

Piloting a path to net zero carbon and zero waste for the UK's film and high-end TV industry

The Screen New Deal
Transformation Plan for Wales

Context

Meeting the climate challenge

After a global increase in wildfires, floods and unpredictable temperatures over the last twelve months, the impacts of climate change are clear for all to see, and net zero target dates are fast approaching.

Screen industries stepping up

The screen industries have a unique role in, and responsibility for, tackling the climate challenge. The average big budget feature film production generates a carbon footprint of nearly 3000 tonnes – as much as a diesel car driven around the world 300 times – while commanding the attention and trust of large audiences.

Barriers to change

TV and film production uses lots of travel and power, with large and complex supply chains. Programme makers have limited time and budgets, and there are few trained sustainability experts. Crews are usually freelance and talent demands vary. Data is lacking and targets are few. In addition, offsetting has, in some cases, enabled the continuation of the status quo.

Route to net zero

Funded by the BFI through a National Lottery award and working in partnership with Arup, the Screen New Deal (SND) Transformation Plan builds on the original SND report released by albert in 2020. It provides a practical, achievable route to a more sustainable future for those working in film and TV production, reducing both carbon and waste.

Key fact



The average big budget feature film production generates nearly **3,000** tonnes of carbon – as much as a diesel car driven around the world 300 times

(Source: Screen New Deal report, 2020)

Why Wales?

A significant and rapidly growing creative industry sector with a turnover of £4bn in 2022, Wales was chosen as the location for a pilot of the SND Transformation Plan. Wales has ambitious sustainability targets, and progress has been promising, but fragmented.

Data-based

Developed by Arup with help from BAFTA albert, Creative Wales, Ffilm Cymru Wales and Clwstwr, following a thorough analysis of available data as well as interviews with key stakeholders, this plan gives an overview of current policy, legislation and progress, as well as case studies of best practice to provide a single framework for the path to net zero.

A practical approach

The SND for Wales Transformation Plan's practical recommendations cover five areas: a shift to renewable energy, rethinking transport, a circular approach to resource use and waste, sharing information and best practice, and a change to culture within the industry.

Next steps...

It represents a clear call to action for all film and high-end TV industry stakeholders, from studio and production managers and crew, suppliers, funding bodies, commissioners and training providers, and will provide a blueprint for the path to net zero and waste for other parts of the UK, using data and learnings collected as part of this pilot. This summary covers the key recommendations from the report, which will be available on the albert website from [21st November](#).

Key fact



Hydrogen generators used on BBC SpringWatch. (Source: [GeoPura](#))

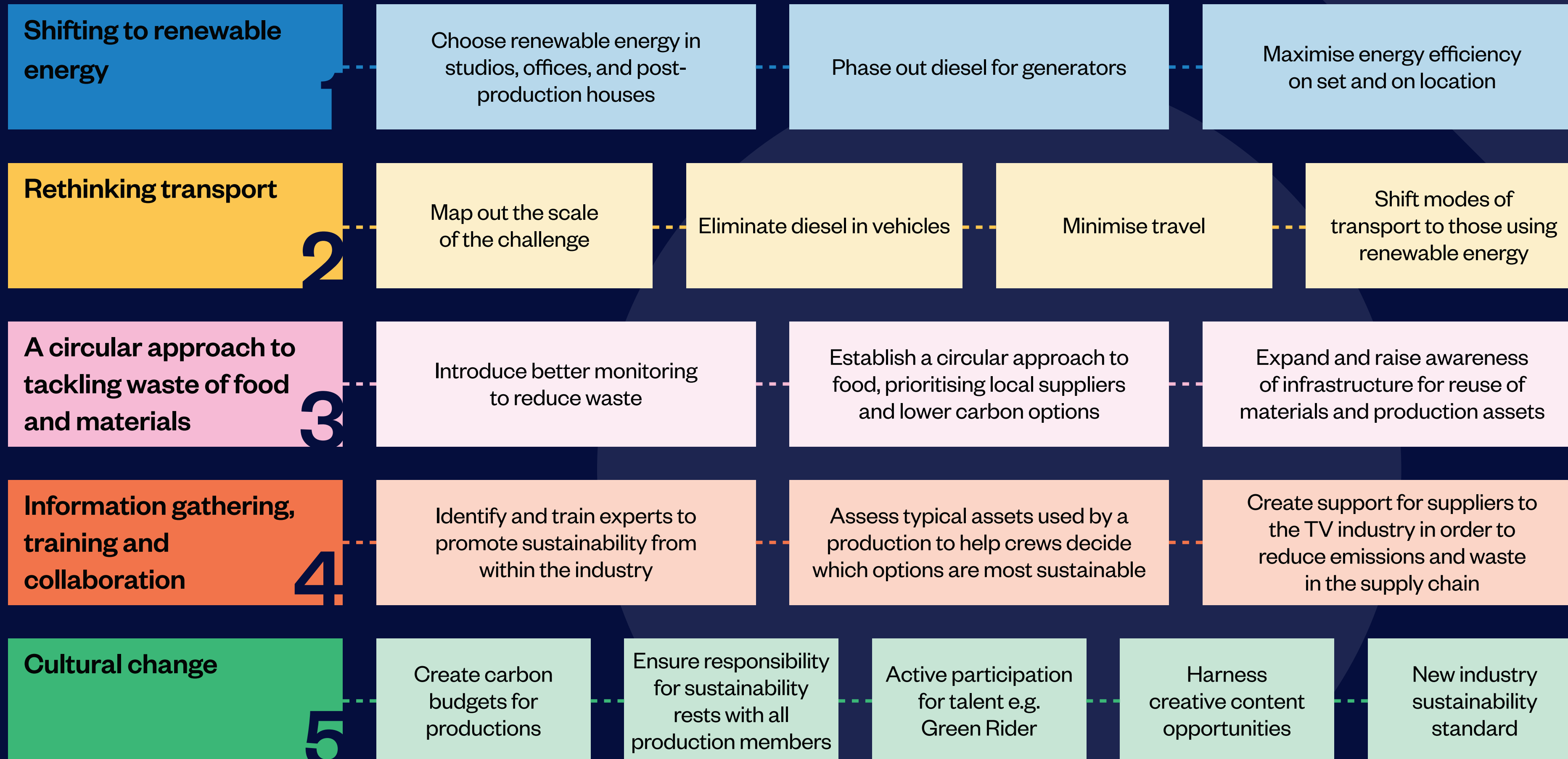
Diesel power was used in

91%

of generators on set in Wales last year

(Source: albert footprint data for 2022)

Key takeaways



Key fact



Solar-powered studio space at TBY2.
(Source: [The Bottle Yard](#))

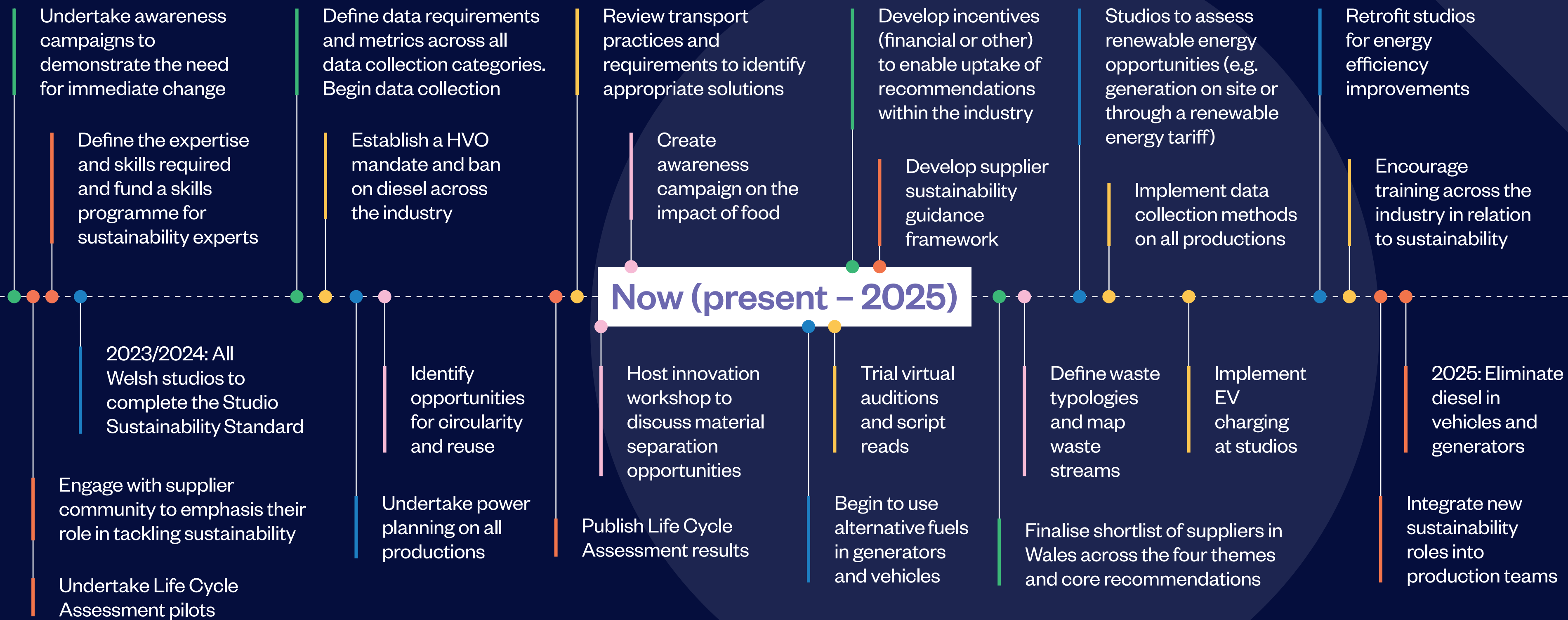
Renewable energy is used by only **14%** of productions filmed in UK studios

(Source: albert footprint data for 2022)

Recommendations routemap

This routemap has been developed to bring together the actions and targets identified within the transformation plan. The key actions are colour-coded by theme and are placed on a timeline to 2031 and beyond. Some actions relate to multiple themes. Key stakeholders are listed in the implementation within this report.

Key ■ A circular film industry ■ Rethinking transport ■ Information creation dissemination ■ Energy and fuel resources ■ Activities relevant to all themes



Key fact



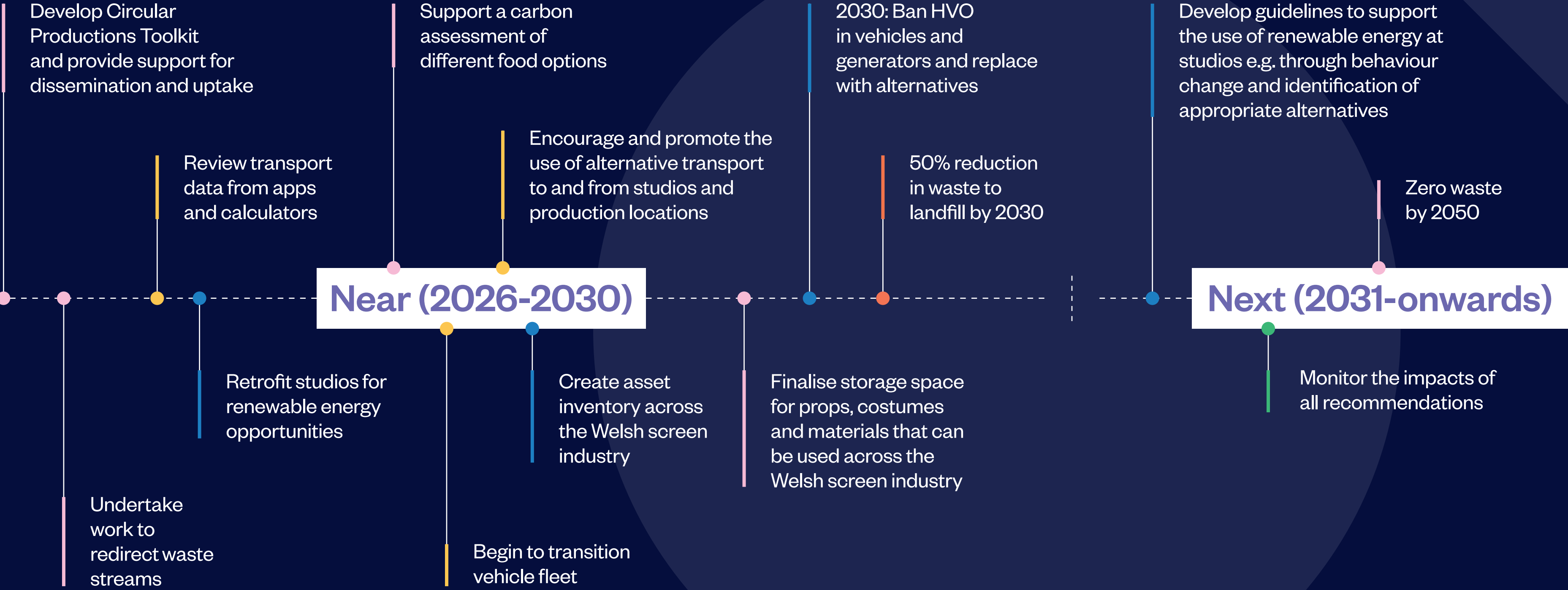
Road travel accounted for **80%** of transport emissions for productions filmed in Wales

(Source: albert footprint data for 2022)

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Key fact



25%
of the wood used in set building across Wales was recycled last year

(Source: albert footprint data for 2022)

What's next?

There are four key areas to focus on for next steps. albert will work with the SND forum and wider industry stakeholders to devise a detailed plan for action. These plans will inform and support the wider rollout of the SND Transformation Plan for Wales to the rest of the UK.

1 Action

Immediate actions for the industry:

- Switching to sustainable energy
- Mapping and addressing the amount and modes of travel
- Reducing waste of food and materials
- Studios in Wales to participate in the Studio Sustainability Standard, with funding available from Creative Wales

2 Engagement

Culture change needs:

- A substantial shift in approach for industry leaders to promote meaningful engagement
- Training and empowering everyone within the industry to make sustainability a priority
- Clear targets (e.g. carbon budgets)

3 Funding

Longer term sustainability changes will need funding:

- from commissioners and broadcasters
- from national and devolved governments
- incentives and tax credits
- for training and data collection

4 Data

More accurate data is key:

- Measuring and tracking progress
- Understanding the scale of the changes needed

BUT we must **not** let these data needs **stand in the way** of immediate changes in areas we know will reduce waste and carbon emissions

Key fact



94%

of food emissions come from meat-based meals in Welsh productions

(Source: albert footprint data for 2022)

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