

General Election 2019: Plaid Cymru manifesto science and education policies

Please note that we have summarised the party's main manifesto only. You can find the manifesto in full [here](#).

Climate and energy

Plaid Cymru:

- Establish a national energy agency, Ynni Cymru, which would be charged with “realising Wales’s green energy potential.”
- Seek a complete ban on fracking and new open-cast coal mines.
- Oppose the development of new sites for nuclear power stations.
- Fully realise marine energy potential including wave, tidal range and tidal stream energy.
- Develop plans for renewable energy that “operate in harmony with nature” by identifying ecologically sustainable sites for offshore and onshore wind energy development, as well as potential areas for solar and tidal energy development.
- Commission a national inventory of green energy potential in Wales, an “Energy Atlas for Wales”, which will identify areas where development will have the least ecological impact.

Environment and ecology

Plaid Cymru:

- Bring forward legislation to tackle the extinction crisis, placing a legal obligation on this and future governments to act for the recovery of nature.
- Scrap HS2.
- Oppose the construction of a third runway in Heathrow.
- Oppose the use of pylons through national parks and areas of natural beauty, advocating the use of underground and undersea cables to carry electricity where feasible.
- Create an overarching strategic framework for planning that prioritises sustainable development and protects against environmentally damaging development.
- Establish a “Ministry for the Future”, with a its own minster tasked with taking a long-term view of our environment.
- Require that imported palm oil comes from sustainable sources.
- Legislate to end the importation of goods that have caused deforestation.
- Ban imports of soy, beef and other agri-commodities from illegally deforested land.
- The party says that future trade deals undertaken by the UK, whether inside or outside the EU, should maintain and enhance environmental standards, minimise the environmental footprint of trade and make trade terms explicitly subject to environmental and human rights commitments. Within this, there should be protections for vital global ecosystems and habitats such as the Amazon, and for indigenous people.

Agriculture and fisheries

Plaid Cymru:

- Support a GMO free Wales and the continuing moratorium on GM crops in the EU.
- Support greater transition to organic and other sustainable farming systems.
- Support a UN global ocean treaty capable of creating a network of ocean sanctuaries covering at least 30% of oceans by 2030. The party suggests that this involve an immediate moratorium on deep sea mining.
- Demand that future trade deals “seek to strengthen rather than weaken animal welfare legislation.”
- Invest in overseas development aid that supports a transition to ecologically friendly farming.

Water and air

Plaid Cymru:

- Set a national and regional plan to reduce air pollution in Wales.
- Create clean air zones in Welsh towns and cities.
- Allow communities to place pollution-monitoring equipment outside schools and hospitals.
- Enable local authorities to introduce pollution and congestion charges.
- Accelerate the transition to an electric transport system so that petrol and diesel cars are phased out by 2030.
- Reform planning law to require impact on air pollution to be given greater weight in the planning system.

Waste

Plaid Cymru:

- Ban single use plastics.
- Ensure a “zero waste Wales” by 2030 through a combination of legislation and policy initiatives, such as deposit return schemes, extended producer responsibility and use of planning laws, levies and tax-making powers.

Health and biomedicine

Plaid Cymru:

- Invest in the infrastructure needed to make the Welsh NHS a “world class environment” for conducting clinical trials.
- Support the publication of all clinical trials to ensure transparency in medical research.

- Support efforts to increase the robustness of EU licensing of medicines, and stronger regulation against false health claims being made in product marketing.

Forestry

Plaid Cymru:

- Increase the acreage of Welsh forestry.
- Aim for a minimum planting rate of 2,000 hectares a year from 2020, a target recommended by the Climate Change Committee.
- Examine the case for establishing a dedicated forestry organization “to undertake the urgent task of addressing the Climate Emergency” by planting more trees. Ensure that this policy is closely connected with agri-environment incentives for farmers.
- Invest in prevention work to reduce new and repeat flooding across Wales, utilising land management techniques such as planting new woodland to manage water retention in the uplands and prevent water run-off.

Science and exiting the EU

Plaid Cymru:

- Protect inward and outward student mobility post-Brexit, including participation in Erasmus+ or any successor schemes and cross-border study on the island of Ireland.
- Continue to push for Welsh participation in European research networks, and to ensure that Wales receives its fair share of research funding.

Research funding and higher education policy

Plaid Cymru:

- Guarantee to replace EU funding which supported research in higher education in the event of Brexit.
- Undertake a review of the funding offer for Welsh domiciled undergraduate and post graduate students in respect of both tuition fees and living costs.
- Provide a subsidy to students who reside in Wales and who wish to study in Wales.
- Target groups and ensure those studying subjects “vital to the Welsh economy and public goals” will pay no tuition fees in Wales, including those taking up key healthcare posts, studying science, engineering and technology subjects and students from particularly challenging backgrounds.

Schools education policy

Plaid Cymru:

- Provide an extra £300 million a year for school and colleges, allowing for long term planning.
- Enable the expansion of capital investment in new school-community hubs, together with developing new Welsh medium schools and 3-14 and 3-19 through-schools where there is local demand.
- Create a professionalised support staff network with adequate rates of pay and clear career progression.
- Ensure that world class teachers are attracted and retained by raising the formal standing of teaching as a profession through introducing mandatory continuous professional development.
- Create a national cooperative agency for supply teachers, which will ensure they receive the same entitlement to training and standards as classroom teachers.
- Support women and girls to follow careers in key growth areas, especially in STEM fields.
- Create a mentorship schemes to increase the visibility of women in non-traditional occupations and senior roles and to increase girls' awareness of the many different paths available to them.