



Environmental Policy

Peak is an organisation which collaborates with young people, artists and intergenerational communities at our two sites in Southeast Wales, a railway station and an old school, and from rural locations such as mountains, caves and canals. Through young people's programmes (16 – 30 years), collaborative research and artist residencies we celebrate the unique qualities and ecologies of our region including the Black Mountains, the Welsh Borders and Vale of Usk. A key part of our work is hosting public conversations that root urgent global conversations in local places and contexts, led by artists and young people in dialogue with farmers, geologists, writers, gardeners, system designers and other makers and thinkers. We create time, space and support for artists and curators, multi-disciplinary practitioners and young people to make, experiment and collaborate with a diverse range of materials and knowledge systems – rooted in the cultures, practices and places of this region with a focus on ways to live now.

We acknowledge that as an organisation, we need to move our metaphors into practice – and so for example alongside the *idea* of composting in research, we need to *do* the composting. This is why one of our new strategic aims is Act Ecological, for which we are committing:

- Peak transitions towards a just, resilient, and decarbonised future and undertakes practical annual carbon reduction projects to further understand and reduce our impact. By 2030 we aim to measure and reduce our ecological impact with precision and to deepen specialist knowledge within the staff team.
- Develop a community garden in Yr Hen Ysgol in partnership with wellbeing, horticulture and climate community partners, providing food for staff and collaborators, reducing waste and as a tool to root global themes in our local patch.
- Consider '[more-than-human](#)'* entities as a key part of our governance, adopting one to the board by 2027.

This strategic aim aligns with Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 goal of **A Resilient Wales**: “A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change.”

As part of Peak's Strategic Plan (updated March 2023) we have committed to defining and actively adopting a plan towards carbon reduction and other means of acting ecologically, in 2024-2025.

Ahead of then, our key priorities for 2023-2024 are:

- Working with trustees and collaborators, make an expanded environmental policy and plan
- Set the foundations for a community garden at Yr Hen Ysgol
- Begin composting at Yr Hen Ysgol, and pilot a zero-food waste policy in the kitchen
- Provide training for staff, trustees and freelancers around climate literacy, carbon literacy and sustainable gardening on an individual, organisation and community basis
- Develop and deliver the pilot of Peek Peers - an evolving annual programme developed for, and with, Young People aged 18-30 living and working in Southeast Wales. Young People participate and shape a programme exploring creative practice, climate and ways to work together – with contributions from farmers, poets, artists, technologists and others as part of its creative curriculum.
- Begin to diversify Peak's financial model, towards generating income from ethical future-facing sources