



CLIMATE COMMITMENTS

Argyll and Bute Council Decarbonisation Plan 2021

Foreword



Councillor Robin Currie, Leader

2020 has been a challenging and unexpected year for many across the globe due to COVID19. It's been a year of great change, anxiety, loss and has highlighted how fragile humanity is and how our way of life can be affected by unforeseen factors, and the importance of behavioural change to support each other.

Addressing Climate Change is also a global issue that is hugely reliant on partnership, collaboration and the actions of us all. No single organisation can tackle it in isolation and as a Council we need to show clear leadership and lead by example in all that we do. Given the unprecedented year we have had we have decided to accelerate the production of this **Decarbonisation Plan** and make a clear commitment that as our businesses, communities and services recover from the pandemic we will be doing it in a low carbon and environmentally responsible manner. The plan also supports and promotes activities undertaken by the Council's Climate Change Board and political Climate Change Environmental Action short life working group.

The Council's Recovery Plan and Strategy champions our area being built back better on a low carbon economy and making the most sustainable use of our assets and existing core industries such as renewable energy, food and drink, aquaculture, agriculture, forestry and tourism.



Council owned windturbine @ Glengorm Landfill, Mull

Our area has long been a leader in wind and hydro power production and this coupled with sparse population, high forest, peatland cover and a low number of polluting sources means as a region we are already one of the lowest net producers of carbon in the UK and almost carbon neutral – way ahead of most other regions.

However, we wish to build on these strong foundations and specifically in this plan aim to outline actions of the Council in our business operations to address our own carbon footprint. This will be a new reference point for our own journey towards being a 'net zero' organisation by 2045 and also demonstrates our commitment to others in our region who we wish to bring with us. The behaviours and actions of our community, employees, service users and customers have a significant impact on our carbon emissions, so communication and engagement is key to our successful implementation of this plan.

This plan will evolve in future years and the intention is to widen out the scope to include greater integration with local communities and businesses. However this first plan aims to provide focus for the Council to respond to diverse challenges and to address activities required to urgently reduce carbon emissions and adapt to climate change.

Councillor Robin Currie

*Leader, Argyll and Bute Council
November 2020*



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Our Vision and Aims

In Argyll and Bute Council we already have much to be proud of when it comes to addressing the causes and effects of climate change. For example, the Council's Climate Change Board has been in existence since 2017 and coordinates activities of the Council and key partners that have reduced CO₂ equivalent output by over 4,000 tonnes per annum in the past 4 years alone.

Now in 2020, we are only 10 years away from the interim target set by Scottish Government via the Climate Change (Emissions Reductions Target) (Scotland) Bill to reduce greenhouse gases by 75% by 2030 (with a target of net-zero emissions by 2045). These are ambitious targets that require all sectors to contribute and it is recognised that the public sector will play a key leadership and 'leading by example' role. We will continue to work with COSLA and emerging national groups to shape our activities in this regard.

Over 1MW of installed Solar Photovoltaic Panel capacity has already been installed on Council Buildings

The Scottish Government also declared a 'Climate Emergency' in May 2019 and the Programme for Government announced on 3rd September 2019 and 2020 encompasses a number of measures to address climate change that are likely to have implications for local authorities. In response to this our Council set up a political led Climate Change Environmental Action Group chaired by the Leader of the Council to oversee activities of the Climate Change Board and make recommendations to the Council for future improvements.

Much still requires to be done and achieved and a whole corporate Council approach is required to tackling Climate Change. Given its growing importance and technical advances the skillset and capacity for Council resource will need to evolve over the next 10 years to meet the interim 2030 targets set out nationally.

LED Streetlights installed across Argyll and Bute have reduced carbon emissions by more than 1,100 tonnes of carbon dioxide every year

This **Decarbonisation Plan** not only seeks to highlight work undertaken by the Council and promote planned activities but also to act as a routemap for our journey towards net zero.

1. Argyll and Bute Council to achieve 75% carbon reduction by 2030 and net zero before 2045

This is our starting point for this first Decarbonisation Plan and aligns with national requirements. As this and future plans develop and resource are aligned to specific activities then these timelines for delivery of targets will be reviewed.

2. Support our low carbon economy

We aim to assist our local communities and businesses to recover and build upon our low carbon economy.

3. Lead by example and develop practices and partnerships that inspire low carbon behaviours

We seek to be innovative, collaborative and ambitious with our climate change actions that inspire others and tackle impacts together.

4. Make 'Climate Friendly Argyll and Bute' a recognised brand and underpin behaviours of our staff and customers

Use the new branding (top left of page) to underpin messages of our Decarbonisation Plan.

Our area has 800 operational renewable projects including 15 large scale development projects. They have capacity to generate 1.5GW or power 700,000 homes

Our Climate Context

Argyll and Bute is the second largest Council authority in terms of land mass in Scotland and has a population of just under 90,000 making it one of the sparsest in Scotland with around 50% of our communities being defined as 'rural'. This rural and dispersed characteristic is coupled with the majority of the population living in coastal towns or our 23 inhabited islands and relying on transport links that largely follow shorelines or historic port and ferry routes. With 80% of the population living within 1km of the coast, rising sea levels and exposure from more extreme weather events is more relevant to our region than many others.

The severity of more extreme and frequent weather events has particularly impacted The Rest and Be Thankful (A83 trunk road near Arrochar) in 2020 with increased landslides and closures. Disruption to such important infrastructure has long lasting impacts on economic growth and the resilience of our communities. Our Decarbonisation Plan aims to start a long term climate wise investment in combating the sources of climate change but also to prepare for the inevitable impacts of adverse weather and rising sea levels.



Storm Brendan, waterfront Dunoon, January 2020

Whilst this is our first Decarbonisation Plan the Climate Change Board has been producing carbon management plans for several years and has had a statutory requirement to report on the environmental performance of our business as part of Climate Change Reporting Duties: (CCRD): the CCRD are a mandatory reporting mechanism for the Scottish Government to monitor public body performance and inform future policy. The reporting template captures how public bodies manage climate change in terms of our organisational profile, governance, corporate emissions, adaptation and procurement. This Decarbonisation Plan addresses these themes, and brings a further coherency to the work carried out across the organisation.



82 of our Schools & nurseries have registered with Eco-Schools Scotland Status – with some having received as many as 6 green flags

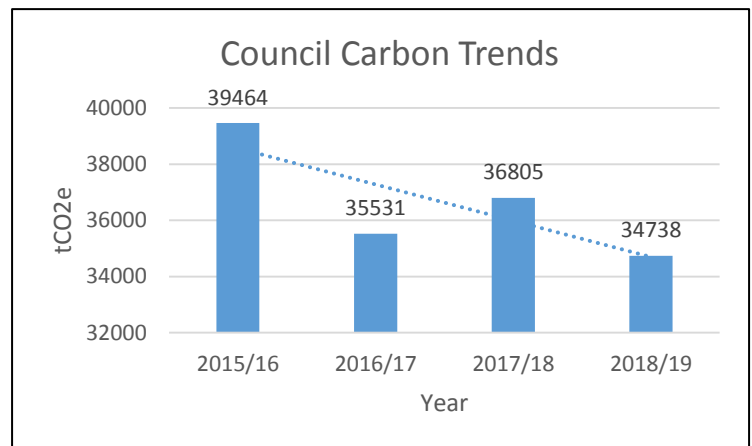
Many of our communities and businesses are already empowered and heading towards their own climate change journey. Whilst this first Decarbonisation Plan primarily focusses on activities of the Council we still aim to promote appropriate good practice of our partners in our area. Tackling climate change is also hugely diverse and under the 'Climate Friendly Argyll and Bute' branding we aim to promote all positive activity no matter how big or small – from installing a large scale windfarm to a community food growing project. We aim to engage and integrate future plans with our Community Planning Partnership, local businesses and communities.

Our Carbon Footprint

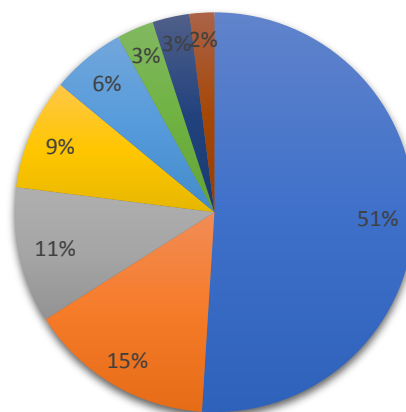
As a business, the Council owns over 300 buildings, runs hundreds of vehicles including cars, buses, ferries and bin lorries and runs multiple services like disposing of municipal waste. All of these assets and activities generate greenhouse gas emissions which are harmful to the environment and contribute towards climate change.

In order to achieve maximum impact from our Decarbonisation Plan it is first essential to understand our Carbon Footprint. This will allow resources and activities to be targeted towards the most beneficial actions that will reduce emissions.

Actions of the Climate Change Board have already set a positive downwards trend of emissions but an accelerated and targeted action is required to meet the ambitious targets by 2030 and 2045. Given that some projects and activities will be large scale and require investment and lead in time it is essential to plan for these as early as possible.



Argyll and Bute Council Emissions (CO₂e) - 2018/2019



Refuse Municipal to Landfill - 51%	Natural Gas - 15%	Grid Electricity - 11%
Fleet – all Diesel Vehicles - 9%	Gas Oil & LPG - 6%	Business Miles (unspecified fuel) - 3%
Streetlighting - 3%	All other activities - 2%	

Our Climate Commitments

From recognising the main sources of our emissions we have now set out an action plan to decarbonise our activities from 2021 onwards to improve our overall sustainability. We aim to update and review the plan annually and in future years integrate further with work being done by our local communities and businesses.

We have grouped the actions into 6 themes and provide a full breakdown including a resource plan at **Appendix A**.

The themes of our Decarbonisation Plan are as follows:-

1. Waste

We will tackle waste in the most sustainable way. Emissions generated by the handling of municipal waste is by far the biggest contributor to the Council's greenhouse gas emissions at over 51% of total footprint. Whether its kerbside uplifts, recycling, food waste in school canteens or commercial waste we want to consume less, waste less and send less to landfill. This will require support from both our local households and businesses in terms of behavioural change as well as adopting new methods of process change.

2. Energy and Water Consumption

We want to reduce resource consumption in our buildings, particularly fossil fuels. We need to consume less energy and be more efficient with gas, electricity and water in our schools, offices, depots and other buildings. This will require building users to behave differently but also to switch to alternative sources of energy and generate renewable energy where conditions allow for it.

3. Transport

Emissions from our commercial fleet like buses, bin lorries, vans and cars including business miles equate to around 12% of the Council's overall Carbon Footprint. Changing the way we work by using technology during the COVID19 pandemic reduced business mileage by 90%. Reducing the need to travel and ways we work will contribute to this as well as changing to more efficient and environmentally friendly vehicles.

4. Prepare and adapt for impacts of climate change

Regardless of how successful we are in the delivery of our Decarbonisation Plan the impacts and effects of Climate Change are already being felt and we will continue to experience more frequent and severe weather events. We will need to plan and invest in infrastructure and resilience that will be ready for additional flooding, storm events, sea level rises and service disruption.

5. Offset our emissions through partnership and innovation

We benefit from outstanding natural resources and assets in Argyll and Bute and opportunities exist for carbon capture in peatland restoration, tree planting and other forms of offsetting. We will work with partners to deliver this.

6. Tell you about it and encourage community to do their bit #climatefriendlyABC

We will use our social media and communication outlets to promote, highlight and encourage activities of the Decarbonisation Plan and environmental sustainability in general. We will engage with communities, groups and service users on climate matters using #climatefriendlyABC.



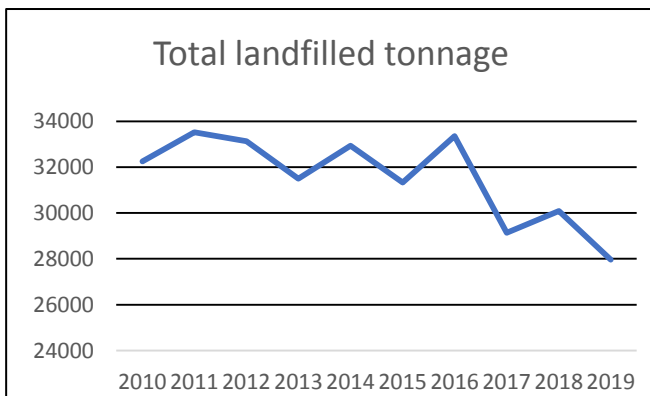
School led Beach Clean

Waste

The Scottish Government has several targets for reducing waste and increasing recycling. By 2025, they aim to:

- reduce total waste arising in Scotland by 15% against 2011 levels;
- reduce food waste by 33% against 2013 levels;
- recycle 70% of remaining waste; and
- send no more than 5% of remaining waste to landfill.

In Argyll and Bute since 2009 we have reduced the amount of waste we send to landfill by 13% and at the same time the amount of waste that we recover and recycle has gone up by around 6756 tonnes per year. Landfill accounts for around half of the Council's annual production of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions (CO₂e).

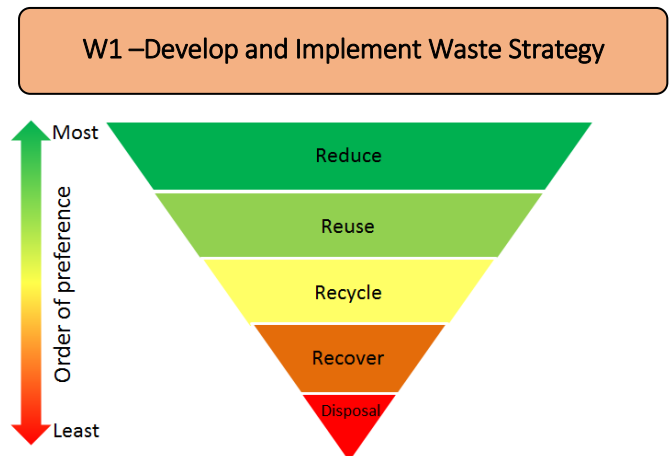


The landfill ban is a measure brought in under the Waste Regulations (Scotland) 2012. By ending landfill as a means of disposal and switching to disposal via Energy from Waste (EfW) the Scottish Government expect a significant reduction in CO₂e generated from waste. The ban was planned to come into force across all of Scotland from January 2021. However the deadline for compliance with the ban has now been put back to 2025.

Changing the Council's waste disposal methodology with a move away from landfill to EfW

is challenging particularly in Argyll and Bute where we have some unique circumstances such as our geography and long standing contracts with suppliers.

We are developing and implementing a Waste Strategy that commits the council to working to meet the Scottish Governments Zero Waste and Circular Economy targets by basing our waste disposal services around the waste hierarchy. Achieving this objective will have positive effect on the Council's greenhouse gas output. Through framing the policy initiative on the waste hierarchy we will also be able to achieve savings as a smaller decreasing amount of waste goes to disposal or recovery via energy from waste. Using promotional tools such as social media and the Council's website as well as direct engagement at events etc. we will educate residents, business, visitors and Council employees on the need to reduce, reuse and recycle following the waste hierarchy to reduce waste going for either disposal or recovery.



In the Waste Strategy the Council acknowledged that the public of Argyll and Bute has a crucial role to play in not only maintaining current recycling and diversion rates levels, but also in making positive changes supporting the Council's ability to increase those rates. Strong community education and communications will be implemented and sustained with regular refreshes of content to reinforce the waste reduction message.

Waste (cont)

- Cradle to grave information on all of our different waste streams, detailing the end destinations of our waste;
- Advice on how to reduce food waste;
- Active promotion of local reuse charities and groups;
- Guidance on beach cleans and marine litter;
- Publication of the council's annual waste performance information; and
- Clear unambiguous guidance on what can and cannot be recycled by the council.

W2 –Promote the Waste Hierarchy through community education

Food, Catering, PPE and Plastics

The theme of climate change and waste reduction is a thread that runs throughout all catering activities in our schools and commercial outlets. Pupils are also encouraged to retain their 'Eco Schools' standard and our catering service holds a Bronze Soil Association Accreditation.

As with many parts of the Council, Catering will continue to minimise the use of disposables and single use plastics - the service is keen to reduce its waste to landfill, and prior to Covid 19, many primary schools across Argyll and Bute had removed all disposables from their lunchtime service. In secondary schools, and commercial cafes, disposables were fully biodegradable and compostable, and incentives were in place to encourage individuals to use reusable cups, mugs, bottles and crockery. Straws and other non-essential plastics had been entirely removed from all services.

W3 –Reduce Council use of disposable and single use plastics across all departments and settings

Although the pandemic has resulted in the reintroduction of some disposables including PPE, the intention will be to remove these when it is safe to do so.

Tackling food waste - pre ordering is in effect across most schools which not only protects individual choice, but minimises food waste, as the catering staff only prepare food based on orders. This will be extended further with the exploration of a pre-order app for secondary schools and a home online ordering for Primary schools.

W4 –Extend and explore pre-ordering for school meals to reduce food waste



Schools

Many of our schools have uniform hubs to ensure no pre-loved uniform goes into landfill and often run classroom education themes about waste hierarchy or self-monitoring recycling.

Where possible we will continue to support school activities and where schools have gardens, poly tunnels and grow their own fruit and vegetables, the catering staff will work with the pupils to incorporate their produce into school lunches. They also support school composting activities to help reduce further any potential waste to landfill.



Energy and Water Consumption

Fossil Fuels and Biomass

Over the last 15 years, Argyll and Bute Council has steadily reduced its heating oil consumption by approximately 70% (from circa 23 million kWh of oil per annum to circa 7 million kWh per annum) largely through fuel conversions to biomass/gas fuel sources with lower cost and carbon emissions.

The Council has 13 biomass installations, with installed capacity of circa 3.2MW, using combinations of wood pellet and locally sourced wood chip for fuel. A further 140kW biomass boiler was integrated into the recently constructed Mull Progressive Care facility, a joint project between West Highland Housing Association, National Health Service and Argyll and Bute Council.

Argyll and Bute Council, in conjunction with a specialist consultant, has assessed the bulk of its estate (over 1,100 land/property assets) as part of phase 1 of the Renewables Sourcing Strategy (RSS1). The assessment reviewed the available renewable technologies and screened the Council's land/property asset information to identify and rank (using key benefits criteria) the most appropriate renewable energy installations. All of the most viable projects have now been delivered. Projects have been funded on a 'spend to save' basis and have accessed supportive UK Government funding in the form of Feed-in-Tariff (FIT) and Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI). We are aiming to update this study as part of a second phase of assessment.

E1 –Deliver Renewable Sourcing Strategy 2

Reduction in heating oil use continues to be a primary objective given its cost and carbon emissions. 10 sites still utilising heating oil are currently subject to feasibility/business case development for conversion to energy efficient heat pumps. It is proposed to convert any sites that can be funded by summer 2021.

E2 –Delivery of Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) Projects

10 sites have been identified for energy efficiency improvements to be delivered through the Scottish Government Non Domestic Energy Efficiency Framework (NDEEF). An outcome will be enhanced energy solutions delivering carbon and cost reduction. Phase 1 of the NDEEF participation is expected to require capital investment of circa £1.1million with a project payback of circa 10 years (i.e. annual revenue saving of over £100,000). Works are expected to be implemented between easter and summer 2021 should funding be approved.

E3 –Delivery of Non Domestic Energy Efficiency Framework (NDEEF) Projects



Ardishaig Primary School biomass boilerhouse

Solar

Argyll and Bute Council has installed around 1.1MW of solar photovoltaic (pv) panels across 19 sites, mainly on school buildings.

Solar photovoltaic options - feasibility work has been instructed for 9 sites; 2 sites involve extension to existing schemes but initial feedback from SSE is that grid connections are still constrained at 50kW at these locations; another 7 sites have been surveyed and business cases will be prepared for viable installations.

E4 –Deliver additional solar pv installations at Council assets

Energy and Water Consumption (cont)

Water

A total of 80 targeted water efficiency and asset verification audits are currently being conducted and recommendations arising are expected to be implemented by April 2021. Aspirations are that this project will deliver a reduction on water use of up to 15%.

E5 –Deliver water efficiency audits across our estate



Tobermory Pre5 Unit has Energy Performance Certificate rated at Level 'A'

Housing Services and Fuel Poverty

Since 2016, 1,123 households have received insulation measures through the Home Energy Efficiency Programme Scotland: Area Based Scheme (HEEPS: ABS). Insulation measures make homes warmer, reduce energy bills and decrease carbon emissions - *(this figure does not yet include households completed in 2019/20 as scheme is not complete yet due to COVID-19).*

As a result of installing insulation measures to 339 households in 2018/19, 245.2 tonnes of carbon emissions were saved.

The Energy Efficient Scotland programme is an area based scheme, funded by the Scottish Government and delivered by Argyll and Bute Council which will continue to run until at least

2024. This scheme will offer insulation measures to private households throughout Argyll and Bute. This scheme will contribute to reducing carbon emissions and improving energy efficiency of homes, as well as being part of the Scottish Government's route map to an energy efficient Scotland.

In 2020, Argyll and Bute Council are supporting Argyll Community Housing Association with their Warm Homes Project. £1million of funding is being used to install external wall insulation to private homes in mixed tenure blocks. This supports ACHA's wider programme where they are installing over 1000 air source heat pumps across Argyll and Bute.

Through the Energy Efficiency Forum, Argyll and Bute Council will continue to support key partners on their projects which will impact on reducing carbon emissions.



ACHA's External Wall Insulation works in Oban

The Council's Housing Service plans to pull together case studies on the HEEPS: ABS programme. Through the Strategic Housing Investment Fund, housing association partners have to build properties to greener standards.

E6 –Delivery of Energy Efficient Scotland Programme

Around 14,500 Street Lights are in process of being replaced with more energy efficient and automatic dimming light emitting diodes (LEDs).

E7 –Complete LED streetlight replacement programme



Energy and Water Consumption (cont)

Renewable Energy Alliance

The Argyll and Bute Renewable Energy Alliance (ABRA) was established in 2011 and brings together key public and private sector partners - including Argyll and Bute Council, the Scottish Government, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Marine Scotland, Scottish Power Renewables, Scottish and Southern Energy, the Crown Estate Scotland, Nature Scotland and Skills Development Scotland - to ensure a greater awareness of all the issues relating to renewable development across Argyll and Bute, and to assist with delivering the Renewable Energy Action Plan.

ABRA have supported the development of community renewables through Community Renewables Opportunity Portal webpages and the development of the Council's wind turbine, Miss Hoolie. When constructing Miss Hoolie, the contractor engaged actively with local school pupils to discuss renewable energy generation.

ABRA work with on-shore wind developers to ensure that maximum benefit is realised at a local level including through local economic opportunities and voluntary benefit funds. We are working with a developer on a new strategic concordat that will ensure that a wider economic benefit can be delivered to our communities.

There are a total of **800** operational renewable sites in Argyll and Bute generating **1.5 GW** of Renewable Energy.

There are 15 operational commercial windfarms (**7 on Kintyre Peninsula**) with a combined Capacity of **348 MW**.

A number of our communities have developed and own their own wind turbines, solar panels, hydropower turbines and biomass boilers which all help to generate energy locally, provide income and support community investment and activities.

The [interactive renewables map](#) is a tool

developed by the Council which allows people to access up to date information from our planning system on renewable energy sites across Argyll and Bute. https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/renewable-energy#in_map.

Islay Local Energy network

The Council is currently working with HIE, Scottish Government and the local community to look at the possible options and scenarios that would assist in the delivery of local energy networks on Islay to overcome grid capacity challenges. Consultants have been appointed to take this first piece of work forward and the work is due to be completed by November 2020 and a stakeholder event will then be held in early 2021 to discuss the next steps.

The project is one that currently sits within the Rural Growth Deal. www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/rgd

E8 –Continue support of ABRA and review Renewable Energy Action Plan annually

Supporting the development of off shore wind

The Scotwind Leasing Round was launched by Crown Estate Scotland in summer 2020. It is anticipated that the closing date for lease submissions will be early 2021.

Subject to a developer successfully securing a lease for the development of the W1 site off the west coast of Argyll, it will potentially lead to the development of an offshore wind farm north-west of Islay circa 2030 as consenting and financial requirements would need to be addressed before work can start.

We are providing online information available for all prospective developers and have developed a story map for desktop: [Scotwind Developers Prospectus](#).

E9 –Continue support for offshore development of renewables

Transport

Fleet

In 2020, the Council ordered and took delivery of 40 new hybrid vehicles for our fleet. Six pure electric vehicles were also introduced. This has displaced and removed 46 diesel vehicles from service. This is a statement of intent and our Fleet Replacement Strategy is looking at procuring more fuel efficient vehicles and ultimately reducing the Carbon Footprint.

T1 –Develop a Fleet Replacement Strategy supportive of fuel efficient, electric and hybrid vehicles



New hybrid fleet car with Climate Friendly ABC Branding

Fleet services are also due to trial an electric refuse lorry in Rothesay during November 2020 and seeking to be innovative with other vehicle types.

Fleet Services aim to introduce a new vehicle routing system to scrutinise existing routes and hopefully highlight a more efficient internal transport system.

T2 –Develop a vehicle routing system that will reduce road miles for operations

Given the increasing prominence of plug in hybrid and all electric vehicles being used by the Council and the public the Council has committed to develop an Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy.

T3 –Develop an Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy

Marine

Plans are in place to replace both engines in the Islay/Jura - Eilean Dhiura – ferry vessel. New engines will be 'Tier 2' emission which will be lower fuel consumption and lower NOx emissions. In addition, a replacement vessel for the Lismore ferry is currently at the design stage with much lower emissions targeted than existing.

Reduce the need to travel

One impact of the pandemic has been to increase the use of digital technology for communications and reduce the need for face to face contact and travel. Business mileage during mid 2020 reduced by over 90% and indications are that the majority of staff wish to continue working at home in part or full. This will evolve in time as part of the Council's Recovery Plan and Digital by Default themed service review.

T4 –Support Digital by Default Themed Service Review and Recovery Plan to reduce travel

Active Travel

The Council has obtained £315,000 Spaces for People Funding to assist with active travel and social distancing in 2020. The Council and schools also encourage active travel to schools and offices.

T5 –Develop new active travel plans for Council buildings and our towns

Prepare and adapt for impacts of climate change

Roads and Infrastructure

The Council has a varied capital investment plan that includes a number of resilience and climate change related projects preparing for sea level rises, increased flood events and protection of essential infrastructure such as roads, bridges, ferry routes and buildings. During the summer of 2020, the Council agreed to invest over £20m and commence works on the Helensburgh Waterfront Development which will install new flood defences in the town centre of Helensburgh.

The Council will be reviewing both the flooding and coastal protection policies, ensuring climate change actions are included within these.



New flood defences being installed at Helensburgh Waterfront, October 2020

Capital works and procurement

The Council's Major Projects team is currently looking at ways to assess climate reduction targets for large capital works within the quality submission. *'How would you reduce carbon emissions by 20% during construction?'* Review/consider the likely increase/decrease in costs this could bring.

Services will review project inception documentation to ensure that it includes questions relating to climate change when beginning new projects such as:

- Can the design include ways to offset x% of carbon emissions from construction
- Can a new road be designed to aid fuel efficient driving
- Can alternative construction methods / materials be used to reduce carbon emissions
- Can the structure be repaired / maintained / repurposed instead of requiring a new asset creation
- Can any demolition materials / arisings be reused elsewhere on other relevant projects (e.g. suitable dredge material for beach replenishment, demolished stone as infill material).
- Can structure elements be standardised to minimise waste (e.g. rebar cutting, reused concrete formwork)
- Can felled trees for site clearance be used as timber, and replaced nearby

PA1 –Review Council flooding and coastal protection policy

PA2 –Review Sustainable Procurement Policy on an annual basis

Offset our emissions through partnership and innovation

Argyll and Bute benefits from outstanding natural assets and opportunities exist for carbon capture in peatland restoration, tree planting and other forms of offsetting. We will work with partners to deliver this.

Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust (ACT)

ACT is a member of our Climate Change Board and partner with the Council on multiple projects and share a number of common objectives.

ACT's Woodland Enterprise is an innovative new venture supporting biodiversity improvements, carbon sequestration, and community access to and involvement with Argyll's woodlands.

Initial research of suitable woodland planting sites within Argyll and Bute Council's ownership has been undertaken. ACT's native species planting plans will involve communities and volunteers, and offer skills and training opportunities. ACT will establish a trading system to manage transactions between the investor, ACT, and the land manager/owner that recognises the carbon value, the improved biodiversity and social capital ACT will generate at each site.

Income generated can then be invested into further development of the enterprise, and improvement and expansion of Argyll's rainforest, and, thereby, contribute to the sustainable restoration and development of Argyll and Bute's unique and precious natural assets, and the economy they support.



Argyll's rainforest (credit Stan Phillips)

Some of our schools are working with the Woodland Trust to plant saplings this year. They will be supported by ACT and other local community groups, such as Hermitage Park, the Veterans Wood and Friends of Duchess Woods. Through these efforts they will gain accreditation towards the John Muir Awards.

Peatland Restoration on Islay

ACT is a partner in the Collaborative Action for Natura Network (CANN) Project and has a team that focuses on protecting and restoring peatland in designated conservation sites. As part of the CANN project, ACT are focusing on removing non-native invasive species that are encroaching on to protected peatland. Species such as rhododendron *ponticum* dry out the wet bog conditions needed for peat, halting the carbon sequestration process, and even releasing stored carbon back into the atmosphere. ACT are engaged with landowners and contractors to treat almost 150 ha of rhododendron across Islay and Colonsay in an effort to improve the condition of these protected sites, increasing their ability to sequester carbon. This includes developing conservation action plans and training courses, local people are being equipped to continue to combat rhododendron and improve these sites after the project end date in 2022.



Duich Moss, Islay – pre treatment

OFF1 –Develop opportunities for Carbon Offsetting with ACT and partners



Tell you about it and encourage community to do their bit

Both the Climate Change Board and Climate Change Environmental Action Group have dedicated communications plans. It is the intention, using the Climate Friendly Argyll and Bute Branding, to promote, highlight and encourage the type of activities highlighted in the Decarbonisation Plan and environmental sustainability in general. This will help in engaging with communities, groups and service users on climate matters using #climatefriendlyABC.

Leading by example, and showing others how they can get involved in making Argyll and Bute climate-friendly, will be key in achieving success for our environment.

The aim for communication about climate change therefore is to highlight the steps the Council and others are taking to involve as many people as possible in making Argyll and Bute climate-friendly.



There are many things we can do on a day to day basis that protect our environment – as individuals, as businesses and as organisations.

Argyll and Bute Council is committed to leading good practice and sharing ideas on how we can all do our bit.

We have developed and signed-up to a communications plan that will celebrate the great things going on in Argyll and Bute. This plan includes the ways we want to engage with people and this will be developed further as opportunities arise.

One of our first steps was to create a 'Climate Friendly Argyll and Bute' badge to use on publications, vehicles, social media etc.

This badge has been incorporated into the livery of our new fleet of hybrid and electric vehicles.

We are using social media and media releases to engage and encourage people to make small changes that, collectively, will make a big difference to Argyll and Bute's environment. Work done to date includes:

- How to avoid food waste;
- Inviting people to sign up to [government home energy programmes](#) that will help save money and reduce fuel usage;
- Encouraging people to recycle more and providing them with details on what happens to the [materials they recycle](#); and
- Highlighting the success of our [Eco Schools and congratulating the achievements](#) of our pupils.

Future projects will cover:

- Promoting active travel;
- Using local produce to create healthy meals;
- How our school meals are made sustainable and how we will make a 'Green Christmas';
- What to do with Christmas leftovers at home.

Moving forward, we will talk about what the Council is doing to meet and exceed its climate change obligations for the future. Addressing climate change means long-term action; communication about climate issues will therefore be regular and on-going.

We can all play the part we need to, to protect the environment on which we all depend. Argyll and Bute's council will inspire, engage and lead that drive.

COMM1 –Develop and Deliver a Communication Plan to support the Decarbonisation Plan

Future Engagement and Community Planning Mapping

This is our first Decarbonisation Plan that focuses on activities of the Council as an operational business. We have brought forward this plan to focus attention on our low carbon recovery in 2021.

We aim to review this plan in 2021 and also work with other organisations, partners and our communities to strengthen this plan and evolve into a wider Climate Change Strategy for our region. The actions of the plan identified in Appendix 1 will be monitored by the Climate Change Board and progress reported on.

In 2021 with our Community Planning Partners we aim to develop an online Climate Change Directory of what is happening in Argyll and Bute. This will involve working with a range of partners from within the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) including Youth Parliament, Nature Scotland (previously Scottish Natural Heritage) and the National Park. We will also be engaging with community groups working on mitigating climate change through our four Area Community Planning Groups and the Council's Community Planning and Development Team.

COMM2 –Engage with community and partners and deliver Climate Change Directory for our region

We will investigate ways to map all our partner initiatives to show where there is positive action and learning. The expected outputs include:

- A web directory – signposting, to show what is happening.
- Looking at how can we make a directory fun and interesting to view? Animation, videos, links to picture rich and interactive sites.
- Highlight good practice, key initiatives.
- Work to showcase one or two particular Argyll and Bute focused projects.
- Have a particular focus on COP (2021) – identify what we would be able to show case. Things that will be happening; Worldwide

theme; high profile. In particular things that showcase Argyll and Bute.

- Identifying the gaps.
- Links to funding.

COMM3 –Monitor the delivery of actions in the Climate Change Action Plan and review in 2021

The Council is also a member of the Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN) and this plan has been reviewed by the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation. The SSN gives the Council national reach and helps improve alignment of efforts with SG and other public sector bodies. SSN also represents an opportunity to share good practice, develop common approaches and efficiencies.





APPENDIX 1 – Climate Change Action Plan

ACTION	LEAD (L) AND PARTNERS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (Where relevant)	TARGET or MILESTONE	FUNDING
W1 –Develop and Implement Waste Strategy	(L) Roads and Amenity Services, Community, commercial customers		Implementation of the Waste Strategy transitioning to Landfill ban compliant Residual Waste Recovery solutions by 2025.	External funding and support being sought from the Scottish Government
W2 – Promote the Waste Hierarchy through community Education	(L) Roads and Amenity Services		Evidence of community Education	Not secured
W3 – Reduce Council use of disposable and single use plastics across all departments and settings	(L) Procurement and Commercial Services, all Council Services		Adoption of new working practices and procurement	No specific funding in place, research required to impact on operation costs
W4 – Extend and explore pre-ordering for school food to reduce food waste	(L) Commercial Services and Education	Food waste per school (not currently measured and requires further	Evidence of extension of pre-ordering & food waste reduction	No specific funding in place, research required to impact on



ACTION	LEAD (L) AND PARTNERS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (Where relevant)	TARGET or MILESTONE	FUNDING
		development)		operation costs
E1 – Deliver Renewable Sourcing Strategy 2	(L) Commercial Services		Adoption of Strategy	Yes
E2 – Delivery of Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) Projects	(L) Commercial Services	Carbon saved by delivery of RHI Projects	Evidence of delivery of projects	Study work yes – delivery subject to individual business case
E3 – Delivery of Non-domestic Energy Efficiency Framework (NDEEF) Projects	(L) Commercial Services	Carbon saved by delivery of NDEEF Projects	Evidence of delivery of projects	Study work yes – delivery subject to individual business case
E4 – Delivery of additional solar installations at Council assets	(L) Commercial Services	Carbon saved by delivery of new solar projects	Evidence of delivery of projects	Study work yes – delivery subject to individual business case
E5 – Delivery of Water Efficiency Audits across our Estate	(L) Commercial Services	Carbon saved by delivery of water efficiency works	Evidence of delivery of projects	Study work yes – delivery subject to individual



ACTION	LEAD (L) AND PARTNERS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (Where relevant)	TARGET or MILESTONE	FUNDING
				business case
E6 – Delivery of Energy Efficiency Scotland Programme	(L) Housing Services, Registered Social Landlords	Number of homes improved	Evidence of delivery of projects	Part for current financial year
E7 – Complete LED streetlight replacement programme	(L) Roads and Infrastructure Services	Number of streetlights upgraded, carbon equivalent saved	Evidence of delivery of projects	Fully funded through prudential borrowing
E8 – Continue support of ABRA and review Renewable Energy Strategy annually	(L) Economic Development	GW of renewable energy produced in Argyll and Bute	Evidence of delivery of projects	Officer resource to support currently funded
E9 – Continue support for offshore development of renewables	(L) Economic Development		Evidence of delivery of projects	Officer resource to support currently funded
T1 – Develop a Fleet Replacement Strategy supportive of fuel efficient, electric and hybrid vehicles	(L) Roads and Infrastructure Services	Number of alternative fuel and fuel efficient vehicles in fleet, Carbon equivalent saving	Adoption of Strategy	Part for current financial year



ACTION	LEAD (L) AND PARTNERS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (Where relevant)	TARGET or MILESTONE	FUNDING
T2 – Develop a vehicle routing system that will reduce road miles for operations	(L) Roads and Infrastructure Services	Number of vehicle miles reduced	Evidence of delivery of projects	Part for current financial year
T3 – Develop an electric vehicle infrastructure strategy	(L) Roads and Infrastructure Services	Number of electrical vehicle charging points in Argyll and Bute	Evidence of delivery of projects	Part for current financial year
T4 – Support Digital by Default theme Service Review & Recovery Plan to reduce need to travel	All Council Departments	Business Mileage	Evidence of delivery of projects	Part for current financial year
T5 – Develop new active travel plans for Council buildings and our towns	(L) Economic Development	Number of active travel plans in place	Evidence of delivery of projects	Part for current financial year
PA1 – Review Council Flooding & Coastal Protection Policy	(L) Roads and Infrastructure Services		Review of policy	No specific funding in place, research required to impact on operation costs
PA2 – Review Council Sustainable Procurement Policy	(L) Procurement		Review of policy	No specific funding in place, research required to impact on operation costs



ACTION	LEAD (L) AND PARTNERS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (Where relevant)	TARGET or MILESTONE	FUNDING
OFF1 – Develop opportunities for Carbon Offsetting with ACT and partners	(L) Climate Change Board, ACT and partners	Carbon savings achieved through offsetting	Delivery of projects	Limited funding via ACT for existing projects
COMM1- Develop and deliver Communications Plan to support Decarbonisation Plan	(L) Climate Change Board and Communications Team		Delivery of Communications Plan	Part of Communications Support
COMM2 - Engage with community and partners and deliver Climate Change Directory for our region	(L) Community Planning and Development Team	Number of Community Groups and initiatives mapped and engaged with	Delivery of engagement map	In place until end of financial year
COMM3 - Monitor the delivery of actions in the Climate Change Action Plan and review in 2021	(L) Climate Change Board		Review of this plan by December 2021	