventative interventions through working with producers and retailers to pilot innovative change through voluntary led action
- 2c Identify opportunities for further legislative change within devolved powers to promote preventative action as part of extended producer responsibility.
- 2d Focus on education work to give a higher priority on impacts of marine litter education programmes in schools
- 2e Review and apply necessary enforcement measures as part of long term prevention
- 2f Ensure long term investment in coastal infrastructure to protect the marine environment from sewage related debris and other waste (e.g. fishing gear)

### **3. Involvement of communities of place, communities of interest and users of the marine environment to develop and implement solutions**

- 3a Identify a small number of pilot communities e.g. coastal; riverine (possibly linked to Welsh Government Visit Wales investments) to lead an integrated approach involving public, councils, businesses, marine users to include use of new non-plastic biodegradable materials, piloting awareness raising with visitors, behaviour change interventions e.g. visual messages, placing and type of receptacles.
- 3b Build specific programmes with tourism businesses and coastal attractions as key partners with a strong business interest working with Visit Wales.
- 3c Riverine litter input is estimated to be a major contributor, but there is no comprehensive information about the amount of litter being transported through rivers into the sea. Identify pilot 2 contrasting river catchments to undertake a development project e.g. linked to Western Wales and Dee River Basin Management Plans.
- 3d Our geographical location means that there will need to be continued focus on coastal clean ups. Develop a more collaborative approach across key organisations to increase impact, recognising there is currently overlap between activities such a volunteer beach cleans.
- 3e Introduce a Fishing for Litter scheme that is appropriate to the Fishing fleet in Wales funded through EMFF.
- 3f Work with key marine user groups to Identify behaviour change interventions that can enable improved practices.

### **4. Integrated working to maximise economic, social and environmental outcomes**

- 4a Ensure links and support across all relevant Welsh Government policy areas(e.g.ensuring marine litter is captured as a risk to ecosystem benefits in coastal area statements)
- 4b Use Visit Wales 2018 “Year of the Sea” as a focal point to raise awareness.
- 4c Work with Port Authorities to continue to improve facilities.
- 4d Build partnerships with retail outlets and coastal attractions.
- 4e Review requirements re prevention of litter within relevant Government and local authority grants.
- 4f Develop circular economy opportunities for new product development from marine waste drawing on the Circular Oceans agenda.

### **5. Monitor the impact of interventions in achieving long term change**

- 5a Report against the contributions made to the implementation and review of the MFSD with respect to marine litter.
- 5b Ensure consistency of surveying data collected by volunteers.
- 5c Report annually against actions undertaken through the Marine Litter action plan.

- 5d Recognise initiatives that are having an impact through relevant national awards etc.
- 5e Review and disseminate through an annual stakeholder event.