

Bgen Conference 2025 – "Gardens of Tomorrow: Addressing the climate crisis through education and democratisation"

Wednesday 5th – informal evening in Carmarthen, Cwrw from 6pm

Thursday 6th February 2025

Time	Activity	Location
	Shuttle bus collection for pre-booked slots only. 8.20am depart from outside the Ivy Bush Hotel, Carmarthen. 8.50am depart from Travelodge Llanelli Cross Hands	
9.00 – 9.30	Registration and Tea/Coffee on Arrival	Theatr Botanica Foyer
9.30 – 9.40	Welcome and Conference Opening Dr Lauren Baker (Bgen Chair) and Dr Lucy Sutherland (Director of National Botanic Garden of Wales)	Theatr Botanica
9.40 – 10.10	<i>'Sensing new futures: biomimicry and bold ambition'</i> The opening talk by Andy Middleton - Strategy and policy innovation specialist from the Now Partners Foundation: https://now.partners/team-member/andy-middleton/	Theatr Botanica
10.15 – 11.30	Site Tour: Enjoy small group guided tours with National Botanic Garden of Wales staff	Roaming
11.40 – 12.00	<i>'Climate change mitigation and adaptation: sharing our knowledge and skills with society'</i> A talk by Dr Paul Smith – Secretary General of Botanic Gardens Conservation International	Theatr Botanica

12.10-13.00	Lunch		Theatr Botanica
	<h2>WORKSHOPS</h2> <p>You can choose two workshops in a two-hour slot; please choose your workshops at online Registration. You will receive your personalised timetable before the conference. We will do our best to give everyone their top two choices.</p>		
13.00 & 14.05	<p style="text-align: center;">Workshop A</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Home Education – A Story</i></p> <p>A discursive session led by NBG Wales looking at lessons learned from EHE groups; a journey from damage limitation to long-term engagement and beyond.</p> <p>Building: Tŷ Melyn Room: Cothi</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Workshop B</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>'A place we belong': Reimagining the Botanical Gardens through placemaking and co-production</i></p> <p>A workshop led by Lily O'Connor and El Cocks, Community Learning Producers at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew including hands-on creative activity.</p> <p>Building: Tŷ Melyn Room: Gwili</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Workshop C</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>'Scottish Roots': Exploring common plant names and traditional uses through storytelling and play, to grow and share primary pupils' connections with plants and their cultural heritage.</i></p> <p>A hands-on, interactive workshop with Eve Armstrong, Education Outreach Officer at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.</p> <p>Building: Tŷ Melyn Room: Tywi</p>
15.10-15.40	<p>Lightning Talks – This series of back-to-back short, focused presentations are by delegates who want to showcase a project within or connected to their organisation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The GLOBE network</i> – presented by Helen Miller, BGCI <i>Islamic Art</i> – presented by Ruth Godfrey, University of Leicester Botanic Garden <i>Community Markets</i> – presented by Naomi McAllister, Sefton Palm House <i>Planting Stories</i> – presented by Jen Ridding, Birmingham Botanical Gardens <i>National Education Nature Park</i> – presented by Sam Hartley, RHS 		<p>Building: Tŷ Melyn Room: Tywi</p>

15.40 – 16.00	Break	
16.00 - 16.30	<i>DiversiTree: Roots, Shoots and Fruits</i> A talk by Dr Yvonne Howard-Bunt, Creative Practitioner at Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru (Arts Council of Wales)	Building: Tŷ Melyn Room: Tywi
16.45 – 18.00	Bgen AGM & Networking Event Enjoy some refreshments and join the Bgen AGM before an evening of unwinding and networking. The AGM will be a chance for members to hear about the successes and challenges of the last year, ask the Board any questions and hear about the upcoming launch of our first award, the Gail Bromley Award, named in honour of one of the founding members of Bgen. For those not attending the Conference Dinner, the shuttle bus departs at 6pm to Carmarthen.	Building: Tŷ Melyn Room: Tywi
18.30 – 21.00	Bgen Conference Dinner Wrights Food Emporium Don't worry about finding somewhere for dinner, join the Bgen Conference Dinner. Purchase your ticket from our website before January 24th.	Wrights Food Emporium

Friday 7th February

	<p>Shuttle bus collection for pre-booked slots only. 8.40am depart from outside the Ivy Bush Hotel, Carmarthen. 9.10am depart from Travelodge Llanelli Cross Hands</p>		
9.15	<p>Registration and Tea/Coffee on Arrival</p>		Tŷ Melyn
9.45	<p>2nd day Welcome</p>		Building: Tŷ Melyn Room: Tywi
	<p>WORKSHOPS You can choose two workshops in a two-hour slot; please choose your workshops at online Registration. You will receive your personalised timetable before the conference. We will do our best to give everyone their top two choices.</p>		
	<p>Workshop A</p>	<p>Workshop B</p>	<p>Workshop C</p>
10.00 & 11.15	<p><i>Climate Change and the importance of Tropical Forests in Schools</i></p> <p>A hands-on workshop led by Size of Wales, a charity making Wales part of the global solution to climate change. About Size of Wales - Size of Wales</p> <p>Building: Tŷ Melyn Room: Gwili</p>	<p><i>Why doesn't change happen faster? Using Model COPs to help young people explore system change and navigate complexity within the climate crisis</i></p> <p>Model COPs are increasing in popularity as a way to engage young people in meaningful dialogue around the climate and biodiversity crises. In this workshop you will explore the structure and learnings of 4 years of Model COPs with Kew Gardens' Youth Programme, as well as participating in your own Model COP in the process!</p> <p>Building: Tŷ Melyn Room: Tywi</p>	<p><i>Effective evaluation: learning from research</i></p> <p>Dr Rodger Caseby, Wellbeing Outreach Officer at Oxford Botanic Garden, shows how research standard evaluation tools can easily be adapted for use in wellbeing and education programmes.</p> <p>Building: Tŷ Melyn Room: Cothi</p>

12.15	Free time	-	
13.00	Lunch	Tŷ Melyn	
	<p>WORKSHOPS</p> <p>You can choose two workshops in a two-hour slot; please choose your workshops at online Registration. You will receive your personalised timetable before the conference.</p>		
14.00 – & 15.10	<p style="text-align: center;">Workshop A</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Climate Change Tree</i></p> <p>We all know how to roughly age a tree. How then can you estimate its mass, then work out its carbon content and how many litres of CO2 are embedded in it? Join this interdisciplinary workshop with NBG Wales, combining maths education into their learning programme.</p> <p>Building: Tŷ Melyn Room: Cothi</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Workshop B</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Museum of Climate Hope</i></p> <p>Bill Finnegan, researcher at the Environmental Change Institute leads this discursive workshop on the power of climate positivity and storytelling to reduce climate anxiety.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Museum of Climate Hope</p> <p>Building: Tŷ Melyn Room: Gwili</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Workshop C</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Pupil Voice: A Key Factor in Gardening for Wellbeing</i></p> <p>A workshop led by Jane Lloyd, Schools and Groups Engagement Manager at the RHS Campaign for School Gardening, exploring project findings and sharing project resources, including those created in partnership with staff from project PRUs and specialist settings and children's mental health charity Place2Be.</p> <p>Building: Tŷ Melyn Room: Tywi</p>
16:25	<p>Living Museums: Anti-Colonial Scholarship in Botany</p> <p>A talk by Dr Isabel Gilbert, Lecturer in Criminology at the University of Worcester</p>		<p>Building: Tŷ Melyn Room: Tywi</p>

16:45	<p>Bgen Evening Entertainment</p> <p>We appreciate that NBG Wales is a long way for some members. Therefore, we are organising a social evening for those able to stay on the Friday night. This is included in the conference package. Join us for some evening entertainment, a 'Make your own pizza' dinner using the NBG Wales pizza oven, and (weather-willing) a star-gazing activity.</p> <p>For those who need to go, the shuttle bus will run depart NBG Wales to Carmarthen at 5pm.</p>	<p>The Great Glasshouse – BRING YOUR COATS! ☺</p>
20.30	<p>Transport back to Carmarthen for those who need it.</p>	