

ARGYLL AND BUTE CLIMATE CHANGE DECLARATION

DRAFT**1. SUMMARY**

This report summarises the implications of the Scottish Climate Change Declaration which Argyll and Bute Council, and all other Scottish local authorities, have signed up to and makes recommendations for a new declaration to be signed jointly by the Council and Community Planning Partnership.

2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Community Planning Partnership agree:

- to sign the updated Climate Change Declaration,
- to affirm commitment to the Declaration,
- to raise the profile of the local work on climate change and
- to work in partnership to tackle and adapt to climate change.
- to report back individually to Stephen.colligan@argyll-bute.gov.uk who will collate information and produce report for Management Committee meeting on the 3rd of September

3. DETAIL

Scotland's Climate Change Declaration was drawn up by the Scottish Local Authority Climate Change Programme (SLACCP) Development Group. The Declaration supports the Scottish Government's Climate Change Programme and provides an opportunity for the Community Planning Partnership to publicly declare its commitment and actions at a local level in response to climate change. The Declaration acknowledges the challenge of climate change, welcomes the actions to tackle climate change and commits signatories to further action.

All local authorities in Scotland signed the Climate Change Declaration in early 2007. Since then, there has been a change of leadership both in the Council and in the Scottish Government. The Climate Change Declaration has been updated to replace references to the previous administration and its Ministers with new Scottish Government branding, and contains John Swinney MSP's electronic signature. There are no substantive changes to the text of the Declaration, or the framework it establishes for local government action. A copy is provided at Appendix 1. The document can be changed to reflect the whole Community Planning Partnership.

Many aspects of the Scottish Climate Change Declaration are already being considered or have already been achieved by community planning partners, for example the Council is participating in the Carbon Trust's Local Authority Carbon Management Programme which includes an energy audit of Council buildings. The Council has also carried out a waste management audit and produced a transportation strategy with actions to tackle climate change.

Other actions could easily be achieved within current plans, for example, Broadband Pathfinder will enable greater use of video conferencing by high-speed links which would reduce staff travel costs considerably thereby reducing carbon emissions.

4. CONCLUSION

This report summarises the Scottish Climate Change Declaration and makes recommendations for the Community Planning Partnership to sign up to the Declaration.

Further details:

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Scotland's Climate Change Declaration

We acknowledge that

- Climate change is occurring and human activities are having a significant negative and potentially dangerous influence.
- Climate change will have far reaching effects on Scotland's people and places, impacting on our economy, society and environment.
- There are significant social, economic and environmental benefits in taking action to combat and prepare for climate change.
- We all in Scotland have duties and responsibilities to take action to both mitigate and adapt to climate change, and to promote the sustainable development and well-being of our local communities.

We welcome the

- Scottish and UK climate change programmes and targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Opportunity for local government in particular and other agencies, businesses, voluntary and community organisations and individuals to show leadership at a local level to respond to climate change.
- Opportunity to address climate change by promoting the sustainable development of our local communities.

We commit *Argyll & Bute Council*

from this date *8th April 2008*



to

- Work with the Scottish Government and the UK Government to contribute to the delivery of Scotland's and the UK's climate change programmes, including to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to future climate change scenarios.
- Produce and publicly declare a plan, with targets and time-scales, to achieve a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from our own operations. This will include our energy use and sourcing, travel and transportation, waste production and disposal, estate management, procurement of goods and services, and improved staff awareness.
- Ensure that greenhouse gas reduction and climate change adaptation measures are clearly incorporated into our new and existing strategies, plans and programmes, in line with sustainable development principles.
- Assess the risks and opportunities for our services and our communities of predicted climate change scenarios and impacts, and take action to adapt accordingly and in line with sustainable development principles.
- Encourage and work with others in our local community to take action to adapt to the impact of climate change, to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions and to make public their commitment to action.
- Publish an annual statement on the monitoring and progress of our climate change response, detailing targets set, actions taken, outcomes achieved and further actions required.
- Collaborate with other organisations to promote good practice on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

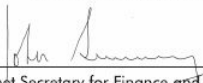
We acknowledge the increasing impact that climate change will have on our community, Scotland and other countries during the 21st Century and commit to tackling the causes and effects of a changing climate within our local area.

Signatories

_____ Council Leader

_____ Chief Executive

Scottish Ministers welcome this declaration and will work in partnership with the signatories and their representatives to support the delivery of these commitments.



Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth

