

CLIMATE CHANGE BOARD UPDATE AND DE-CARBONISATION TRACKER

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Argyll and Bute Council has been addressing climate change themes for over 7 years through its well established Climate Change Board. There has been a notable reduction in the overall carbon emissions generated by the Council since annual reporting commenced in 2015/16 - net reduction of 28.4% - through its Decarbonisation Plan. Whilst our region is well placed in terms of natural assets and relative low number of carbon emitting sources, a great deal of work still needs to be done to achieve Net Zero obligations by 2030 and 2045, in addition to increasing resilience to more severe weather events and sea level rises in coming years.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to summarise and highlight some of the main activities of the Climate Change Board over the previous quarter.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Policy and Resources Committee are asked to note and consider the updates contained at Section 5 of the report and the full Decarbonisation Tracker update attached at Appendix A.

5.4 The LHEES aims to set out a long-efficiency and decarbonise the heat source in domestic and non-domestic buildings within an entire local authority area. The process of LHEES production is highly technical. It involves the analysis of heat consumption data across a whole Local Authority geographical area, and the identification

- 5.12 The 50kW Solar PV ground array system is now on line and generating at Kilmory Castle with the formal handover ceremony having taken place on Monday 11th September.
- 5.13 A time-lapse camera has recorded the entire project from inception to finish. Aerial drone footage has also been organised, and will be shared with the Council once finalised.

E – Update on Communications Team

- 5.14 The Council's Team continues to externally promote the Council
- 5.15 The Communications Team has ran a series of posts encouraging people to adopt small changes called promoting school uniform recycling scheme, plastic free picnics, International Plastic Free Bag Day, Shop Local, Reduce fast fashion, active travel maps, National Marine Week and World Conservation Day.

F – Update on Argyll and the Isles Coast & Countryside Trust (ACT)

- 5.16 ACT are working in partnership with Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership on the recruitment of a new Climate Change Action Project Manager. This new role will be hosted by ACT, with the postholder responsible for leading on delivery of a new regional Argyll and Bute Climate Action Plan. The post was advertised over the summer, with interviews scheduled for September 2023.
- 5.17 Additionally, ACT is working with partners to submit a proposal to the Scottish Government to host a new Argyll Climate Action Hub.

G – Decarbonisation Tracker

- 5.18 The Council's Decarbonisation Plan sets a 3 year framework to continue our climate journey and routemap to net zero. Our Council has made a clear commitment to be a net zero organisation by 2045 and has also declared a climate emergency befitting the importance and critical nature of the topic. Whilst the main Decarbonisation Plan will be fixed for 3 years, the associated Action Plan (which forms an Appendix of the document) will be continuously updated and reported to both the Climate Change Board and Policy & Resources Committee. The latest update can be found at Appendix A.
- 5.19 The Decarbonisation Action Plan Tracker is available on the Council's Climate Change webpages.

6.0 CONCLUSION

6.1 relation to Climate Change.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Policy Meeting obligations and commitment to Climate Change.

7.2 Financial No direct linkage in this paper.

7.3 Legal Meeting requirements of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, and the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019.

7.4 HR - None

7.5 Fairer Scotland Duty:

6.5.1 Equalities - protected characteristics - None

6.5.2 Socio-economic Duty - None

6.5.3 Islands - None

6.6 Climate Change Direct link updating activities of the Climate Change Board and projects that will address climate change.

6.7 Risk - Not addressing impacts or causes of climate change can lead to increased cost or censure if targets are not met.

6.8 Customer Service - None

Councillor Ross Moreland Policy Lead Climate Change & Environment

12 September 2023

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APPENDICES

Appendix A Decarbonisation Tracker October 2023

ACTION	LEAD (L) AND PARTNERS	TARGET or MILESTONE	FUNDING	COMMENTS
W1 –Develop and Implement Waste Strategy	(L) Roads and Amenity Services, Community, commercial customers	Implementation of the Waste Strategy transitioning to Landfill ban		


ACTION	LEAD (L) AND PARTNERS	TARGET or MILESTONE	FUNDING	COMMENTS
				<p>products consider whether these products are essential or if there is a potential alternative that would meet the Service requirements, prior to orders being placed via PECOS or contacting the Procurement, Commercial and Contract Management Team (PCCMT) for a procurement process to be carried out.</p> <p>Note and consider that the Sustainable Procurement Policy will be updated to reflect the Climate Change Board desire to limit SUP where possible – wording has been included in the Annual Review 2023/2024 version of the Procurement Strategy 2022/2025 as follows: “To provide procurement support to any strategic decisions taken by the Council in relation to the</p>

ACTION	LEAD (L) AND PARTNERS	TARGET or MILESTONE	FUNDING	COMMENTS
				<p>include a question regarding SUP.</p> <p>Changes in legislation were brought into force by the Scottish Government on the 1st June 2022 restricting single-use plastic cutlery, plates, straws, drink stirrers and balloon sticks, expanded polystyrene food containers and expanded polystyrene cups and other beverage containers, as well as all products made of oxo-degradable plastic. Some products already changed and others under review.</p>
W4 – Extend and explore pre-ordering for school food to reduce food waste	(L) Commercial Services and Education	Evidence of extension of pre-ordering & food waste reduction	Project funded and solution procured	Project Team currently implementing this, remaining sites due for implementation August 2023.
E1 – Deliver Renewable Sourcing Strategy 2	(L) Commercial Services	Adoption of Strategy	RSS2 consultancy work funding to be confirmed; expectation is that project implementation will be through combinations of prudential borrowing (subject to business case approvals) and/or external funding.	RSS2 next stage development work includes specification development and preparation of invitation to tender for specialist consultancy support. Current work in progress; intended to be market tested during 2023.
E2 – Delivery of Non-domestic Energy Efficiency Framework (NDEEF) Projects	(L) Commercial Services	Evidence of delivery of projects	Project development work is funded by combinations of the Scottish Government and the procured provider (costs absorbed within the tender process). Funding for project implementation will come from Council approved capital allocations:	Non Domestic Energy Efficiency Fund (NDEEF1) Energy Performance Contract was signed on 16 July 2021 (circa £1.25m investment with 10 year payback). The originally intended mini project list has been fully delivered. Following on from the P&R Committee report in May 2023: May PR - Climate Change -NDEEF

ACTION	LEAD (L) AND PARTNERS	TARGET or MILESTONE	FUNDING	COMMENTS
			Climate Change 20/21 - £500K Climate Change 21/22 - £600K Asset Sustainability - £175K	Progress update.pdf (argyll-bute.gov.uk) , four final mini projects,

ACTION	LEAD (L) AND PARTNERS	TARGET or MILESTONE			COMMENTS
					SSEN is ongoing to try to identify solutions.

ACTION	LEAD (L) AND PARTNERS
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	(L) Economic Development	Evidence of delivery of projects	Officer resource to support currently funded	<p>2022/23 emissions are forecast to be reduced by approx. 10 – 15% on the 2021/22 figures.</p> <p>Work to support ABRA ongoing. A meeting was held in May 23 and focused on the Cruachan expansion and Machair offshore wind projects. Current ongoing project by SSE Networks for renewal of powerlines between Inveraray and Crossaig as well as more minor works. Work ongoing on outline business case for Islay Energy System work through the Rural Growth Deal.</p>

ACTION	LEAD (L) AND PARTNERS	
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ACTION	LEAD (L) AND PARTNERS	TARGET or
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			<p>The 1.7FTE Active Travel Team secured £3.03M external challenge funding in 22/23 for development and delivery of 32 active travel projects across Argyll and Bute, requiring 22 separate competitive challenge funding applications to 8 separate funds.</p> <p>Projects funded via the active travel team within Strategic Transportation in 2022/23 included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First two sections of high-quality segregated cycleway in Argyll and Bute constructed at Helensburgh Waterfront and Ralston Road, Campbeltown in 2022/23. Significant upgrade to path network in Castle Gardens, Dunoon. New cycle and scooter storage and access at Castlehill School, Campbeltown. New cycle parking at the community owned Port Ellen Playing Fields Community Development, Islay. Funded Cycling UK to run the Dunoon Cycle Bothy Funded ACT to upcycle 65 bikes to return to the local Mid-Argyll Community and to assist children 	<p>private cars, particularly multiple car households.</p> <p>No Council funding is currently expended on Active Travel work, with all costs, including internal staff costs (1.7FTE), having to be funded via successfully securing external challenge funds. As all active travel work is currently reliant on securing external funding, therefore the projects which are progressed are those which can successfully secure external challenge funding.</p> <p>Argyll and Bute Active Travel Strategy: Officers are working to develop an Argyll and Bute Active Travel Strategy and present it for Council by summer 2024. The Active Travel Strategy would provide the overarching context for the Council to support and promote active travel across the Council area. Having an adopted and current Active Travel Strategy is increasingly becoming a pre-requirement to access Scottish Government derived active travel funding.</p> <p>Active Travel Delivery Plan: Following approval of Active Travel Strategy, an Active Travel Delivery Plan will be developed to create a</p>

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			<p>Community engagement to identify desire for future active travel improvements in Oban.</p>	<p>secured to enable the Active Travel Plans for towns to be updated.</p> <p>Council Staff Travel Plan: At present it is not proposed to progress with development of a Council Staff Travel Plan. This is due to (a) requirement to make best use of limited internal staff capacity; and, (b) the ongoing uncertainty of longer-term staff profiles and bases. Staff Travel Plans focus on measures to make it easier and preferable for staff to choose to walk, cycle, use public transport or car share to commute to work or for work journeys, or use economical pool vehicles for work journeys. A travel plan should encourage staff to choose the most economical and least environmentally damaging travel mode. Engagement will be required with services which manage staff in buildings and/or council buildings as this is essential to creating deliverable and effective travel plans for staff. This includes Estates, HR, SMT and building users. It is recommended that work on the Council Staff Travel Plan is commenced after a decision has been made on future staff working patterns and office rationalisation as these will have a significant impact on the Council Staff and their</p>

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				travel. There is currently no funding secured to enable this work to be progressed.
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	Reviews are in process.
PA2 – Review Council Sustainable Procurement Policy	(L) Procurement	Review of policy	No specific funding in place, research required to impact on operation costs	This policy is reviewed on an annual basis.
OFF1 – Develop opportunities for Carbon Offsetting with ACT and partners	(L) Climate Change Board,			

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				<p>ACT are working in partnership with the Community Planning Partnership and will be hosting a Climate Change Officer. Post has been advertised and interviews will take place in September '23.</p> <p>Also working with partners to submit a proposal to host an Argyll Climate Action Hub (SSCAN ScotGov project).</p> <p>ACT undertaking peatland restoration on Islay, Jura and extending into mainland Argyll, supported by ScotGov's Peatland Action and Esmee Fairbairn Foundation. In addition to the 2 Islay based jobs, we will be offering a 1-year trainee position in 2024.</p> <p>Carbon Literacy Training – ACTNow continuing to offer this service. A number of Councillors have indicated that they would like to undertake the training – funding tbc. A&BC Climate Change Officer working with ACT and Climate Change Board to discuss progressing towards being a Silver Accredited Carbon Literate Organisation.</p> <p>ACT delivering Bikes Back to the Community with the support of</p>

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				<p>Smarter Choices, Smarter Places funding.</p> <p>ACT has two electric bikes available for groups and businesses and Councillors/Council officers to trial.</p> <p>ACT has applied to Nature Restoration Fund which if awarded would achieve landscape scale rhododendron clearance in Knapdale. Outcome of bid due end Sept '23.</p>

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				<p>Hermitage Park green flag status</p> <p>Funding for additional EV charging points</p> <p>Increased funding announcement for Energy Efficiency Scheme</p> <p>Green Summer campaign – series of posts encouraging people to adopt small changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School uniform recycling scheme - Plastic free picnics - International plastic free bag day - Shop Local - Reduce fast fashion - Active travel maps - National Marine Week - World Conservation Day <p>New Campbeltown cycle path</p> <p>Dunoon active travel route consultation</p> <p>Helensburgh active travel route consultation</p> <p>Supporting Communities Fund.</p> <p>Highlighted Corporate Plan including climate action</p> <p>Built environment Planning Awards</p>

ACTION

**LEAD (L) AND
PARTNERS**