

## AGM Report May 2017

2016 was another successful year for Eco Savvy. Our shop in Whiting Bay continues to be a success both in terms of sales and donations. It remains popular with both residents and visitors.

We have also continued to run a number of events across the island throughout the year promoting waste reduction, upcycling and environmentalism in general.

In May we ran an upcycling workshop “Trash to Treasure” in Whiting Bay.

In July we collaborated with COAST to promote cleaner beaches in Lamlash with a public beach tidy.

In September we once again organised a full week of events for ‘Zero Waste Week’ including a Craft Evening, a Swap Shop and the Big Green Footprint – a day of events for School children focussed around an examination of waste through the ages and how our generation are producing so much more waste than previous generations – particularly plastics. Volunteers from EcoSavvy dressed up in period costume and told the story of waste in ‘their’ time. We also got support from ACLI, COAST and other Arran organisations, and organisations from the mainland to create a full day of activities filling Whiting Bay Hall. Feedback from all the Schools who attended was very positive.

In October we ran events to support the ‘Love Food Hate Waste’ initiative.

In March of 2017 we ran a very successful Table Top and Jumble Sale as part of the national ‘Pass It On’ week.

Autumn also saw EcoSavvy apply for external funding support for the first time. We applied to the Climate Challenge Fund (part of Keep Scotland Beautiful) for just over £60,000 to support our vision to extend the reach of Eco Savvy around the island with a number of micro-hubs to promote upcycling, reuse and other environmental policies.

We were notified early in this year of the success of our application and the project is now up and running and will continue until end March 2018. ACLI (Arran Community Land Initiative) were also successful with an application to CCF and we have been tasked to collaborate with ACLI to ensure the successful delivery of both our projects.

Our project will create 8 micro-hubs in villages around the island promoting reuse, upcycling, recycling, crafting and other environmental activities. In addition we will run 50 workshops and events over the next 10 months to further promote our aims and objectives.

We have also continued to talk with North Ayrshire Council and the Forestry Commission about our project to develop an eco-park on Arran incorporating the processing of green waste (and

ultimately food waste via a Rocket Composter). These meetings are ongoing and we hope to progress the project further this coming year with the acquisition of the land from the Forestry Commission and also obtain an undertaking from the Council to enter into a contract to deliver green waste processing.

Whilst the micro-hubs project promise to involve a huge amount of work it offers the opportunity for Eco-Savvy to grow significantly over the next 12 months. The next 12 months should prove both exciting and challenging, but we are all looking forward to the coming challenges.

Andrew Downing (Acting Chair Person)