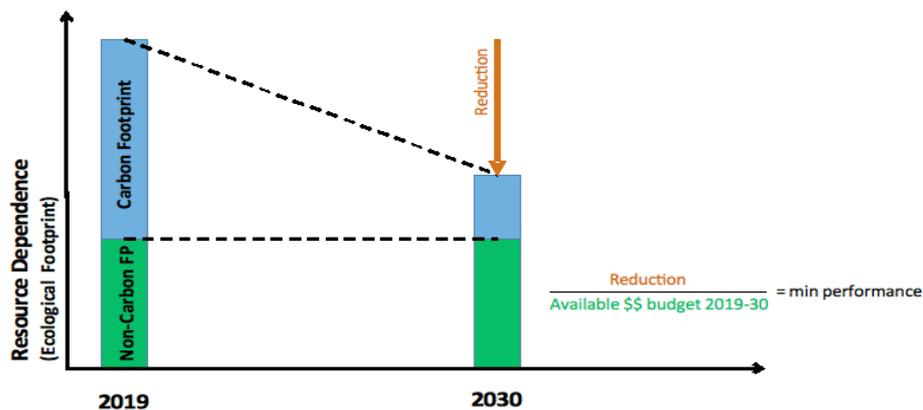


Briefing note: What would setting a target to be 'one planet' Swansea mean?

In a nutshell: Capacity building to determine which version of a given budget proposal contributes the most – or detracts from – the goal of making Swansea become more regenerative and resilient.

A framework for working over time so that all activities over which Swansea has power & influence combine together to reduce its ecological footprint (which includes carbon and biocapacity) to a measurably sustainable level. The time period is defined. The main tools are shifts in collective awareness and in how a budget is spent. The objective is to address the combined climate, resource and extinction emergencies at the same time with win-win-win solutions to create a flagship healthy, successful and resilient city.



The 6-step path towards One Planet Swansea

1. Obtain community buy-in and awareness-raising.
2. Decide which standards and goals to use.
3. Determine the baseline – the current situation of biocapacity and resource use.
4. Set targets to ratchet down consumption and boost biocapacity for each sector over realistic timescales (e.g. 5-year intervals up to 2040).
5. Set in place ways to measure them.
6. Keep checking and refining.

The basic 'One Planet' Swansea requirements

1. An aim to reduce the ecological footprint to 'one planet' by (say, 2040) would become an underlying principle of all planning and policy as a verifiable regenerative strategy.
2. That the same set of social and environmental criteria should be used to assess all planning applications and procurements (e.g. a reduction of ecological footprint and increase in biocapacity, step-changing incrementally over time as with the level currently applied to One Planet Developments in the open countryside under TAN6).
3. The criteria should be informed by appropriate indicators including lifecycle and ecological footprint analysis, using the simple NPV+ tool which allows you to compare all potential and actual projects for their impacts and benefits.
4. Official policy would support all areas and sectors to become more productive and more biodiverse – regenerative. E.g. supporting more food growing in the city.
5. Reduction of the impact of excessive consumption by a shift to a closed loop economy using procurement tools and believing that meeting basic needs is sufficient for everybody.

How spending bodies would proceed

Every project initiated by public bodies would be evaluated relative to the overall goal as follows:

- Where does Swansea want to be resource-wise in 2030 and 2050 to position itself for success?
 - What Ecological Footprint reduction does this imply? (relative to the baseline survey)
 - What is the financial budget of the city for projects over the time period (for instance to 2030 or 2050)?
 - By dividing the reduction by the expected budget, one gets a minimal performance standard for all projects.
 - Every project that does not beat this benchmark becomes a liability and should be avoided.
- Favour the best performing projects and learn from them.

This implies 2 questions about all spending (in line with WBFGA)

To make sure ALL of Swansea's investments are effective in helping to achieve the defined objective they would need to pass two evaluations:

1. Is the investment producing a positive financial return (ROI)? If not, the project will not be replicable. The higher the ROI the faster it can be scaled.
2. Is the investment advancing resource security sufficiently rapidly? If not, Swansea will not be prepared for the future we anticipate. (Resource security is defined by biocapacity, population, resource (including carbon) flows).

Tools to help: 1. Ecological Footprint accounting

- Provides a biological view & joins all the human pressures – water, climate, biodiversity, food, energy, etc. This allows us to solve them all together.
- Ecological Footprint results are understandable by ordinary people (unlike carbon).
- Makes the economic self-interest clear and obvious. It emphasizes resource security.
- It allows policy analysts to identify which options reduce the resource dependence of an economy and by how much.
- Sustainable investments that satisfy investors need to meet both the resource and the fiscal criteria.



To achieve this use: 2. The Net Present Value+ tool

- Expands on classical NPV. See: <https://www.footprintnetwork.org/npvplus/>
- It compares different scenarios for a given spend.
- Can help you evaluate how much the spending benefits social, financial and environmental criteria.
- It also clarifies what the assumed future is within which the spend has to operate.
- Ensures all the relevant costs & benefits are counted within the WBFGA's 5 ways of working.

We're currently applying for a Foundation Economy Challenge Fund grant to pilot this framework solution in the City Region in the light of recommendations from other pilots which have taken this approach (in the USA - Cornell University and Maryland – Martin O'Malley, governor of Maryland, commissioned analyses of public budget decisions).