

Annual Report presented at the Annual General Meeting

Sunday 17th November 2019 2pm

The Ormidale Pavilion Brodick Isle of Arran

Charitable Purpose

The Arran Eco Savvy Community is a group based on the Isle of Arran with the aim of identifying and accomplishing environmental projects to benefit our community, increase environmental sustainability and support sustainable living, whilst working towards zero waste for Arran.

Additionally the advancement of education by providing learning opportunities for vocational skills and training which are of benefit to all ages and abilities, increase employment opportunity and allow individual enhanced contribution towards improving lifestyles, the local environment and environmental sustainability.

Why?

Climate change is a proven fact. Global warming has caused serious changes to the planet, such as rising sea levels, extreme weather events, deforestation, disappearance of species... Venice is flooded, Australia is on fire, the permafrost is melting and the coral reefs are dying.

But, as individuals we can slow down global warming and improve our health by implementing small more sustainable actions within our community. We can think globally and act locally.

Here are 6 areas that can make a difference: –

1 How we use power and where it comes from matters:

- Save energy
- use clean renewable energy.

2. We need to stop using so much stuff:

- **Reduce:** consume less,
- **Reuse:** try second-hand
- **Recycle:**

3. What kind of food we eat, how much we waste we create has an impact.

- Eat low carbon
- **Reduce your meat consumption**
- **Eat food that is local and in season**

1. How we move around can change

- Use your car less,
- whenever possible use sustainable transportation

5. We need to grow more trees & stop cutting down forests

- **If you Plant a tree**, throughout its life, it can absorb up to a ton of CO₂

6. We have a voice, as a consumer, as a voter and in our community

- The population has more power than it realises to demand measures from governments to raise awareness of the global warming problem.

What is the background to Eco Savvy?

- Began in March 2013
- Opened the community shop in April 2014
- Granted charitable status in July 2015

How do we operate?

- Managed by 5 trustees
- 21 shop volunteer group
- 41 Food Share volunteers
- 7 members of staff
- Income & Funding: –
 - Climate Challenge fund through the Scottish Government & Keep Scotland Beautiful
 - Impact – originally Volunteer Action Fund – also from the Scottish Government
 - Whiting Bay shop income from donated sales and eco products.

Our Focus in 2018-2019

To achieve our charitable purpose and to help fight climate change we have focused on Waste Transport Food and Energy.

These key focuses have helped us to develop the different strands of Eco Savvy. Each part of what we do can be linked into either waste, energy

- Facilitate the re-use of household, clothes and electrical items, the reduction of single use plastic and the use of Eco Products through our amazing shop.
- Reduce waste through our development work on circular economy modelling
- Reduce energy use and encourage the use of renewable energy through providing energy audits and monitoring equipment
- Investigate ways of producing energy from waste through our community energy development work

..... travel and food. Some of these areas have been planned and funded by different bodies and some have happened organically. Taking the opportunity of new programmes, collaborating with different national and island groups and keeping up with the evolving environmental movement.

- Reduce car use – Travel map Lift share and Cycle with confidence E bikes & Driver efficiency training
- Food share – weighing and reducing food waste
- Sustainable cooking workshop
- Community cooking events
- Awareness group sharing.

The core elements of our charity are;

- Whiting Bay hub – the shop
- Climate challenge fund
- New project developments

The Shop

In 2013 a group of like-minded Arran residents came together to take action. We opened a shop in 2014 with no funding and a lot of sheer hard work. The building was unused for years and needed a total makeover and with one advert in the Banner we had a week's worth of volunteers who came and cleaned, painted, sanded and pulled literally hundreds of nails out of the floor.





And this is what it is in 2019.....



- Self-sufficient with its own income and not requiring any funding,
- Open six days a week with the shifts covered by volunteers supported by our part time manager and volunteer coordinator.

- Main purpose is to reduce Arran's landfill by helping find homes for unwanted items. This helps us to prevent waste by buying second hand rather than new, often it is better quality.
- We are also working to find solutions to a single use plastic free life with our eco product range

The success of the shop has been at the core of what we do and helped drive the focus of the charity through waste, travel, energy and food. Each of these additional elements have been brought into the shop through drop-in days. The shop has also 'gone on tour' to pop up at events across the island, for example a car full to the roof of shop goods was taken to Corrie for a 'Stay Warm Stay Well' event.

Eco Products

Our range of products has grown but we are always looking for new things so if you ever have any suggestions of clever solutions that you come across please let us know.



Volunteers

We currently have over 50 volunteers across numerous strands.

- In the shop there is a core of 21 who staff the shop in 3 hour shifts,
- Food Share is now operating in 4 villages has over 41 volunteers,
- E bikes has a number of regular and occasional volunteers who we could not have started without,
- 4 Duke of Edinburgh students came to the Farmers Show this summer
- 2 Edinburgh University students conducted a survey for us this summer

- Val has recently been on a Health and safety training course and has updated our policies
- Social media training event has seen 2 volunteers take on some social media work for us

We have encouraged volunteers to take on more roles in the running of the shop like running the rota, doing the banking and taking on certain areas of display.

It would be difficult to talk about volunteers and not mention one of our longest serving volunteers who has been there since we were upcycling the shop in 2014 and has given untold hours to Eco Savvy, without whom the shop would be lost. Thanks to Elizabeth. And thanks to everyone who gives their time as a volunteer to Eco Savvy.



Climate Challenge Fund Has delivered Arran Energy Challenge finishing in March 2019. The Sustainable Island Life began in April 2019 and will run until March 2021. Funded by the Scottish Government and delivered by Keep Scotland Beautiful. Managed by Jude and her team in the new offices in Home Farm in Brodick.

Arran Sustainable Island Life

Employs our Project Manager, Project Coordinator, Energy Auditor, Food Coordinator and Travel Coordinators

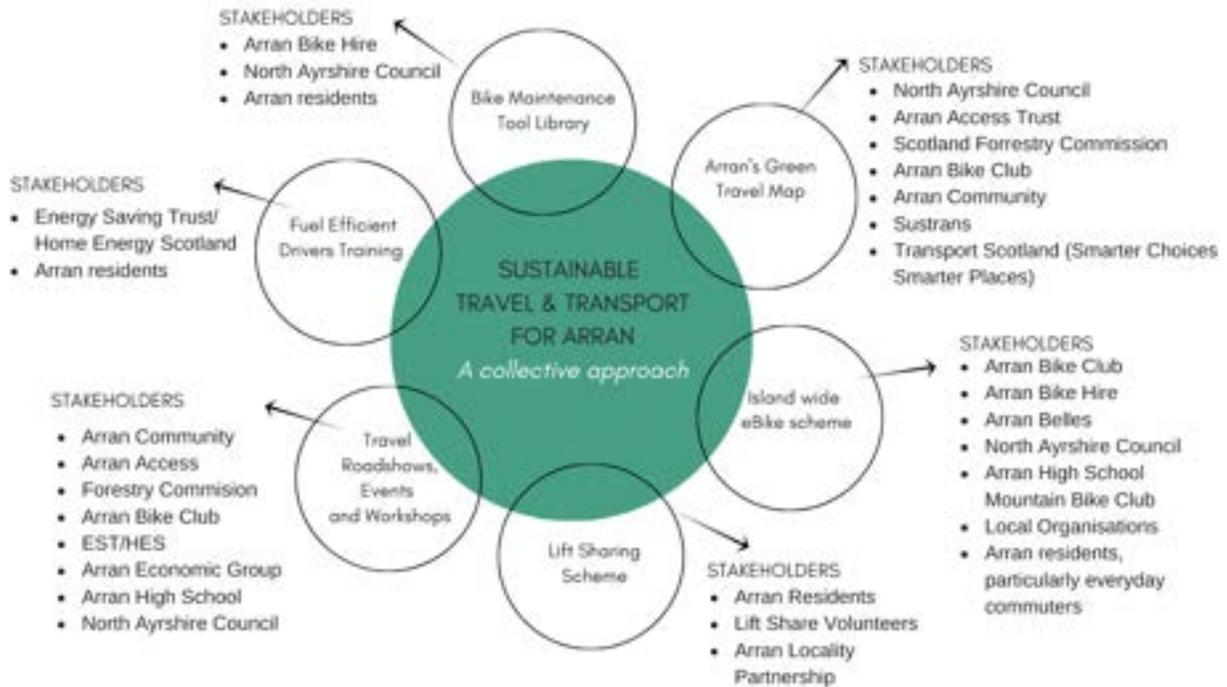
Sustainable Travel was in the process of being developed at the last AGM and is a new strand for us this year. Key components of this strand are; –

- The E-bikes, helping us to conquer the hills, giving physical and mental benefits this low carbon travel is cost efficient. We have a wide range of models to try, funded by The Climate Challenge Fund, Transport Scotland, the Energy Saving Trust and North

Ayrshire Council. Both bike clubs on Arran have been a part of the scheme and are key to its success. Their volunteers have already given hours of time and enthusiasm to this, one of whom has just received the Climate Hero award for his volunteering efforts with us, at an event in Edinburgh; congratulations to Gerard Tattersfield. We have 11 e-bikes and an e-trike for residents to loan for a month. The aim is to offer free use of e-bikes to residents to reduce car journeys.

- Launching our Sustainable Travel Map, we aim to improve resident and visitor awareness of safe routes to reduce our reliance on carbon driven travel. Shifting travel from the main road to find paths and routes that suit them. The map will also incorporate the years of work done by groups to identify paths and we are working with numerous different delivery partners. Consultation events will be held to allow residents to contribute and shape this.
- Bike tool library: Will be up and running next year and aims to support the existing bike groups and their efforts. It could be a mobile library or small tool stations at key points around the island, we are consulting on the best use.
- Lift Share had a lot of support at the recent Arran in 10 years travel event. Many of us make journeys with a spare seat in the car and some of us would greatly benefit from the social aspect. It could go a small way to overcome the challenges of public transport and who knows reduce the need for a car at all?
- We have held sustainable travel workshops and highlighted the problems associated with low carbon travel but also the solutions. The consultation at these events gives the community a voice on these issues.

We work with many groups and organisations. Some on a very regular basis and some on specific strands. We value the historic work done and hope to contribute by adding to the solutions. By having a multi-faceted approach, we all have a higher impact, by tackling the bigger issues together we are more effective.



This might be a difficult picture to fully appreciate but it demonstrates how we work.

On just the travel topic we work behind the scenes with this many stakeholders. This is a visual we put into our application for the recent CCF fund so even before we went for funding, this is who we were working with, consulting and making sure they are a part of our project. It is hard to demonstrate the amount of effort that goes into the work we do but this might give you a glimpse?



Energy

The FOUR core energy activities are Energy audits, Energy Performance Certificates, Energy Drop-in surgeries and Climate Literacy. We are: –

- Continuing energy efficiency audits, targeting homes which are poorly represented in current audit bookings, those struggling with fuel poverty and social isolation.
- identifying Residents who have not got to our surgeries or are not online.
- continuing to partner with Home Energy Scotland to help Arran Residents reduce their fuel bills, improve climate literacy and find renewable energy that suits them.

Outcomes so far; –

- 20% of Arran's residential homes audited
- 16 Solar PV installs
- 10 Airsource heat pump installs
- 473tCO₂e saved through energy efficiency activities

Food Share

Another popular new project is the Food Share Initiative. Entirely Volunteer run and working with the local food bank, it is about redistributing surplus food that would otherwise end up in landfill. We work in partnership with the Co-op as a part of their new, national redistribution programme. This all about stopping food that could be eaten from being wasted and so far; –

- 24 tonnes of CO2e has been saved
- over 5 tonnes of food diverted from landfill
- over £24,000 worth of food diverted from landfill
- over 1000 residents attending food shares nights
- over 40 food share volunteers



Developing our sustainable food project further, we have residents taking part in our Savvy Food program. Identifying simple and effective ways to have a low carbon diet every day and change your habits. Sign up and take the challenge. It begins with weighing your bin to see how much you have at the start and by the end how much of a difference some easy steps can make. Around 60% of food waste comes from us at home, if we could stop wasting our food it would be the equivalent of taking 1 in 4 cars off Scotland's roads.

SAVVY FOOD PACK



WARNING: THIS PACK CONTAINS ADVICE THAT MAY LEAD TO FINANCIAL SAVINGS, HEALTH BENEFITS AND A LOWERED CARBON FOOTPRINT



WEIGH YOUR FOOD WASTE!

Take the one week challenge to weigh all your household food waste.

Please use the bags provided (or email us you address if you need bags) or your own bin bags

Please include:

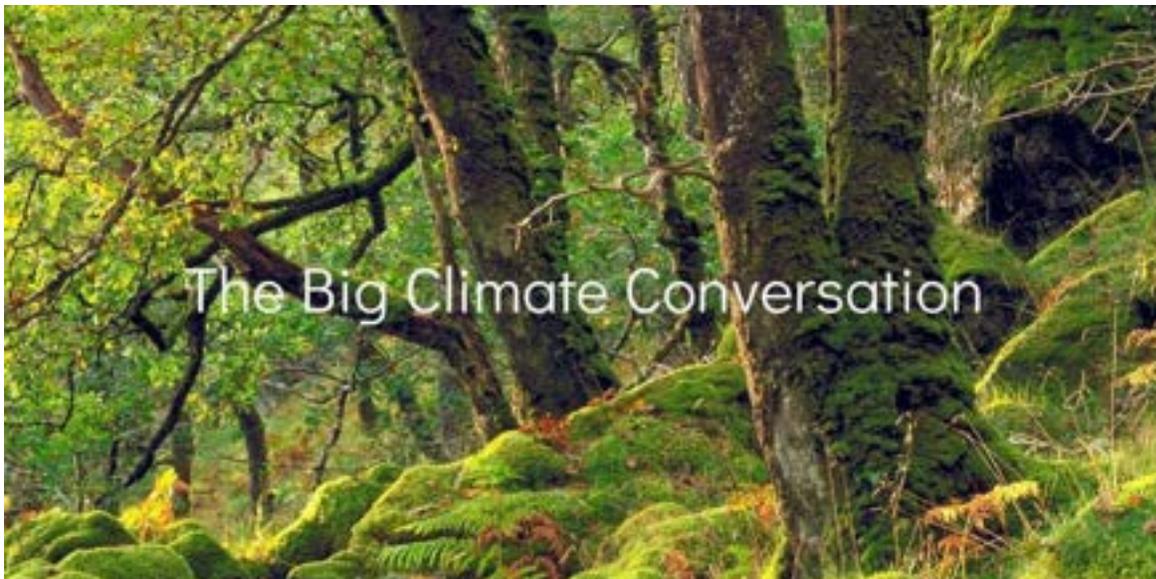
- ✓ Any food that is being thrown out the fridge
- ✓ Any food scraps from plates after meals
- ✓ Any fruit/ vegetable peelings
- ✓ Any pantry items that are being cleared
- ✓ Any food that has expired
- ✗ Try to put as little packaging as possible into the bags. Drink containers are the exception to this.

Please use as many bags as necessary. At the end of the week please weigh your waste and email the weight (in KG) to jess.ecosavvy@gmail.com. If you do not have scales let us know and we will provide some.

Thank you for participating in our Waste Weigh challenge!

Other initiatives:

- Some of our young members and volunteers have been to the recent climate strikes.
- We supported Think About Plastic to gain the first Scottish plastic free community accreditation; one of our trustees Hilary represents Eco Savvy on that board.
- We hosted the big climate conversation which was a consultation by the Scottish Government
- And we met first minister Nicola Sturgeon



Arran Circular Economy is an exciting new development to be a part of. It is an industrial system that is restorative or regenerative by intention and design. ... First, at its core, a circular economy aims to design out waste. Waste does not exist: Everything stays in the circle and doesn't end up as waste.

Circular Economy Modeling The data collected from Arran Circular Economy modelling will help us understand how much food waste is on Arran. Once we know how much food waste we have we can start to decide what we can do with it. How can we stop it going to landfill and keep it on Arran as a valuable resource. We will do this in Partnership with the University of Strathclyde, Topolytics and Visit Arran. This is a huge step along the circular route, the model for Arran is intended to be an industry leader and a template for other circular economy models around the country. Another first for Arran. And very importantly it will give Eco Savvy the data to make future decisions on how we can use our food waste.

What is next Project development

What could be a possible community energy project for Arran?

We have spent time on 2 ideas; Energy from Waste – and Solar. A Possible Community Energy Project?

- Using biodegradable and food waste on Arran to generate heat, power and compost
- Using commercial and domestic waste streams, we have looked at technology to harness these as renewable energy. By keeping this on island and using it we would be starting a circular economy.
- Developing the use of land for solar farming and micro renewables for business. We have identified possible places where could happen and looked at sites where there would be a use for the power locally.

There is a long way to go ...

We have 3 project proposals and we have been working on CARES applications to identify what will be required.

- It will be a community project for the community of Arran. We would like all interested residents to join us to look at the possibilities.
- Part of this could be the need of land for a community owned project.
- The Scottish Forestry Community asset transfer scheme could be one way to purchase felled land for the community. This would be funded by Scottish Land fund. This round of funding is closing early next year so we need to make some decisions. A stage one application might not be for a substantial sized project, it could be for something we feel we can achieve as a phase one. However, as we discussed at the last AGM we will need to adopt a new constitution in order to apply for any of these supports. Scottish Land Fund and Scottish Forestry and big lottery and CARES all require us to demonstrate we are represented by the community and have residents as members. And we are asking you all to vote on this matter today because of this.
- The Business Plan is written
- Scope of Works is developed
- Waiting for North Ayrshire Council to fund a feasibility study
- Suitable land to site it on could be part of the Scottish Land Fund proposal

Historically we have been working towards an Eco Park and energy project before we even opened the shop in Whiting Bay in 2014. The vision was for a centre for showcasing sustainable living and sustainable building technologies. A community renewable energy project to suit the community and benefit the community

It is impossible to go into the details of all these new projects, but after the vote regarding the constitutional consultation we will ask you to consider what is next to make Arran more sustainable and what can Eco Savvy do to help fight climate change?

On Thursday 28th November we are holding a members meeting to look at the responses and to focus on new project direction and go into the details of these areas. If you would like to know more and are willing to give up a little time to this please come along. All members will be invited.

“it always seems impossible until it’s done” said Nelson Mandela. We have to start somewhere.

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Our Message:

To our Funders, Partners and all the people we work with.....



Climate Challenge Fund



Greener Scotland
Scottish Government



TRANSPORT SCOTLAND
CÒMHDAIL ALBA



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Air a Tuath



PART OF THE
Keep Scotland Beautiful
CHARITY



Interface

The knowledge connection for business



LOVE FOOD
hate waste



energy saving trust



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership



Island time in no time



ARRAN BIKE CLUB



tourism and conservation working in partnership



Life of Arran
COAST
Community Of Arran Sealed Trust



WILD SAGE & Co



CHAI CADDY



who gives a crap



ecoffee cup



The knowledge connection for business



To our retiring trustees



To all volunteers and staff



Thank you for your time
today and your support



.... in helping to make Arran a greener & more sustainable island.