

COUNCIL CARBON EMISSIONS & CLIMATE INVESTMENT 2022

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Scotland has some of the most ambitious targets and progressive legislation in terms of climate change in the world and the public sector is being promoted as playing a leading role towards achieving net zero by 2045. As with other public bodies it has been a requirement for Argyll & Bute Council to monitor, record and publish contributing factors towards climate change for the past 6 years. The most recent results from the national 'Reporting Requirements' has recently been published in April 2022 and covers the previous financial year for 2020/21.
- 1.2 Around 160 public bodies (Councils, Health Boards, Government) published data in the past year and across Scotland there was a general downward trend in carbon emissions across the board – some of it will be attributable to impact of COVID19 pandemic where certain sectors like travel and construction were less active for part of the year but other factors include the general de-carbonisation of the national grid as we transition away from fossil fuels for generation of electricity.
- 1.3 Argyll & Bute Council saw our carbon emissions generated by our business

this funding will be allocated to.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Policy & Resources Committee consider and agree the following:

- 2.1.1 Note the publication of the Council's 2020/21 carbon emissions report and its continued positive trend highlighting that carbon dioxide equivalent emissions have reduced by 33% in past 6 years; and,
- 2.1.2 Note the climate change projects that will be developed in 2022 onwards that are aligned to the additional £500,000 commitment that was allocated at the February 2022 Council Budget.
- 2.1.3 Agree to the inclusion of the Policy Lead with responsibility for Climate Change as a member of the Climate Change Board.

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3.0 INTRODUCTION

3.1 The Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Order 2015 requires the 180 public bodies classified as major players to prepare an annual "Report on Compliance with Climate Change Duties" (Schedule 2). Argyll and Bute Council is one of these organisations required to publish annual emissions since 2015. The most recent publication has been released in April 2022 for the reporting period 2020/21.

3.2 The Climate Change Board report progress to the Policy and Resources Committee on a regular basis. This is the first report outlining activities of the Climate Change Board to the new Council and is useful to provide a baseline snapshot of what are the key contributors to Council emissions plus also successes and areas for improvement. The carbon footprint of the Council also aligns to De-Carbonisation Plan which was adopted by the Council in 2021 which starts to provide a routemap towards net zero by 2045. It should be noted that the reporting requirements solely record the emissions of the Council as a business and do not reflect overall or regional emissions like local industry, private sector, personal travel etc. As reportedf1 0 0 1 42.8 644.08 Tm 0 1 pare8V pllll Al -27(l)35(1 0 0 1 13,()-284(o)-n)56(e)-6(s

member of the Climate Change Board.

5.0 BACKGROUND

- 5.1 Since 2015/16 Argyll & Bute Council has published data on its Carbon Emissions annually based on a nationally agreed framework of indicators. There has been an evolution of indicators over the years but most have stayed consistent so a

5.2 There is a positive (downward) trend across the Council as highlighted below.

Graph 1 – Annual Carbon Emissions

5.3 All activity of the Council is monitored so it is important to understand the breakdown of emission sources. All departments have a responsibility and role to play in monitoring and reducing carbon emissions.

Table 2 - Breakdown of emission sources

Emission Source	Emissions (tCO2e)	Comments
Refuse Municipal to Landfill	12,798	~48% of total carbon footprint
Grid Electricity	3,655	~14% of total carbon footprint
Natural Gas	4,042	~15% of total carbon footprint – mainly used as heating source in buildings

Solar PV	882843	0		
Wind	15000	135000		
Biomass			4678800	0
Air Source Heat Pump			130000	0

Graph 3 – Benchmarking of Council Carbon Emissions

5.6 The graph above highlights Argyll and Bute Council's carbon emissions in relation to other local authorities who have published their 2020/21 data at this point. It is very difficult to make a direct comparison as population, physical size, internal processes (particularly waste treatment) and geographic factors all have a material impact on overall emissions.

6.0 Climate Change Projects 2022

6.1 The Council Budget which was approved in February 2022 included a provision for:-

Additional funding of £0.5m, building on previous £1.1m investments, for

LED- light emitting diode (energy efficient lighting)
ASHP - Air Source Heat Pump (low carbon heating)
BMS - Building management system

2. Evidence based routemap to net zero - £50,000 consultancy support

Requirement to comply with the Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2020

New legislation that comes into effect in late 2022 which requires specific and scientific routemapping towards reaching net zero targets and model emissions based on activity. This will be for waste, roads, commercial services, airports etc

Routemaps to Netzero require alignment to Council spending plans and need to be submitted in Nov 2022

£50,000 for consultancy support to deliver this (will be a cost pressure otherwise). Output will be compliant and evidence based routemap to net zero for the Council.

To be taken forward in partnership with HIE, Western Isles Council & Hub North.

3. Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) - £50,000 consultancy support

The Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (Scotland) Order was developed in partnership with COSLA and laid in the Scottish Parliament on 11 March 2022. It places a duty on local authorities to produce Strategies and Delivery Plans on a 5 year cycle, with the first iteration due to be published by the end of 2023. In support of this duty, the Scottish Government is providing £2.4m of annual revenue funding, ABC share £75,000, confirmed at the end of May 2022. This is to allow each local authority to recruit 1 FTE post to focus of coordination of LHEES, with a further £25,000 per council per annum to procure or internally resource technically support. Officers will bring an upda-

recommendations is to appoint a jointly funded Climate Action Project Manager post that will act in the interest of all CPP partners. Some partners such as NHS Highland have already committed funding to the creation of this new post which initially will be temporary for 3 years. The main activities of this new post will be to set up and a new regional Argyll and Bute Climate Action plan, a collaborative stakeholder approach to mitigating against and adapting to climate change with a strong focus on community involvement.

The proposal is allocate £50,000 of funding from this budget to act as the Council's contribution to this new CPP post.

7.0 Conclusions

7.1 It is a requirement to publish annual carbon emissions for the Scottish Government. This report highlights our overall emissions for most recent period 2020/21 and outlines that changes to this process will be forthcoming in future months due to change in The Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2020. It also seeks to invite the Policy Lead with responsibility for Climate Change to be a member of the Climate Change Board to ensure a seamless link with regards to strategic leadership and operational delivery.

8. IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Policy –

Councillor Ross Moreland – Policy Lead Climate Change & Environment

14th July 2022

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