

# Time for Change

Presentation to OLI Community Planning Group

Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022

# Our purpose

We want to bring about change by speaking out about climate change, providing support and guidance to community and council groups and working with local elected representatives to make the climate crisis a priority for Argyll and Bute.

We seek to raise awareness of both the threats posed by climate change and environmental degradation (specifically in relation to Argyll and Bute) and also the potential solutions to these problems at a local level.

# How we started



# What we do

- build relationships with our local MP, MSPs and Councillors, expressing the urgency and scale of the climate crisis
- urge our representatives to educate themselves on the **climate crisis** and take more action such as: declaring a climate emergency; attaining **decarbonisation** targets; achieving **net zero** carbon emissions; and **divestment** of pension funds from fossil fuels (see brief explanation of these terms in later slides).
- organise awareness-raising events in our local communities, acting as a link between communities, businesses, civil society groups and politicians

# Our achievements

## **2019**

- organised an evening of talks about electric cars and rewilding and a two-day Sustainability Jam
- arranged a climate hustings before the 2019 General Election
- organised school strikes in Lochgilphead as part of global climate strike

## **2020**

- met with our MP Brendan O'Hara
- set up close links with environmental groups in Tayvallich, Helensburgh (Plastic-free Helensburgh) , and Cardross (Cardross CAN) all of which have made significant contributions in their own communities
- organised meetings with MSPs, Michael Russell and John Finnie, both of which were attended by over 40 constituents
- established an effective relationship with Argyll and Bute Council and have been in frequent contact with them about their new Decarbonisation Plan.

# 2021

- organised Global School strikes in Lochgilphead and Helensburgh
- delivered our own Climate Change Summit (with over 100 attendees)
- continued to meet and build relationships with Councillors, MPs and MSPs
- organised climate change hustings for the 2021 Scottish Parliament elections
- raised awareness of climate change through frequent articles in local newspapers and further engaged with people

ARGYLL & BUTE CLIMATE SUMMIT SEPTEMBER 20TH 2021





# 2021 (continued)

- organised Global Days of Action in Oban and Helensburgh
- broadened and expanded our following
- participated in Area Committee meetings and CPGs across Argyll and Bute
- presented a stall at the A&B climate summit
- delivered a presentation at the climate education summit
- liaised closely with councillors on the Climate Emergency Declaration and on Carbon Literacy Training
- succeeded in requesting that the Council add climate change to implications to all Council papers



# Some terms explained

Briefly!



# Climate Crisis

*'Global surface temperature will continue to increase until at least the mid-century under all emissions scenarios considered. Global warming of 1.5°C and 2°C will be exceeded during the 21st century unless deep reductions in carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other greenhouse gas emissions occur in the coming decades'* ([IPCC 6<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report](#)) (further information on Climate Crisis from notes below)

# Decarbonisation

- Decarbonisation is the reduction of carbon
- It involves moving to an economic system that reduces the emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)
- In its 2021 draft [Decarbonisation Plan](#) A&B Council sets out its strategy to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> in the area in order to achieve 75% carbon reduction by 2030 and **net-zero** before 2045
- Key areas are in waste, energy and water consumption and transport

# Net Zero

- Net Zero is about no longer adding to the burden of climate-heating gases in the atmosphere.
- Emissions previously and currently released into the atmosphere will change the climate even if we stop emitting tomorrow. That is why Scotland and all other countries need to adapt to changes in climate as well as lowering our emissions to minimise further changes.
- Achieving Net Zero is about including actions that compensate for those remaining emissions that we cannot yet do completely without (e.g. we can't fly without burning kerosene, grow food without applying fertilisers, or buy goods without some emissions to make and transport them).
- Following COP26 the Scottish Government has pledged '.....to go further and faster in our own journey to net zero (<https://www.snp.org/nicola-sturgeons-statement-on-the-outcomes-of-cop26/>)

# Divestment

Most Councils (including Argyll and Bute) still invest in fossil fuels through their pension funds thereby contributing to carbon emissions, climate change and air pollution. It also puts their employees' pensions at risk due to the increasing volatility of the fossil fuel industry and therefore is a long-term financial risk to investors.

(see UK Divest Guidelines for councillors: <https://www.divest.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Councillor-briefing.pdf>)

# How can the CPG help us with our goals in 2022?

- encourage all Council and Community Council members to undertake **Carbon Literacy Training**
- help make climate change a priority by raising with the Council and MPs/MSPs the issue of local and national climate change commitments, making the case for divestment and engaging with the Council's **Decarbonisation Plan**
- facilitate connections between local groups to increase a climate change network across Argyll and Bute and share examples of good practice at a community level
- support us in promoting a community campaign around household energy use, particularly as energy price cap is coming in in April. 'Save on your energy bill - economically and in emissions'
- help us circulate accessible information about air-source heat pumps (including grants/prices)
- encourage the Council to make toolkits available for school teachers
- encourage the Council to create incentives for heat pump installation

# More information and resources

[Time for Change Argyll & Bute - About \(google.com\)](#)

A&B Council draft [Decarbonisation Plan](#), 2021

[IPCC 6<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report](#) (headline statements)

[UK Divest Guidelines](#) for councillors

[Scottish Government Statement on COP26 Outcomes](#)