

north wales
eprofile



issue 3

Aneurin
Phillips...

foreword

"A high quality environment is good for growth and good for jobs."

That's the view of Aneurin Phillips, Snowdonia National Park Authority's Chief Executive, who oversaw the creation of the magnificent Hafod Eryri, the critically acclaimed £8.3 million Visitor Centre at the summit of Snowdon.

He points out that the natural environment of Wales three National Parks generates £177 million in income and supports 12,000 jobs excluding tourism, according to the Valuing Our Environment report.

He said: "Equally important is the impact that an attractive environment can have in leading businesses and individuals to set up in the area.

"The contrasts of the North Wales countryside when you can be on top of a mountain in the morning and on the beach in the afternoon fulfil many people's desire for a good quality of life with a wide range of recreational activities on offer.

"The attractions of North Wales for businesses wishing to settle here are obvious. Add to this the unique culture of the area and I feel we have the ingredients for success.

"These attractions also have a vital role in one of the North Wales economy's biggest drivers, tourism."

In the Snowdonia National Park data shows that tourism is the biggest economic sector, producing close to £400 million each year and

supporting some 8,000 jobs.

Aneurin said: "The key to maintaining market share is the utilisation of the natural environment; in particular in the growing outdoor activities sector.

"The recently announced Gwynedd Centres of Excellence project utilising convergence funding for the development of activity hubs in North West Wales should reinforce this.

"I emphasise that there is a strong need for local people to become involved in the sector both in setting up new businesses but also as instructors and guides for people wanting to develop their skills or explore the area as part of their holiday.

"To make the most of these opportunities there is a need for the infrastructure to be developed to allow businesses to be established and to grow.

"A high quality footpath and access network is vital but another form of network needs to be strengthened as a key component.

"The potential offered by the internet and the need to build on the Fibrespeed project along the coast is immense and investment must be made across North Wales to ensure that the best modern communications technology is available to allow small businesses to develop in our rural communities and to encourage young people to remain in the area.

"Fundamental to all this is the need to maintain and protect our natural landscapes

and environment. If we don't do this then we will lose our natural advantage."



silicon valley in bangor

It's hard to imagine flood water surging through the streets of Rhyl.

Imagine if the Forestry Commission wanted to thin out Newborough Forest and chop down a quarter or more of the trees.

Can you imagine what the Iron Age hill fort must have looked like at Dinas Dinlle?

If your imagination has difficulty stretching that far CAST can help.

The Centre for Advanced Software Technology, a wholly owned subsidiary company of Bangor University, is based at North Wales' very own mini 'silicon valley' on Parc Menai, the business park at Bangor.

Chief Executive Karen Padmore heads a team of experts in the visualisation section of the 6,500sqm high-tech building, which will make what you are trying to imagine a 3D reality.

"We did the flooding model for Denbighshire County Council," said Karen: "It was of Rhyl's waterfront and we showed what would happen if there was major flooding."

One of the flood alleviation models included constructing large steps, which would give access to the beach while being able to prevent a flood surge from washing it away.

Wayne Hope, Senior Engineer for Denbighshire County Council, said: "It has proved to be a powerful communication tool and has since been used in many ways and we look forward to continuing to develop our relationship with CAST."

CAST is now working on a similar

model for Colwyn Bay and another to raise flood awareness at Pwllheli for Gwynedd Council.

CAST Ltd was set up in 2005 and is part of the Technium Wales network, a series of high-tech sites which help, support and develop technology businesses.

Colin Morris, Business Support Manager for Gwynedd Council, said: "These are the kind of 21st century facilities you might not expect to find in rural North Wales. We may have some of the most spectacular scenery in the UK but we also have tremendous technological expertise and the infrastructure to back it up."

On Anglesey CAST worked with the Forestry Commission to show the impact felling would have over the next 20 years at Newborough and their growing client list includes West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue, First Hydro, Welsh Assembly Government, Menter Môn, Aerospace Wales and Cotswold Canals (showing what would be involved in re-connecting the canal to the River Severn).

CAST has also been a lifeline for highly qualified local graduates who might have had to leave North Wales in search of suitable work. One who was travelling to Manchester has now found his dream job right on his doorstep.

www.techniumcast.com



Karen Padmore of CAST at Technium in Bangor with her 'powerwall' visualisation screen with visualisation software engineer Guy Barlow, right, and content creators Dominic Haynes, left, and Rhys Davies.

6lbs of shan't tell you



“Whether the ice cream still contains Dafydd’s secret recipe of 6lbs of shan’t tell you is debatable but it certainly gets its milk fat and cream from South Caernarfon Creamery”

When ice cream sales are good even during a freezing cold start to the year, you know you have the business licked.

From a cottage industry started in the shadow of Criccieth Castle in 1927, Cadwalader’s has blossomed into a business with 11 outlets and 70 permanent staff, rising to 120-130 in the summer.

Richard Gloster, Chief Executive of the company which has its headquarters and production facilities on Parc Amaeth at

Llanystumdwy, near Criccieth, predicts he will open four new outlets in the next four years.

And the traditional family business is now looking to the internet and its social networking sites, to increase sales.

Cadwalader’s Ice Creams was started by David and Hannah Cadwalader over 80 years ago in Castle Street, Criccieth, in a general store and the ice cream side was developed by one of their larger-than-life sons, Dafydd, after the

Second World War.

When he died in 1983 Cadwalader’s was bought by the Andrews family whose South Wales business, started by Mr Gloster’s great great grandfather, Victorian entrepreneur Solomon Andrews, became Castle Leisure, now Cadwalader’s sister company.

Whether the ice cream still contains Dafydd’s “secret recipe of 6lbs of shan’t tell you” is debatable but it certainly gets its milk fat and cream from South Caernarfon Creamery.

And with well over one million scoops dished up into cones every year it’s a successful recipe which saw one of its cafes in a national newspaper’s top ten ice creams in the UK.

Cadwalader’s has been backed

by Gwynedd Council and Business Support Manager Colin Morris said: “It’s great to see them create new jobs and go into new areas.

“They are based upon Gwynedd’s oldest industry, agriculture, and this is what Cadwalader’s have been so successful at – taking a traditional product and giving it an attractive, modern flavour.”

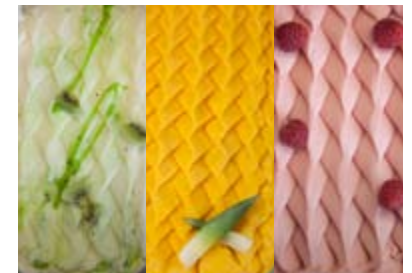
Even with well over 40 ice cream varieties, the company places great store on innovation and is always looking for new flavours.

One of the most exciting new developments says Mr Gloster is a move into e-marketing. Vouchers can be downloaded onto the web and social networking sites can be used to reach the 20-30 age range.

By using the web they can concentrate on a 50 mile radius of particular cafes with a ‘cold-calling’ mail shot approach. They can also look out for high profile events, such as the launch of a new TV series, and link products to it.

“It’s too early to say how it will go but it’s certainly exciting to watch,” says Mr Gloster.

www.cadwaladersicecream.co.uk



"I was going to study politics originally, and I certainly couldn't cook!"

A teenager who came from the Middle East, married a Welshman, and ran a cottage industry from her own North Wales home kitchen - now heads a £13m a year food business employing 170.

Leyla Edwards, originally from Saudi Arabia, is managing director of KK Fine Foods, one of the UK's leading suppliers of ready frozen meals and a company growing even during the recession.

From making a few vegetarian meals in her Afonwen home kitchen and selling them to a local deli in Mold while also looking after her three children, Leyla now has more than 100,000 square feet of modern factory on Deeside Industrial Park and produces more than 360 ready meal varieties.

"We are developing new products all the time," she said. "We have just beaten a lot of Indian companies to win a major contract to supply pub chain Whitbread for their curry nights."

"I come from Saudi Arabia. I came here to finish my education with the intention of going back. But then I met my husband and that was the end of that plan: I got married at 19.

"We moved to Afonwen near Mold and have lived there for 30 odd years. I was going to study politics originally, and I certainly couldn't cook!"

Living in the country with three

children as her priority, there were limited possibilities for Leyla.

"The only choice was to be self-employed. I thought I would start cooking, I had been brought up with some wonderful flavours and I decided to learn how to cook. Then I started selling to local delis and whoever would buy it.

"I used to go around shops, delis and even workingmen's clubs or hotels if I was passing."

She and another young mum went into partnership and rented a factory canteen before they opened their first industrial unit near Flint.

Their first big break came when one of the breweries, Bass, was let down by their supplier for vegetarian products and KK stepped in.

They now supply major clients such as Whitbread, Wetherspoons, Compass, Cafe Rouge and Marstons.

Leyla bought out her partner in 2001 and in 2002 built the first factory on the Deeside Industrial Park.

Her son, Samir, is now KK commercial manager and daughter Rawia, is business development manager. Her other daughter, Nadia, works in real estate in New York.

For 16 years the company was supplying only meat-free meals but today 70 per cent of their production is meat products and four full-time chefs work on developments at the Deeside HQ where KK employs 170.

Leyla was Flintshire County Council's Business Person of the Year in 2009 and in 2007 was one of 200 top UK business women



kk ko's competition

invited to lunch with the Queen at Buckingham Palace.

KK has countless awards for its products, its innovation and for its treatment of staff - it has a very low turnover and extremely low sickness levels and when they took on Polish workers even provided English lessons for them.

She has an excellent relationship with neighbours Toyota and has adopted their Continuous Improvement philosophy.

"We find this really is working and it's lovely when you go to a meeting and there is a problem and it has already been solved."

www.kkfinefoods.co.uk



mountain biking mecca

"If there's such a thing as the future of British mountain biking Llandegla might well be it."

It's official, it's number one – Coed Llandegla, with over 200,000 annual visitors and over 40 kilometres of tracks, is Wales's top mountain biking centre.

Who says so? The mountain bikers bible, Mountain Biking UK magazine, which has ranked Coed Llandegla the best of over 20 centres in Wales.

That's music to the ears of the Oneplanetadventure team who run the bike centre which has grown in five years to be the biggest tourism attraction in Denbighshire.

The magazine says: "Our pick of Wales. No matter what you ride, Llandegla has it covered."

"If there's such a thing as the future of British mountain biking Llandegla might well be it."

And it's just the latest accolade to be picked up by this mountain biking Mecca just off the main Wrexham to Ruthin road in the pine forests of Coed Llandegla.

Their kitchens can cope with 400 people a day and chef Dylan Jones bacon bap was voted best in Britain by The Observer newspaper while the full breakfast was rated best in Wales and two years ago only Glen Tress in Scotland was judged a better challenge for bikers of all standards.

Only five years ago the only people wandering the forest roads would be loggers taking out timber for UPM (United Paper Mills) Tillhill, owners of the woodland, for their giant paper production plant at nearby Shotton.

Now the trails which wind through the stands of pine and spruce are the habitat of bikers and walkers enjoying the challenge of the great outdoors.

They can pull in 1,000 cars a week – that means about 2,500 people with a busy Sunday typically seeing 1,000 visitors to the 1100 acres of woodland.

Oneplanetadventure was begun by mountain biking mates Ian Owen and Jim Gaffney when the owners of the lands, UPM Tillhill, were looking for additional uses for the forest.

It was the kind of job that appealed to local man Ian, from just up the road in Bwlchgwyn and to Jim, then Denbighshire County Council's mountain biking officer.

Ian, 42, was not long back from being the first Briton to ride across the Himalayas. He said: "I needed to do something before I set off on a round the world bike ride – that's still the dream."

"UPM Tillhill wanted us to come up with a business plan and Jim and I sat down and did our best but we knew so little that we forgot about VAT and all our figures were 17 and a half per cent out."

They did enough to impress UPM though and what they lacked in managerial experience they made up for in know-how and enthusiasm.

It's a determination that is recognised by Denbighshire County Council's Principal Area Regeneration Officer, Sue Haygarth who said: "Coed Llandegla is the perfect example of a business realising its vision through expertise and determination."

"They have a fantastic natural environment there for biking but the skill is in recognising that magnificent resource and having the knowhow to take advantage of it and make it happen and in having sympathetic owners in UPM Tillhill who have allowed them to



develop the business."

That business was threatened by the worst winter in over 30 years with up to two feet of snow closing the trails at Llandegla for weeks and Ian and Jim estimate they have lost £100,000.

They're weathering the financial storm though and £1 million of new investment is going into the centre with new trails including a ferociously fast freeride track as well as a major new skills area, recently opened by Wales's Deputy First Minister, Ieuan Wyn Jones.

Ian said: "Our average customer is 39 years old, lives in Stockport, drives an Audi A3 and earns about £50,000 a year but that doesn't mean we don't cater for everyone else."

Everyone else includes the likes of the amazing Atherton family from Oswestry, Gee, Dan and Rachel, champions all, and Jason Rennie, Wales's answer to Evel

Knievel and until recently the holder of the world record motorbike jump at over 250 feet.

Jason also set the world distance record of 134 feet for a pushbike and he did it at Llandegla in 2008, towed behind a motorbike until he reached 85mph when he dropped the rope and shot up the ramp.

He's at Llandegla regularly building the new tracks and is a big fan, having known Ian Owen since boyhood.

Working hard to improve has been key to what Oneplanetadventure have done but, according to Ian, they started with some obvious advantages.

"We're within two hours drive for a third of the population of the UK," he said: "I've been lucky enough to ride all over the world and every time I come back I realise just how good the riding is here."

For the high jump: Oneplanetadventure partners Jim Gaffney, left and Ian Owen, with flying bikers Jason Rennie and Mei Black.



racing ahead

Sunlight glints off the Irish Sea and in the distance towering Snowdon peeps through the clouds, while choughs nest on the protected land around you.

Trac Môn – the motor racing circuit on Anglesey – is setting a hot green pace in the gas-guzzling world of motorsport as it aims to be the world's first carbon neutral racetrack.

The Anglesey circuit already has a wind turbine and sells electricity back to the national grid while its eco-friendly attitude to development sees it vying with the Atlanta Motorsports Park in Georgia, USA, for the title of the world's first carbon neutral circuit.

And while there may be expensive cars or motorcycles hurtling full throttle around the track, but there's no denying Anglesey Circuit, Trac Môn, with its views of Snowdon and the Irish Sea and surrounded by scientifically important countryside, is the most beautifully sited circuit in the UK.

In fact Anglesey Circuit at Ty Croes has won the prestigious annual Anglesey Tourism Association Award in the tourism and the environment category.

The circuit has been through a major reconfiguration when the company constructed a new 12 metre wide track which brings it within the standard offered by the country's major race venues - in Britain, only Silverstone is wider at 15m.

Given its location on the west coast cliffs, company press officer Andrew Môn

Hughes says they decided why not quarry the

material they needed for the sub base of the track, and so they did....saving thousands of lorry trips along the island's narrow roads.

Two sites of special scientific interest (SSSI's) were granted on neighbouring land, after the establishment of the circuit. Heather was transplanted and even the asphalt track surface was laid cold to save energy - and laid by Jones Brothers of Ruthin to within an incredible 3mm tolerance, giving Anglesey one of the smoothest race surfaces in Britain.

"We even have our own wind turbine which generates some energy and we can pump some back into the grid and we're working on becoming carbon neutral - the race is on between us and the Atlanta Motorsports Park to become the first," said Andrew, who said the green approach came from company director George William Meyrick's interest in the company's environmental policies.

Isle of Anglesey Council's Business Development Manager Jon Pinnington said: "It is wonderful that the circuit is able to fit so naturally into the environment and share it happily with rare bird species, hares and butterflies.

"That's what we are trying to foster here, cutting edge technology co-existing with our beautiful natural countryside and coast."

The circuit is part of the Bodorgan Estate. Just after the Second War the Ministry of Defence compulsorily purchased the land where the track sits, but offered part of it back when they left in the late 1980s.

Local farmer and rally cross enthusiast Ned

Jones suggested that the service roads could be used for motorsport and events started in the early 1990s, attracting the attention of the Wirral 100 motorcycle club.

The circuit started to develop for racing under the influence of Caerwys-based driver Richard Peacock as a consultant between 1994-97. Richard designed the new circuit and is now the circuit's operations director. He also operates the circuit's Performance Driving Centre.

A major £4.2m investment, which attracted support from the Welsh Assembly Government, created a 2.1 mile international circuit, a 1.55m coastal circuit, a 1.55m national circuit and a 0.8m club circuit, designed to challenge both amateurs and professionals.

With its breathtaking backdrop, the Anglesey Circuit is a favourite with many of the specialist motoring and motorcycling magazines and a firm favourite for the Fifth Gear TV team.

It is also regularly used by companies who want to test their products with electric cars and electric motorcycles finding their way around the track, along with a formidable Formula 1 Benetton race car.

The Performance Driving Centre is in its 32nd year of operation and has attracted customers from around the world.

While Anglesey will never become an F1 venue, Andrew believes it is definitely within its reach to attract some of the other big calendar events such as British Superbikes and Formula 3.

www.angleseycircuit.com



Some mornings Ed Burke has to pinch himself to make sure it's real.

He lives and works in an idyllic North Wales village, doing the job he loves creating beautiful glassware, involving his whole family in the business which successfully sells its products all over the world.

"Coming to North Wales was the best move we ever made," said Sunderland-born Ed.

And life just got even better – and more profitable – since Wrexham Council has helped pay half the cost of materials through the Welsh Assembly Government's European Agricultural Rural Development Grant Project.

That's enabled Ed to build a new state-of-the-art furnace at E&M Glass, the company he and Birkenhead-born wife Margaret set up in 1988 in Tallarn Green village south of Wrexham.

New more heat efficient materials in the furnace have reduced their electricity bills from about £900 a month to £194 and reduced the consumption of propane gas by about a third.

It was soon after the Brixton riots in the 80's that talented glass artists, Ed and Margaret, who met and graduated together at North Staffordshire Polytechnic, decided that they no longer wanted to work for other glass blowers in London and needed somewhere better to raise baby Charlie, the first of their three sons, who has just graduated – in glass design.

"We went looking for a nice place to live. When we had been at college we used to go for weekend drives to beautiful places and this was one of the areas we used to drive to.

"My father-in-law found this place and it was ideal," said Ed.

What he found was the old village bakery in Tallarn Green, complete with a cottage and old shop. With a loan and help from the former Welsh Development Agency, Ed and Margaret converted the bakery over about 10 months into their studio.

Charlie, 23, and now sons,

Tim, 16, and Josh, eight, help out whenever they can and the company employs three full-time and one part-time workers.

Councillor Rodney Skelland, Wrexham Council's lead member for regeneration and corporate governance, said: "It's always encouraging to hear about local firms thriving – especially when the people involved are so passionate about their work and about Wrexham as a base for their business.

"There are lots of ways in which the Council supports local businesses – from advice and guidance to

help with accessing grant schemes and training – so it's always incredibly uplifting to hear about success stories like E&M Glass."

Ed has always had a passion for glass blowing so living and working 'on the job' 24-7 is not a problem. If he didn't do it for a living it would be his hobby.

Ed and Margaret make tableware, which is the business mainstay, but also special pieces which are given as awards – they have done commissions for the Stock Exchange. They also make glass finials and do special commissions for

galleries and museums.

Although about 25% of business now comes through the web, getting the business established was not easy, it involved months away travelling to the USA, Middle East, Japan, and Europe, anywhere they could find a market.

Top US stores, like Bloomingdales and Saks, take their work and they have orders for gifts for directors of American Express.

Ed said: "The beauty of it is they know a piece of work has been done by us.

"Most of my friends in the glass business work out

glassmakers go green

"We came here because it's beautiful, it was the best move we ever made"



of industrial units which is no doubt very efficient. But I can open a door or window and look out down a single track road with trees either side to a hump-backed bridge. I think we can make more attractive things because of our environment.

"We came here because it's beautiful, it was the best move we ever made," said Ed.

a real glass act

Broken windows and empty wine bottles have provided the inspiration for a successful businesswoman who has launched her own line of delicate and distinctive eco-friendly jewellery made from recycled glass.

In the workshop at the back of her Abergele shop, Gaenor Roberts transforms the rawest of unwanted materials into beautiful and stylish pendants and earrings as part of her thriving jewellery company.

Using bits of broken glass, curling strands of copper from discarded electrician wire and things you might find in any household drawer, such as tap washers, Gaenor, 39, a mother-of-three, has developed and refined her skills as a glass artist.

The idea to use recycled glass came when she thought about how to make her business, called 'tlws' which means pretty and jewel in Welsh, more environmentally friendly.

Conwy Rural Partnership's Rural Business Action funded by the Rural Development Plan 2008-10 gave her a grant for almost £2,000 to buy two kilns and she said: "It was quite a risky step, particularly as I had never even cut a piece of glass before but I felt that the Council believed in me so I felt I should go for it."

Trefor Rowlands, Conwy Council

Business Advisor, said: "Gaenor has already proven with outstanding sales figures that she has a keen eye and judgement for what jewellery will sell well and it just seemed natural and logical for her to start producing her own designs and product range."

Gaenor added: "You see as a family how much glass ends up in recycling bins so I thought why not try and use it. My dad was getting rid of a window so I pinched it from him!"

And so her new line of jewellery, called ecotlws, was born but it took some experimenting for Gaenor to work out how to bind the recycled glass together without cracking it in the kiln.

She said: "New glass will fuse into a solid piece but recycled glass looks like it has been glued together rather than fused.

"This gives it a more natural look, it is more primitive in appearance. People like the natural, earthy looking colours, the greens, the browns."

www.tlws.co.uk



john's vision for success

A successful businessman from North Wales has defied his disability to create a successful, multi-million pound company.

John Dale lost his sight at the age of 11 but 53 years later he is at the head of John Dale Ltd, a tissue paper company based in Flint which employs more than 50 people and turned over £6.5 million last year.

It's a staggering achievement by the 64-year-old from Flint Mountain and if that's not amazing enough – when he wants to unwind he goes for a long cycle ride – he's even done Land's End to John O'Groats.

Not bad for a blind youngster who left school to work in a humdrum job before he and wife Pauline went into business selling home-made nappy liners round Flintshire's markets.

He explained: "I had a growth on one eye at the age of nine and that was taken away and then at 11 I'm pretty sure I suffered a detached retina, either by falling off a bike or by running into a hedge, the sort of daft things boys do.

"But I was lucky when I came out of school and got a job at a paper factory in Hawarden. I was bored out of my skull but it was a job and I was very grateful for it."

He was made redundant but he and wife Pauline were nothing if not resourceful.

He said: "We started buying paper and polythene bags on credit and selling them around the markets. We'd make enough money to pay back what we borrowed with a bit left over.

"We bought some special paper that was going to waste. It was stretchy and highly absorbent and we started making it into nappy liners."

Pauline recalled: "We started in the shed in the garden with a guillotine and a Stanley knife and then we moved onto an old farm building."

The business is now based in a modern, 60,000 square foot factory with the latest sophisticated production equipment and they supply giants like Morrisons and Superdrug as well as north-western supermarket chain Booths and discount stores Home & Bargain and B & M Stores and their products have even been exported to Libya.

They've had backing from Flintshire County Council over the years and Flintshire's Senior

Business Advisor Trish Carlin said: "John and Pauline have changed their business strategies in line with market trends and they continue to be an inspiration to all the young people who may have business ideas but lack the confidence to achieve."

John certainly makes light of his blindness: "The secret is to have good people around you," he said. "We've got really nice people here who to stay with us. We're like a family so I've got no thoughts of retirement. I'd miss

it too much."

John, who received the MBE in 1996 for services to industry, still enjoys going for a quiet pint and walking the dogs as well as his regular weekly tandem cycle rides with his pal, Roger Hewitt, who he was in school with "when I could still see but I still have to tell him which way to go."

www.johndale.co.uk



"We pride ourselves on the close relationship our staff have with the company"

A North Wales factory is getting at least £5K worth of free electricity thanks to its "power cable to the sun."

Llay, near Wrexham, may seem like an unlikely setting for Europe's most advanced manufacturer of solar products, but Sharp Manufacturing Company of UK is working round the clock to fulfil orders for photovoltaic (PV) panels and the future looks even brighter.

"We cannot make enough. Our order books are full just covering European demand, without looking at the future UK market," said Steve Crewe, HR and General Affairs Manager, who has worked at Sharp in Llay since it opened back in 1984.

Today the majority of the 400 permanent employees, who are supplemented by agency staff, are producing PV panels, up to 95 per cent of which are destined for European export, mainly Germany.

But with the UK now catching up with the introduction of the feed-in tariff, Sharp is proactively helping to develop the solar industry in the UK by opening a solar education centre and installer training academy.

As the number of solar installers increase throughout the UK, consumers will be able to harness the power of the sun



to generate electricity through their solar panels, putting power into the national grid.

"We are running a 24-7 operation and can produce more than 5,000 panels in a 24 hour period" said Steve. "We have been producing photovoltaic panels here since 2004."

The fact that world-leader Sharp chose to invest so heavily in its North Wales factory when video production died out, is a tribute to the local workforce. "We had to tender to get the work and it helped that we had such a motivated and flexible workforce," said Steve.

It's also a source of pride for the area according to Wrexham Council Lead Member for Regeneration Councillor Rodney Skelland who said: "The way Sharp has adapted and developed to keep pace with the world is a tribute to the company's vision and the commitment and skill of the local workforce."

"Reducing carbon emissions and energy use is one of the Council's corporate priorities so it's great to know that Wrexham is playing its part in helping the world harness the energy of the sun."

The factory has a 55 kilowatt system of panels on its site which since it was installed has generated 11 kilowatts of power to give many of its offices and its new Solar Centre free power.

Sharp, which describes its photovoltaic panels as a "power cable to the sun" says with conventional energy resources such as oil, gas and coal running out before the end of this century, solar power is the most important source of energy for the human race.

www.sharpmufacturing.co.uk

we've got the power



Anglesey is becoming a powerhouse.

Up to 1,700 permanent new jobs will be created as 'Energy Island' finds itself the centre of a new low carbon economy.

Nuclear, biomass, wind, tides and other power sources are set to contribute literally billions of pounds towards the value of the regional economy between now and 2025.

Three projects alone will create up to 1,700 permanent jobs and 5,600 construction jobs on the island.

First Minister Carwyn James has already (Jun 16) signed the Anglesey Energy Island Collaboration Agreement at Coleg Menai on behalf of the Assembly Government, along with Anglesey County Council and its key stakeholders, including Conwy and Gwynedd County Councils, Magnox North, Horizon Nuclear Power, Coleg Menai, Bangor University, and the National Skills Academy For Nuclear.

Coleg Menai's director of technology David Price will head the new £4.5m, mainly Assembly-funded, Energy and Fabrication Training Centre being built at

the college and which should be up and running within the next 12 months.

"It's a very exciting project and we are looking forward to being able to make an impact and contribute to the sustainability of a very exciting future," he said.

"We are going to be needed to help raise the skill levels, to train and re-train our young people so that they will be able to gain employment within the new and developing energy sector."

The stand-alone centre will cover energy and fabrication assessment training programmes, from welding to a health and safety hub, to a sustainable energy area to train and upskill people who are perhaps already in the business such as heating installers and engineers.

"We need to give people the skills they require to work in sustainable energy industries such as photovoltaic, solar, wind turbines, ground and air source heating, for which we will need to acquire specialist training staff"

Later this year Horizon Nuclear Power Ltd will announce the type of reactor it

wants to build at a new nuclear power station at Wylfa, a project which can deliver 800 permanent jobs rising to 1,000 and up to 5,000 construction jobs. Horizon hopes to commission the new reactor by 2020.

An application has been made by Anglesey Aluminium Metals Renewables Ltd for a £600m new biomass power station alongside its recently mothballed aluminium smelter at Holyhead.

This would be one of the largest of its kind in the world, providing up to 3 per cent of the UK's renewable electricity and could be up and running by 2013. It has the potential for 100 new operating jobs and about 70 in the crop supply chain, as well as 600 for the construction phase.

Centrica Renewable Energy could create another 525 jobs if its plans for a new wind farm nine miles off Anglesey get the go ahead. The 4.2GW wind farm in the Irish Sea would cover an area of 1,367 square miles.

"Developing in the Irish Sea zone could dramatically increase renewable energy outputs and Anglesey's economy and

job market could benefit from such a development due to its close proximity and deep port located at Holyhead," said Sasha Wynn Davies, Anglesey's Head of Economic Development.

Long term nPower and Marine Current Turbine are looking at tidal power while in the short term Energy Island Framework will look to back small scale energy developments such as photovoltaic systems, small wind, micro wind, solar hot water, heat and power from waste, hydrogen and alternative transport fuels.

What this contributes to the economy – what economists call gross value added (GVA) and helps determine a region's gross domestic product (GDP) – is a staggering £2.34bn of GVA in Anglesey and the north west of Wales from construction and operational employment and supply chains between now and 2025.

"New employment opportunities on the Isle of Anglesey, both direct and indirect, are intrinsically linked to the development of a new low carbon economy.

"To transform an underperforming economy, the Isle of Anglesey County Council is working to develop its Energy Island Framework with key stakeholders, including UK Government, Welsh Assembly Government and Nuclear Decommissioning Authority," said Sasha.

"Anglesey already has a strong tradition of low carbon energy generation, both nuclear and renewable. Coupled with an unrivalled potential and desire to capitalise on the future low carbon energy generation opportunities, the Energy Island Framework offers an exceptional opportunity to strengthen the Island's economic future.

"By integrating the economic, environmental and skills agendas, Anglesey aims to bring about a transformational change in culture and fortune to establish the Island as a low carbon living exemplar in the Western World," she added.

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Produced by Ceidiog Communication
Photography & Design by Eye Imagery