

CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY AND INDICATORS

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose

- 1.1 Minimising activities that generate carbon and dealing with the impacts of Climate change is a corporate and wide ranging function for the Council. All departments, services, teams and individuals have a role to play by either direct actions or by influencing others. One of the activities agreed by the Short Life Working Group (SLWG) was to *'collate existing Council and corporate policy to address climate change matters for Members to note and consider'* (Action 1). This report seeks to draw together existing policy that has an effect or impacts upon climate change matters and stimulate Member discussion.
- 1.2 The report also summaries the Council's recent annual submission to the Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN) which is one of our primary reporting and performance tools that all Local Authorities and other public bodies in Scotland comply with. Using this as a basis, the report also recommends a suite of measures and indicators to become the core climate change measures that are monitored at a corporate level and through the SLWG.
- 1.3 This report aims to stimulate discussion around current Council policy and performance indicators relating to climate change.

Recommendation

That the SLWG:-

1. Note and consider existing policy of the Council relating directly and indirectly to Climate Change;
2. Note recent annual performance submission to Sustainable Scotland Network; and
3. Agree a set of corporate climate change indicators;

CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY AND INDICATORS

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 This report aims to inform and stimulate discussion of the SLWG in relation to current Council policy and performance indicators relating to climate change. It specifically seeks to address action 1 and 3 of the SLWG Activity Plan namely:-

1. *Collate existing Council policy and corporate policy approach to address climate change matters for Members to note and consider; and*
3. *Note and consider the Council's annual climate change submission to Scottish Government and other performance indicators in compliance with the Climate Change Act;*

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

That the SLWG:-

1. Note and consider existing policy of the Council relating directly and indirectly to Climate Change;
2. Note recent annual performance submission to Sustainable Scotland Network; and
3. Agree a set of corporate climate change indicators;

4.0 DETAIL

Current Council Policy

4.1 It is an accepted principle that addressing the causes of climate change and dealing with the impacts from global warming is a corporate responsibility and all departments, services, teams and individuals have a part to play. This applies to both direct Council activity but also how we lead and shape the behaviors of others like our communities, land use and businesses. 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) Bill¹ 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.

- 4.2 Officers of Argyll and Bute Council have been considering and addressing aspects of Climate Change on a number of fronts for well over a decade. Differing teams address different aspects and can include planning policy, energy efficiency, property design, economic policy, fleet, waste, education, roads, marine, marine design, procurement and corporate policy to name a few. There is no argument that addressing climate change is a corporate and cross cutting vocation that requires universal buy-in. There is also recognised good practice of working with partners outside of the Council such as Argyll and Bute Renewables Alliance (ABRA) and Argyll Timber Transport Group (ATTG) in relation to climate change and environmental matters.
- 4.3 Whilst there is a spread of climate change related policies and activities currently in place for Argyll and Bute there is not a single Climate Change Strategy or dedicated resource in place to delivery on climate change activities. There is a mixed approach across Scotland with some Local Authorities having long standing climate change strategies or having dedicated teams (Climate Change Officers) to those who are dealing with it on an action plan basis – similar to ourselves. Argyll and Bute’s Climate Change Board has been in existence since 2017 and acts as governance board to component activities as it relies heavily on the input from each service or department. Given the growing importance of climate change and technical advances the skillset and capacity for Council resource will need to evolve over the next 10 years to meet the 2030 targets. Priorities include the development of an Argyll and Bute de-carbonisation plan, further collaborative working with other Highlands and Islands Authorities (COHI) and revising / updating our Climate Change Action Plan. This is also something we will be aligning with other Local Authorities and COSLA over the coming years.
- 4.4 Argyll and Bute Council’s current suite of climate change policy is contained within **Appendix A**. You can see from this that there is a wide range of contributing and supporting policy relating to Climate Change including:-

Corporate Plan	Procurement and Commissioning Strategy 2019/20
Argyll and Bute Outcome Improvement Plan (ABOIP).	Community Planning and Community Development
Economic Development and	Renewable Energy Action Plan

¹[www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Climate%20Change%20\(Emissions%20Reduction%20Targets\)%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill30BS052019.pdf](http://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Climate%20Change%20(Emissions%20Reduction%20Targets)%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill30BS052019.pdf)

Strategic Transportation Service Plan	
Planning, Housing and Regulatory Services Plan	Argyll and Bute Economic Strategy
Local Development Plan	Biodiversity Action Plan
Woodland and Forestry Strategy	Renewable Sourcing Strategy
Argyll and Bute Council Sustainable Procurement Policy	Carbon Management Plan
Waste Strategy	Strategic Housing Investment Plan
ICT Strategy	Fleet Strategy
Flood Risk Management Policy	Economic Strategy

Annual Submission to Scottish Sustainable Network

- 4.5 The Council, as with all other public sector bodies, has a statutory duty to submit climate change related information and performance data to the Scottish Sustainable Network (SSN) on an annual basis. The submission is highly detailed and included both qualitative and quantitative data. The SSN in its current form has been running for several years and allows a consistent benchmark between different Local Authorities and also annual trends.
- 4.6 As outlined in the recent Scottish Government Consultation '*Role of Public Sector in tackling Climate Change*' the national SSN process is being radically reformed in 2020 with new sets of indicators and performance reporting regime to be announced in due course. We will watch this with close interest and seek to contribute and comply with new arrangements once know.
- 4.7 The full SSN submission is made at the end of November each year and all historic reports dating back to 2014 can be found on this webpage:-

<https://sustainablecotlandnetwork.org/reports/argyll-and-bute-council>

Our most recent submission for 2018-19 was submitted in November 2019 and is with the SSN Administrator to upload and expect this to be available from mid-January 2020.

- 4.8 Some of the key and summary outcomes from SSN 2019 are contained within **Appendix B**.

Corporate Climate Change Indicators

- 4.9 Given the increasing focus and importance of delivering upon climate change targets over the next decade, and beyond, it is worthwhile that the SLWG consider the most appropriate climate change indicators and performance measures. As outlined above, the current performance regime is undergoing significant restructuring at a national level over the next 12 months and we will update SLWG as this progressed. However, and in the interim, the SLWG can consider to identify some key

measures that are important to them now that are able to be revisited once the national picture is clarified.

- 4.10 At the most recent meeting of The Climate Change Board officers met and collated a list of measures that are considered most pertinent. Officers would therefore recommend these are discussed and endorsed by the SLWG and that they become part of the corporate scorecard / pyramid reporting:-

Proposed Climate Change – Corporate Indicators

	Value	Benchmark	Target	Comments
MITIGATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE				
1. Emissions of the Council (Overall Carbon Footprint)	34,738 tCO2e	tbc	tbc	Activity of Council including below indicators
2. Emissions of Refuse Municipal Waste	17,645 tCO2e	tbc	tbc	Landfilled Municipal waste – includes business pick ups and household.
3. Emissions from use of fossil fuel in Council buildings (Natural Gas, Oil, LPG)	5,840 tCO2e	tbc	tbc	Oil, LPG, Natural Gas
4. Emissions from electricity use in Council buildings and street lights (Grid Electricity + Streetlighting)	6,357 tCO2e	tbc	tbc	Grid is becoming decarbonised as more windturbines, hydro solar comes online
5. All Council fleet and business miles consumption of fossil fuels (bin lorries, cars, all vehicles)	4,246 tCO2e	tbc	tbc	Approx. 90 Cars, bin lorries, vans etc
6. Generation of renewable energy		tbc	tbc	
a. Electricity (Solar, Wind, Hydro)	1032843	tbc	tbc	
b. Heat (Biomass, Air source pump)	4691800	tbc	tbc	
7. Sustainable procurement, policy and landuse		tbc	tbc	Do we have them, what are they, up to date, impact
8. Education & Publicity to affect behavioural Change – Key Messages		tbc	tbc	Do we have them, what are they, up to date, impact
9. Budget aligned to adaptation for Climate Change		tbc	tbc	Climate Change Adaptation is <i>'the adjustment in economic, social or natural systems in response to actual or expected climate change, to limit harmful consequences and exploit beneficial opportunities'</i> Flood Risk Schemes, building repairs from storm damage, road realignment
10. CO2 Per Capita – Regional Performance	0.3	5.3 national average	tbc	All activities within our region (not just Council)

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Policy:	Consideration given to how the SLWG wish to review and shape Climate Change Policy
5.2 Financial:	Consideration given to how SLWG wish to resource climate change adaptation, policy and efficiencies
5.3 Legal:	None at present
5.4 HR:	None at present
5.5 Fairer Scotland Duty:	None at present
5.6 Equalities – protected Characteristics:	None at present
5.7 Socio-economic Duty:	None at present as consultation
5.8 Islands	Certain climate change activities identified specifically for Island context
5.6 Risk:	Requirement to consider impacts of climate change and adaptation
5.7 Customer Service:	Engagement to be considered as part of work of SLWG

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9th January 2020

APPENDIX A – COUNCIL POLICY ON CLIMATE CHANGE

CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION & SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES & CASE STUDIES – AS EXISTING

Corporate Plan & ABOIP

The Council's [Corporate Plan 2018-22](#) (BV30004) embraces **sustainability** and aligns with the Community Planning Partnership's vision and strategy. The Corporate Plan's vision and 6 outcomes are identical to the Argyll and Bute Outcome Improvement Plan (ABOIP). The priorities for the period reflect both the outcomes of the ABOIP and the actions required to ensure sustainability of the area and the Council:

- The education we provide meets the needs of all our young people and their families
- We make the most of our assets to build the local economy
- We support individual and community wellbeing
- We strengthen and empower our communities
- We ensure there are homes for all, we tackle poverty and build opportunity
- We have greener and cleaner communities
- We are an employer of choice
- We manage our finances prudently

The [Argyll and Bute Outcome Improvement Plan](#) (ABOIP) (BV30003) provides the main strategic document for the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) across Argyll and Bute. The [ABOIP](#) focuses on what residents told the CPP is most important to them and sets out the overall direction and vision for the area until 2023 (pg. 12).

Argyll and Bute's economic success is built on a growing population.

Within the ABOIP there are six outcomes which reiterate the main themes of **sustainability** - economy, **environment**, community;

1. Our Economy is diverse and thriving
2. We have an infrastructure that supports **sustainable** growth
3. Education skills and training maximise opportunities for all
4. Children and young people have the best possible start
5. People live active, healthier and independent lives
6. People live in safer and stronger communities

The [ABOIP](#) also recognises the challenges facing Argyll and Bute (pg. 11) including **sustainability**. Page 12 explains that whilst "there are a range of social and community challenges by far the most significant challenge facing the area relates to the economy and population. Unless these specific issues are addressed the scope and capacity to address some of the other challenges facing Argyll and Bute will be greatly reduced."

Training & Learning Modules on ABOIP

The council's employees' induction and members' induction actively promote and set out the ABOIP vision. The employee induction online learning module provides information about the geography of the area, the CPP and their vision and how to look after the environment (BV30422). The ABOIP and CPP was introduced to members on the third day of their induction ([Wednesday 10th May BV30080](#), page 12-14, 41-54). In addition online learning modules available for officers include an Introduction to **Sustainable Procurement and Sustainability**.

Policies, strategies and activities which help to implement sustainable development.

All services are responsible for helping to deliver the objectives of the ABOIP and Corporate Plan, and a number of individual service plans (BV30233) have specific reference to sustainability including:

- [Economic Development and Strategic Transportation Service Plan](#) – the principal purpose of the service includes to build sustainable communities that will attract residents, businesses and visitors.
- [Planning, Housing and Regulatory Services Plan](#) – the principal purpose includes ensuring that development takes place in a sustainable manner.
- [Community Planning and Community Development](#) – the principal purpose includes working in partnership with communities and organisations to enable long lasting projects that make a long lasting difference to the lives of those in Argyll and Bute.

Sustainable Procurement

Argyll and Bute Council's [Procurement and Commissioning Strategy 2019/20](#) (BV30112 Section 5) sets out a framework, which is designed to enable the Council to continue on its journey of change and innovation through areas such as building capacity and skills within the Council, increasing collaboration both internally and externally and, focusing our commissioning and procurement activity on delivering improvements for the people and communities in Argyll and Bute. The Supplier Development Programme is available to help provide training and advice on procurement.

Energy

To investigate the opportunity for renewable energy projects and reduce carbon emissions as well as making the most of our assets to build the local economy, the Council developed the Renewable Sourcing Strategy.

As part of a reduction in our carbon footprint and with a view to reducing future electricity costs as well as over 35% of our current lighting stock having exceeded their service life, Argyll and Bute Council has embarked on a Street Lighting Replacement project where we will change all existing lanterns to new energy efficient LED lighting, installation is ongoing. In our first year we estimate savings in excess of £300,000. Due to efficiencies

of savings we were able to deliver this through prudential borrowing.

The [Renewable Energy Action Plan](#) (REAP, BV30453) was developed to assist Argyll and Bute realise its vision for the development of renewable energy:

“Argyll and the Islands will be at the heart of renewable energy development in Scotland by taking full advantage of its unique and significant mix of indigenous renewable resources and maximising the opportunities for sustainable economic growth for the benefits of its communities and Scotland.”

The REAP focuses on ensuring the infrastructure and skills are in place to facilitate appropriate renewable energy and, where possible, enable the people of Argyll and Bute to benefit directly from any new development.

The REAP also seeks to support community renewables including through the provision of the [Community Renewables Opportunity Portal](#), (BV30454) a suite of webpages which provide guidance to community organisations who are interested in developing renewables or who may be negotiating community benefit in relation to a commercial renewable energy development.

The Council also administers the [Home Energy Efficiency Programmes for Scotland: Area Based Scheme](#) (HEEPS: ABS) (BV30455) which offer insulation grants to private householders across Argyll and Bute. A case study providing further information is available at evidence item BV30456.

The Council has been successful in securing funding through the Scottish Governments Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) pilot programme (phase 2) (BV30466). This work will be focused on two key areas: Identifying opportunities for the decarbonisation of heat supply with focus on Islay, Oban and Lochgilphead Council properties; Energy efficiency in the domestic private rented sector. Each initiative sought in excess of £40,000 funding over a one year implementation period, mainly to cover additional staffing resource, and a recruitment process is about to commence.

The Council has been undertaking the restoration of Hermitage Park in Helensburgh to provide a valuable green space within the town of Helensburgh. The proposals include a new [pavilion](#) building (BV30467) which will house a café and public toilets. The pavilion has been built to Passivhaus standards which seeks to reduce the heat transfer through walls, roof and floors to such a level that minimal heating is required in winter; most of the demand can be covered by passive heat sources, such as the sun, the occupants and appliances.

Following an island energy audit on Iona, the local community identified that (aside from some small-scale generation from solar panels) 100% of the island’s energy is imported and 100% of revenue from energy (approximately £330,000 per year) is exported back off the island again. Subsequent feasibility work showed that a great deal could be done to change the types of energy used as well generating up to 100% of it cleanly

and sustainably from local renewable resources. One of the projects put forward was the [Iona Heat Network](#). The Council has been working with Iona Renewables to help them successfully be awarded Energy Efficiency Scotland (pilot phase 2) funding to install a Ground Source Heat Pump (GSHP) district heating network to around 40 residential and commercial buildings, including the island school (July 2017 briefing note BV30433). The group are currently working to secure the additional funding required to enable the project to proceed following receipt of tenders.

Waste

Argyll and Bute Council is responsible for collecting and then disposing of household waste on behalf of its customers across the Council area. In order to provide this vital service across a large and diverse geographic area, a variety of models are in place, which balance local circumstances and needs against the Council's wider obligation to provide best value for the public purse. Once the waste is collected, there are different models for its disposal:

- Islands (Tiree; Islay; Jura; Mull; Iona; Coll; and adjacent small isles) – The Council owns and operates its own waste disposal sites on some of our larger islands;
- Mainland and other islands (excluding Helensburgh and Lomond) – On the mainland we have a contract in place with Renewi (formerly known as Shanks) who provide waste disposal services on our behalf. This contract runs until 2026;
- Helensburgh and Lomond – The waste from this area is disposed of at private sites outwith Argyll and Bute.

Education

The provision of education in local communities is, of course, an important part of creating a sustainable community, however given the geography and dispersed nature of Argyll and Bute this is a challenging requirement which is made more so by difficulties in recruiting teachers in common with many parts of the community. The importance of education is recognised by [Our Children, Their Future](#) (BV30273) which states that “we want Argyll and Bute to be the best place to grow up. We want young people and families to remain in this area, and be attracted to live here” (page 2).

Page 18 of Our Children, Their Future also highlights the ongoing work to Grow our Own through the education service as a sustainable way to retain and develop staff.

There are currently 82 Council operated schools registered with [eco schools](#) of which 37 have achieved the green flag status (BV30470). A number of these schools have held the green flag for several years, including Dunbeg Primary School in Oban which was recently awarded its [seventh green flag \(eco schools presentation BV30436\)](#). [Luss Primary School have received seven green flags and been](#) Scottish Champions of the Total Green Awards from 2011-16 and in 2017 and 2018 they won Better Energy Awards under the renamed competition (BV30471).

Other schools are also working to embed sustainability into the curriculum, an example would be Tighnabruaich Primary School where they have

undertaken a special project on permaculture which also engaged with local community organisations and business. A case study is available under reference BV30472.

In order to be able to provide a range of subjects in our secondary schools the Council is rolling out 'virtual' learning. Pupils can already participate in distance learning through e-Sgoil, which also allows teachers in Argyll and Bute to deliver remote classes through the e-Sgoil platform to other schools outside the authority, using the Vscene service. In addition the use of Google's G Suite is proposed to provide a virtual learning environment to secondary schools across Argyll and Bute. As a result of this technology, Tiree and Oban High Schools are now offering the same subject choice as each other as they plan to use digital technology to enable students from Tiree to join lessons offered in Oban (see case study BV30473).

The requirement for the provision of 1,140 hours for early learning and childcare is being delivered on a phased basis in light with the [Early Learning and Childcare Delivery Plan \(BV30360\)](#). The plan seeks to make the most of the key assets of Argyll and Bute including through outdoor learning, culture and partnerships (page 27 with actions at page 63). Page 43 of the Plan identifies the need to undertake capital works to accommodate the children but acknowledges that part of the strategy associated with these physical works is that a greater emphasis will be made on innovative use of the outdoor environment, based on 'Space to Grow' guidance and 'My World Outdoors', which both have elements of sustainability built into them. The three assets of outdoor learning, culture and partnership form the basis of Argyll and Bute Early Years - Learning and Development Framework 'Three Assets Approach': Curriculum Design and Pedagogy in the Early Years (BV30474) which states (page 9) that "Our aim to ensure all children spend at least half of their funded ELC hours outdoors is as a result of the extensive evidence of the benefits of being outdoors and due to the rich and diverse outdoor spaces within our local authority."

Sustainable growth

"[Argyll the Natural Choice](#)" (BV30332) is the proposed Rural Growth Deal for Argyll and Bute comprising 16 different projects which, if delivered, aim to support a sustainable, thriving future for Argyll and Bute. As detailed above, growth is essential if public services are to be maintained and the Rural Growth Deal "is essential to our population growth needs". The focus of the Rural Growth Deal is economic growth but it recognises the importance of our environment with a focus on creating a low carbon economy, support for key sectors of aquaculture and tourism which rely on our natural surroundings and creation of attractive towns and villages. It seeks to support our communities with affordable housing, training and education and digital connectivity. The low carbon economy proposal includes a pilot on Islay to develop a smart local energy network addressing issues of grid constraint, high fuel costs and high energy usage associated with the high number of distilleries on the island (a number of these issues are repeated across Argyll and Bute). Seeking a Rural Growth Deal is all about seeking fair treatment for Argyll and Bute, to deliver long term benefit for Argyll and Bute, Scotland and the United Kingdom.

The [Argyll and Bute Economic Strategy](#) (BV30006) is a key document which aims to help deliver the overarching vision of the ABOIP and is the

foundation for the Rural Growth Deal. The priorities for the strategy focus on delivery of three main themes:

- Critical Economic Infrastructure
- Place and People
- Smart Growth

The [Local Development Plan](#) (LDP) (BV30457) is the main document to implement the ABOIP in a spatial manner, excluding the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park area of Argyll and Bute. Section 1.7 of the LDP highlights the central challenge facing Argyll and Bute as the delivery of sustainable long-term economic growth to support the retention and growth of our population. The vision set out within the LDP reflects its role in delivering sustainable development:

The overall vision for Argyll and Bute is one of an economically successful, outward looking and highly adaptable area, which enjoys an outstanding natural and historic environment, where all people, working together, are able to meet their full potential and essential needs, locally as far as practicable, without prejudicing the quality of life of future generations.

The Local Development Plan is in the process of being reviewed. The [Main Issues Report](#) (BV30005) for the Local Development Plan 2 identifies the ABOIP as its “sovereign document” with the preferred vision (section 3.4) amended slightly to:

“The vision for Argyll and Bute is one of an economically successful, outward looking and highly adaptable area, which enjoys an outstanding natural and historic environment. This will be achieved through a simple, flexible, deliverable spatial strategy which continues to grow the population of Argyll and Bute through sustainable economic development.”

LDP2 (section 4) is seeking to deliver development in a way which supports our existing towns and villages with growth areas identified which can capitalise and deliver on the existing opportunities and demand for economic growth in tandem with population growth. The LDP will support key economic growth sectors identified in the Economic Strategy as well as the regeneration and place making agenda which is contained within that document. The LDP2 proposes adopting more flexible approaches to development in our non-environmentally protected countryside to support population retention and growth.

The LDP has a significant role to play by establishing a land use framework that enables development and sustainable growth by reducing the potential impacts of climate change. The LDP does this by:-

- Proposing a hierarchical settlement strategy that reduces the need for people to travel to access, employment, food, education, recreation and other essential services;
- Supporting regeneration and directing planned growth to the most appropriate locations;
- Encouraging development that is sustainable in terms of design, siting, types of materials used and energy consumption through our design guidance;

- Reducing the impacts of new development through LDP policies and Supplementary Guidance;
- Protecting and enhancing biodiversity through LDP policies, the eco system approach taken in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) and the inclusion of a biodiversity checklist for significant development;
- Protecting trees and woodland (carbon sinks);
- Safeguarding existing waste sites and reducing waste at every opportunity;
- Protecting important open spaces and safeguarding better agricultural land from development;
- Minimising long distance imports of natural resources by safeguarding local supplies of minerals to meet the needs of the construction industry;
- Requiring developers to employ water saving technologies in areas that are subject to water shortages;
- Maximising the use of existing infrastructure capacity;
- Ensuring that new development does not increase the potential for flooding and is not located in areas subject to flooding risk, landslip and coastal erosion;
- Encouraging the use of decentralised and local renewable technologies and/or low-carbon sources of heat and power such as bio mass.
- Providing a land-use framework for the development of on-shore renewable energy development.

The Argyll and Bute Local [Biodiversity Action Plan](#) (BV30569) seeks to maintain and enhance our extensive variety of habitats and species. In addition to the Plan there is a [Biodiversity Technical Note for Planners and Developers](#) (BV30570) to assist developers and householders thinking about new-builds, renovations or extensions to meet the requirements to address and protect biodiversity. The Council supports community groups undertaking projects which may impact upon biodiversity by offering [Phase 1 Habitat Surveys](#) (BV30571) to let you know of any potential ecological issues for a fixed fee.

Woodlands cover over 30% of the land area of Argyll and Bute and the [Woodland and Forestry Strategy](#) (BV30516) provides an overall picture of the resource and its related issues. It sets out what we would like our woodlands to look like over the next 50 years in our area, and how we can make the most of them so that they contribute to our local economy, to the environment, our rich heritage, and to the quality of life for our communities and residents. The strategy was prepared by the Council in partnership with Forestry Commission Scotland. The vision for the document (section 3.2) includes:

“The woodlands of Argyll and Bute will make a significant contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation, have significant levels of economic value retained locally, enhance biodiversity and environmental quality and support the further development of recreation opportunities, for the benefit and well-being of local people and visitors alike.”

In 2012, The Argyll and Bute Woodland and Forestry Strategy won a coveted award at the UK Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) Planning ‘Rural area and natural environment’ award.

[Sustainable Design Guidance](#) (BV30572) has been produced which promotes good quality, sustainable and contemporary building design, and where appropriate innovative solutions, suited to the distinctive landscapes, towns and villages of Argyll and Bute. The key principles of quality design and sustainable development are clearly explained along with points to consider when designing and siting buildings.

- [Topic 1 - Small Scale Housing Development](#)
- [Topic 2 - Larger Housing Development](#)
- [Topic 3 - Working with Argyll and Bute's Built Heritage](#)
- [Topic 4 - Case Studies - Sustainable Materials and Technologies](#)

In addition to the general guidance documents, there is also specific guidance for the islands of [Coll](#) and [Tiree](#).

The provision of appropriate and affordable housing is an important issue if communities are to be sustainable. The [Local Housing Strategy](#) (LHS) (BV30128) sets out Argyll & Bute Council's vision for housing over a five year period and aims to provide "A housing system that makes a strong contribution to thriving and sustainable communities and supports economic growth". The document sets out a number of aspirations towards sustainable development including:

- Section 3.2 – sets ambitious housing targets aimed at supporting the aspirations for a growing population contained within the ABOIP;
- Section 3.5 – guidance on sustainable places and regeneration;
- Section 3.6 – aspirations to bring empty homes back into use;
- Section 6.3 – energy efficiency;
- Section 6.4 – climate change;
- Section 6.5 - Home Energy Efficiency Programmes for Scotland: Area Based Schemes (HEEPS:ABS);
- Section 6.7 - energy efficiency standards; and
- Section 6.9 – support to town centre and rural settlement sustainability.

The [Strategic Housing Investment Plan](#) (SHIP) (BV30421) sets out the Council's priorities for housing investment, it supports the Local Housing Strategies vision for sustainable communities and includes rural proofing (page 8) which seeks to ensure that isolated or fragile communities are not disadvantaged. "Critical to this aim, is joint working with local planners to support the development and sustainability of designated key rural settlements across Argyll and Bute." Section 8 of the SHIP sets out objectives for affordable housing to have low environmental impacts and to contribute to addressing fuel poverty, as far as possible.

Sustainable connectivity

The Council does support a number of local bus services, linked predominantly to school services, as well as undertaking improvements to public transport infrastructure in the Helensburgh and Lomond area with support of Strathclyde Partnership for Transport. In the past we have worked in partnership with Scotrail and HITRANS to lobby for increased rail services on the West Highland Line resulting in services between Oban and

Glasgow doubling in 2014 to six a day. Oban High School Pupils also use these rail services to travel to and from school.

The Council supports active travel, in partnership with key stakeholders such as Sustrans, Paths for All and the Scottish Government, through the provision of new and improved walking and cycling routes, which can also provide safe routes to schools. In 2018/19 our total spend on active travel projects was approximately £1 million. New path infrastructure generally provides links to key trip attractors such as schools, hospitals, public transport hubs and residential areas to encourage increased levels of walking and cycling for everyday journeys such as commuting. We also support delivery of long distance cycle routes including National Cycle Network 78 linking Campbeltown with Inverness and a new route linking Helensburgh to Dumbarton (BV30450). In addition the Council's main offices have cycle parking facilities.

Argyll and Bute Council are working with the Scottish Government and our national and regional transport partners to influence where future investment is prioritised in order to facilitate improvements, one of which must be Electric Vehicles and chargers. To date we have fitted and installed 15 with an additional 9 being completed this financial year. Since 2017 we have seen an increase in the usage of the EV chargers of nearly 50% indicating a very positive uptake by our communities and road users coming into our communities.

The Council is working to embrace the benefits of digital working in the following ways which help to deliver sustainability:

- As part of the [Customer Service Strategy](#) (BV30477) we aim to maintain a range of customer access channels but implement the “[Digital First \(BV30478\)](#)” (page 5) approach to customer contact and maximise digital self-service opportunities for our customers. Provision of online self-service is a cost effective solution which is accessible to all who are able to access the internet. Proactive messaging through [Keep in the Loop](#) (BV30479) is helping to improve services for customers as well as reducing calls to our contact centres. [Online payments](#) (BV30480) help the Council to deal with payments in a cost efficient manner while also minimising the need for customers to travel to their local contact centre.
- The [ICT and Digital Strategy 2017-20](#) (BV30481) reinforces the Digital First approach (page 16) and also confirms that work is ongoing to enable an agile and flexible workforce (page 18). The provision of MS Skype for Business is one element of supporting a flexible workforce. Skype has transformed how employees work and do business. “Skype is one of those things I never knew I wanted - particularly screen sharing function, it saves so much time and I find it invaluable” (page 14). Since Skype was introduced in 2012/13, travel and subsistence claims show that nearly 600,000 less miles per annum are travelled by staff, the availability of Skype, which allows video conferencing from employee's desks is one factor which is likely to have contributed to this fall.

Other digital solutions are delivering benefits for our communities. For example the Passport Video Interview Service enables those applicants required to attend a face-to-face interview as part of the passport application process to do so remotely at a number of Council Customer Service Points. This removes the need to travel to Glasgow saving customers the money, time and inconvenience of travelling, providing an income for the council and saving the Passport Service having to finance an outreach programme (CoSLA submission BV30547).

Sustainable Communities

The Council recognises the importance of our towns and villages as locations for people to live, work and visit. Regeneration has already started, the CHORD project is investing £30 million of Council funds into our five main towns, and is proposed to continue in the future, Proposal 8 of the [Rural Growth Deal](#) (BV30332) is about investing to create attractive places and the [Economic Strategy](#) (BV30006) highlights the need to create stronger places. Regeneration activities can help to build sustainable towns and villages.

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

The Council uses Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Equality and Socio-economic Impact Assessments (EqSEIA) to ensure that the decisions made today will not adversely impact on the future of communities, the economy or the environment. Together these assessment tools address the issues associated with sustainability and replace a previously developed sustainable development toolkit.

Argyll and Bute Council recognises that flooding is an important issue for the area and have prepared a [Flood Risk Management Strategy](#) (BV30508) to advise individuals of the role and responsibilities of various parties in regard to Flood Risk and Flooding Emergencies which is available on our website.

ARGYLL TIMBER TRANSPORT GROUP

Argyll and Bute Council actively partners with the Scottish Forestry through the [Argyll Timber Transport Group](#) (BV30517) to access the Strategic Timber Transport Scheme (STTS). It finances projects that:

- facilitate the sustainable transport of timber in rural areas of Scotland
- deliver benefits for local communities and the environment

The fund typically contributes 50% of the costs of successful applications, with the remainder coming from local authority or forestry sector partners. In 2019/20 a total of £7 million will be available to support both the TimberLINK shipping scheme and relevant projects through the Strategic Timber Transport Scheme (STTS). In line with the [Forestry Strategy](#), Argyll and Bute Council are committed to supporting timber haulage best practice. Along with Scottish Forestry, we're taking part in projects which minimise the environmental and social impact of timber miles.

Argyll & Bute Council participates in Scottish Energy Officers Network (SEON) to create a cross authority benchmark tool for utility use in a range of Scottish Local Authority building types (BV30776).

Plans or strategies covering the following areas that include climate change

Topic area	Name of document	Link	Time period covered	Comments
Adaptation	Flood Risk Management Policy	https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s97750/Flood_Risk_Management_Policy_and_Strategy%20-%20Final%20draft%20110315.pdf	2015	Rolling Document
Business travel				
Staff Travel				
Energy efficiency	Carbon Management Plan	NO LINK	2009+	The Carbon Management Plan is currently under review given the context of the Council's Climate Change Strategy development.
Fleet transport	Fleet Strategy	NO LINK	Rolling	The Fleet Strategy is currently under review and development.
Information and communication technology	ICT Strategy	https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sites/default/files/ict_and_digital_strategy_2017_to_2020_v2.4.pdf	2017-2020	The Council has a clear Digital First ambition to provide services digitally that are so good that anyone who can use them prefers to do so. This is with a view to reducing cost, and improving overall efficiency. It is also intended to support the overall reduction in travel thereby further restricting carbon emissions. The promotion of business improvement and efficiency, including the extended use of Skype for

				Business, are also key objectives.
Renewable energy	Renewable Energy Action Plan	See accompanying table	2018/2019	The Action Plan is updated annually and approved through the Argyll and Bute Renewable Alliance (ABRA). The accompanying table outlines the approved Action Plan for 2018/19.

APPENDIX B – SUMMARY OF SCOTTISH SUSTAINABLE NETWORK SUBMISSION

Full submission along with previous years dating back to 2014 can be found

<https://sustainablesotlandnetwork.org/reports/argyll-and-bute-council>

Below is 2019 summary submission

3a Emissions from start of the year which the body uses as a baseline (for its carbon footprint) to the end of the report year.

Reference Year	Year	Scope1	Scope2	Scope3	Total	Units	Comments
Baseline carbon footprint	2015/16	10767.7	11701.3	16995	39464	tCO2e	
Year 1 carbon footprint	2016/17	9146.4	9790.3	16593.8	35531	tCO2e	
Year 2 carbon footprint	2017/18	9437.6	7797.8	19569.4	36805	tCO2e	Municipal waste to landfill is the Council's largest contributor to its carbon footprint; despite a reduction in municipal waste to landfill, the significant increase in the relevant carbon emissions factor has caused an upturn in scope 3 emissions.
Year 3 carbon footprint	2018/19	8937.4	5862.49	19938.13	34,738	tCO2e	This represents a 12% reduction in 3 years

3b Breakdown of emission sources

Emission Source	Emissions (tCO2e)	Comments
Refuse Municipal to Landfill	17,645	~51% of total carbon footprint
Grid Electricity	5,278	~15% of total carbon footprint
Natural Gas	3,837	~11% of total carbon footprint – mainly used as heating source in buildings
Fleet – all Diesel Vehicles	3,094	~9% of total carbon footprint – bin lorries, cars, vans

Gas Oil & LPG	2,003	~6% of total carbon footprint – mainly for building heating
Business Miles (unspecified fuel)	1,152	~3% of total carbon footprint - 171,299 more miles than 2017/18
Streetlighting	1,079	~3% of total carbon footprint
All other activities	632	~2 % of total carbon footprint includes collections for recycling, water treatment, tyre processing, glass / WEE recycling

3c Generation, consumption and export of renewable energy

TECHNOLOGY	Renewable Electricity		Renewable Heat	
	Total consumed by the organisation (kWh)	Total exported (kWh)	Total consumed by the organisation (kWh)	Total exported (kWh)
Solar PV	882843	0		
Wind	15000	135000		
Biomass			4678800	0
Air Source Heat Pump			130000	0

3f Detail the top 10 carbon reduction projects to be carried out by the body in the report year

Project name	Funding source	Primary fuel/emission source saved	Estimated carbon savings per year (tCO2e/annum)
Street Lighting Energy Efficiency Project	Prudential Borrowing	Grid Electricity	653
Campbeltown Grammar School- Oil to gas fuel conversion	Prudential Borrowing	Gas Oil	113
Oban High School - Oil to gas fuel conversion	Prudential Borrowing	Gas Oil	90
Campbeltown Grammar School - electrical upgrade	Prudential Borrowing	Grid Electricity	69
Oban High School - electrical upgrade	Prudential Borrowing	Grid Electricity	38
Clachan Primary School - Oil to Gas conversion	Capital	Gas Oil	15
Riverside Pool - High Efficiency Boiler upgrade	Capital	Natural Gas	10

Corran Halls - rewire containing lighting improvements	Capital	Grid Electricity	6
Keills Primary School - improved boiler efficiency and control	Capital		
(wee) Manse Brae Offices - rewire containing lighting improvements	Capital		

Figure -1 Argyll and Bute Council Carbon Footprint 2018/19

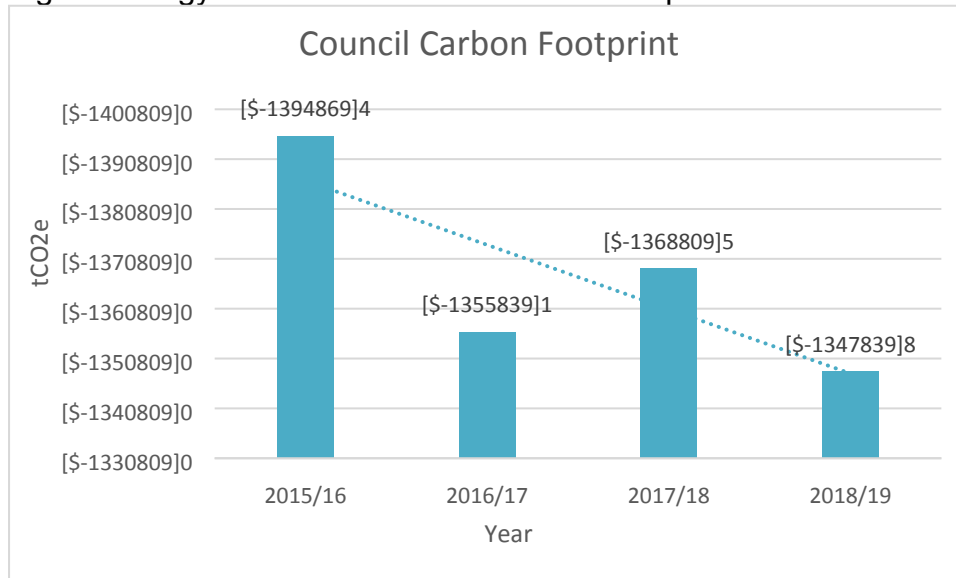


Figure -2 Argyll and Bute Council Breakdown of emissions - Carbon Footprint 2018/19

Argyll & Bute Breakdown of Emissions - 2018/2019

