



# **Arran Eco Savvy Community SC045785**

## **Draft Trustees' Annual Report**

**6 April 2020 to 5 April 2021**



<https://arranecosavvy.org.uk/>

**This report is draft until the independent review has been carried out.**

**Arran Eco Savvy Community**

**Scottish Charity Number: SC045785**

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## **Charity Trustees**

1. Donald McNicol – Energy sub group
2. Elsa Rodeck
3. Esther Brown – Energy sub group
4. Helen Ross - Chair



5. Hilary Maguire - Treasurer
6. Pauline Robinson
7. Patricia Templeton

Charity trustees carry out an important role, mostly behind the scenes at Eco Savvy. We are volunteers too and take our role seriously. This often means plenty of work to ensure the organisation runs smoothly and achieves our objectives, however we have great fun and companionship along the way.

## Objectives and activities

The Charity's objectives are the advancement of environmental improvement on the Isle of Arran by identifying and accomplishing environmental projects, which benefit the local community, increase environmental sustainability and support sustainable living, whilst working towards zero waste for Arran.

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.

Arran Eco Savvy Community organises community projects and workshops with the aim of achieving greater awareness on Arran and promotion of sustainable living. Through this the charity provides learning opportunities for skills in sustainable living which are of benefit to all ages and abilities.

Community volunteers, supported by a part time shop manager, run the shop where donated goods are sold to raise funds, reduce waste and promote sustainable living and greater environmental impact awareness on the Isle of Arran.

The team employed via the Climate Challenge Fund deliver energy saving, sustainable food and travel projects to the residents of Arran. They also raise awareness about climate literacy and enable Arran residents to change to renewable solutions to reduce their carbon footprint, Eco Savvy is working towards projects involving renewable energy.

## Thankyou

A big thank you to all members, volunteers, staff, trustees and funders for making an enormous contribution to environmental sustainability and sustainable living on Arran this year and to the Arran Community for their ongoing support. Arran Eco Savvy has made a really big impact in 2020 and 2021 and the key achievements are set out in this report. Thanks to all who have contributed.

## Structure, governance and management

### Type of governing document

Arran Eco Savvy was registered as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) on 7th July 2015 following an initial period as an unincorporated association.

The assets of the unincorporated association were transferred to the SCIO following registration on 7th July 2015.

The constitution was amended at the AGM in November 2019 following consultation with members and the changes confirmed by OSCR. Arran Eco Savvy has Trustees, Members and Associate Members.

#### Trustee recruitment and appointment

A minimum of three and a maximum of ten trustees are elected or appointed at the annual general meeting held each year, drawn from the local community. Trustees can also be co-opted during the year and are currently recruited on an individual basis; no trustees are appointed by external organisations. Trustees are treated in the same way as other volunteers. They are not paid for their work but do receive some out of pocket expenses e.g. for travel to Trustee meetings.

AES was very pleased to welcome new Trustees as follows: -

- Pauline Robinson, elected as a trustee at the AGM in November 2020,
- Patricia Templeton, co-opted on 1 March 2021

The process was largely informal through contributing to Eco Savvy events and meetings with trustees. Their enthusiasm and experience are a great asset to Eco Savvy.

Having a diverse board helps to make charities more effective. The right mix of skills and experience boosts our charity's ability to meet its aims. We would therefore like to encourage people with diverse experience and backgrounds to join us.

#### Achievements and performance

We focus projects on the following environmental areas by working with our community:

- A. Carbon Reduction
- B. Energy
- C. Food
- D. Travel
- E. Waste

Delivery is enabled through three main streams:

- Scottish Government Climate Challenge Fund projects being delivered since April 2017.
- The Eco Savvy Community Shop- an eco products & second hand shop based in Whiting Bay, running since 19 April 2014.
- Volunteer Support project through Impact Funding Partners, providing more opportunities for new willing volunteers with training and support from the Volunteer Coordinator.

## Challenges and Constraints

It is important to acknowledge our challenges and constraints.

- The Coronavirus Covid 19 pandemic affected the delivery of all projects and services following a 'Stay at Home' order announced by the Scottish Government on 23 March 2020. This led to 'non-essential' work to close and limited movement in order to stop the transmission of the virus - referred to as the UK lockdown. We therefore started the beginning of the financial year with a situation where the shop had to close for much of the time, and all project staff and volunteers had to adjust to working through social media rather than through meetings and events in person.
- Emma Tracey – from our Savvy Travel Team, went on maternity leave from the 21st of May until 1 January 2021 to have the first Eco Savvy baby!  
Great news for mother and baby that required some reorganisation on our part.  
Thanks to Andrew for stepping up to the challenge of taking on more of the work to ensure the active travel work was a success in the interim and to Emma for her flexible approach.

**It is a credit to our flexible and imaginative staff and volunteers that Eco Savvy adapted so well to the challenges. Thankyou!**

## Scottish Government Climate Challenge Fund projects

Arran Eco Savvy was awarded a grant from the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund in April 2019 to deliver a 2 year Sustainable Island Life Project, continuing grant focus on energy efficiency, but targeting two other low carbon strands: travel and food.

The project empowered residents to adopt lower carbon behaviours in these areas, through a range of activities and educational materials, from borrowing E-Bikes to food preservation cooking workshops. The project was delivered by a team of six: a full time Project Manager, an Energy Auditor, a part-time Project Administrator and Coordinator, a part time Savvy Travel Coordinator and a part time Sustainable Food Coordinator.

Climate Challenge Fund Projects' Headline Achievements for the total project were as follows:

**Engagement** with the Arran Community to deliver the projects covering all areas (waste included in A to D):

- 291 Community Events and workshops held including Food Shares
- 3,374 people actively engaged in the project
- 1,540 people participated in Savvy Film Club
- 19,496 volunteer hours clocked
- All 8 island schools participating in project activity.
- 278 eco pledges made

- 85 project newsletters produced
- 130 residents actively involved in sustainable food and travel programmes

#### **A. Carbon reduction**

827 tonnes of CO2e saved overall

#### **B. Energy**

215 residents receiving water device packs

7,740,000 litres of water estimated to be saved

£21,500 saved in household water heating bills

146 energy audits and EPCs delivered

37 households supported in getting air source heat pumps

11 households supported in getting solar PV

The energy/water strand Savvy Film Clubs were educational, thought provoking, and a call to action through lively discussion and suggestions.

#### **C. Food**

55 Food Share volunteers trained and involved

£171,171 worth & 27.5 tonnes of surplus food diverted from landfill, distributed and used by residents instead.

#### **D. Travel**

22 businesses signed up to the eBike charge network

17,557 E-Bike miles cycled

264 active members on Arran Community Lift share forum

14 E-Bikes bought by residents to replace and minimise car use

E-bikes continued to be popular with individuals as well as local businesses and organisations participating in the CCF/Eco Savvy ebike trial scheme. Covid and the relatively good weather over the summer contributed to this and more and more people became aware of the scheme and wanted to participate.

This project made a massive difference to the Arran community and there is so much more to know and learn about this project: see the website for more information

<https://arranecosavvy.org.uk/arran-eco-savvy-project-news/completed-projects/sustainable-island-life/>

**A big thankyou to Jude King, Jess Wallace, Ruth McLaren, Andrew Binnie, Emma Tracey, Charlotte Mann and volunteers for their amazing work in challenging circumstances!**

## The Eco Savvy Community Shop

This community resource is run by a part time paid manager in conjunction with trained volunteers in a sociable atmosphere that provides a focal point for the community whilst generating a modest income stream for the charity.

### E Waste:

The Arran Eco Savvy Community Shop provides a welcoming space to reduce waste and the consumption of new products through recycling unwanted items which would otherwise go to landfill. The shop also helps the community to live a plastic free life by stocking eco products.

Coronavirus Covid 19 restrictions led to temporary shop closures to safeguard the health and safety of volunteers, staff and customers. The shop manager used this opportunity to complete implementation of planned improvements, including the back shop renovation with donated kitchen units, installation of a separate sink and preparation area for cleaning and sorting donated goods for resale together with the addition of a shed for extra storage space.

Although income was restricted the improvements will lead to greater opportunities for sales in the coming financial year as long as Covid restrictions allow.

Thanks to all volunteers for their hard work and enthusiasm.

Thanks particularly to Val Waite, our Shop Manager who achieved so much in challenging circumstances. Val moves on to follow her career path in another direction, but leaves Arran Eco Savvy with a wonderful community resource.

The shop also linked with other organisations on the island to help out, including our reciprocal arrangement with ArCas – receiving electricals and donating surplus clothing.

We continue to sell items online; Arran For Sale & Wants, Free on Arran, eBay, Abe Books, and sell more valuable items through McTears the auctioneers. This enables people who may not be able to get to the shop to have a chance to buy donated goods.

## Volunteers

Shop volunteers, project volunteers and Trustees put time, energy and enthusiasm into the work of Arran Eco Savvy for no financial reward. They are the backbone of the organisation. They can do so much but need the tools to do the job. It is a challenge to get across in a report, the true value to the community of the resources that Eco Savvy brings to Arran.

In order to offer volunteering opportunities to all regardless of background, circumstances and financial advantage, we need to remove barriers by providing training, support and out of pocket expenses in a safe environment. The benefits far outweigh the relatively small amounts of funding required to enable this to happen. This financial year we were again fortunate to receive funding to enable us to do this through the Volunteering Support Fund. We employed Val Waite as a part time Volunteer Co-ordinator to deliver the aims of the project.

To improve health and safety and comfort for our volunteers in the shop, we were able to install emergency lighting and move light switches. Improvements were made in the back shop to make it

easier to sort donations e.g. new and recycled cupboards, sink and draining board, hanging rail and space to steam clothes and for volunteers to sit for a coffee break.

Volunteers come from a variety of backgrounds and include people who are disadvantaged, have a long term health problem or are recovering from an illness or bereavement. Even with the Coronavirus Covid 19 pandemic, the funding helped 9 new volunteers reduce isolation, build confidence, improve health and wellbeing, make new friends and learn new skills. With Eco Savvy, volunteers also learn how to live low carbon lifestyles which often also helps to save money and live happily and healthily.

In turn volunteers provided a service to the community of 505 hours in a whole variety of areas e.g. staffing the shop, organising food share, making 1,800 face masks to protect people from Covid 19! Together with existing volunteers, an astonishing total of 9252 hours of voluntary work were undertaken in 2020 – 2021!

More information is available on [our website here](#)

## Future plans

During the financial year 6 April 2021 to 5 April 2022 Arran Eco Savvy is in a period of adjustment following the completion of the Sustainable Island Life project. A new strategy is being developed to chart our course over the coming years, but one that will build on this enormously successful year. The latest draft is attached at Appendix 1 and we are already making inroads into securing the funding to implement it.

## Additional information

A big thankyou to all volunteers – including Trustees, and to staff for making Arran Eco Savvy a success.

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:

Print name	
Designation	
Date	



# Appendix 1

## Arran Eco Savvy Community

### Draft Strategy 2020-2030 v4

“Vision without action is merely a dream,  
Action without vision just passes the time,  
Vision with action can change the world.”  
Source: Joel A Barker 2012

#### Introduction:

**Arran Eco Savvy Community** was established in 2013 and registered as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) on 7th July 2015. [The constitution](#) was amended at the AGM in November 2019 following consultation with members and the changes were confirmed by OSCR.

#### Our Vision:

To make a positive contribution towards achieving the island’s potential, a happy thriving community living sustainably, with clean air, zero waste and an unspoilt, unpolluted beautiful environment, enriched with a healthy population of wild life, flora & fauna on the Isle of Arran

#### Purposes:

- The advancement of environmental improvement on the Isle of Arran by identifying and accomplishing environmental projects, which benefit the local community, increase environmental sustainability and support sustainable living, whilst working towards zero waste for Arran.
- 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.

**Source:** Arran Eco Savvy [constitution](#)

**Sustainable development** aims to ensure that basic needs and quality of life for everyone are met, now and for future generations. Its guiding principles are:

- Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
- Living within environmental limits
- Achieving a sustainable economy
- Promoting good governance
- Using sound science responsibly

## Charitable Activities

Arran Eco Savvy Community organises community projects and workshops with the aim of achieving greater environmental awareness on Arran and promotion of sustainable living. Through this the Charity provides learning opportunities for skills in sustainable living and lifestyle changes which are of benefit to all ages and abilities and reduces the carbon footprint of the island. Carbon emission reduction - as a step towards tackling climate change - is an important thread through our themes of Food, Energy, Transport and Waste.

### How do we do this?

**A sustainable approach:** Creating a sustainable, resilient and healthy Arran needs to be approached through networking with others to ensure a joined-up approach to tackle climate change that enables the positives and reduces the negatives allowing virtuous cycles to constantly improve outcomes.

**By valuing our physical and social environment,** we can restore our natural environment and strengthen our social and economic assets, whilst enhancing our independence and wellbeing at both a personal and community level.

**By reducing harmful impacts of how we currently live** we can stop wasting finite resources and reduce risks from a changing climate. Many interventions that reduce harmful impacts on our environment also promote positive co-benefits, reduce preventable mental and physical ill health and reduce social inequalities.

Our strategy and workplans therefore need to be carefully designed to illustrate:

- 1 what we do ourselves,
- 2 what do with our partners,
- 3 what we support others to deliver.

We utilise the Arran Eco Savvy Trello Board to develop our strategy and workplan here: - <https://trello.com/b/V10XLtAJ/aes-example>

## The Context

### Climate Change: Why do we need to limit global warming to 1.5°?

- In 2018, the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) summarised the evidence that the impacts of climate change above 1.5°C could be "very serious".
- 190 nations agreed to keep the global temperature increase by 2100 to less than 2°C and as close as possible to 1.5° when they signed the "Paris Agreement" of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change 2015/16.
- About 80% of known fossil fuel reserves need to stay in the ground to limit the concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere to 450 parts per million. This level would give a 50% chance of limiting global warming to a maximum 2°C global average temperature rise.
- The United Nations assessed that carbon emissions need to drop by 45% by 2030 for global warming to be kept to a maximum of 1.5C and to zero by 2050.

(FPH, 2018)

Sustainable development supports, and often enables, fundamental societal and systems transitions and transformations that help limit global warming to 1.5°C. Such changes facilitate the pursuit of climate-resilient development pathways that achieve ambitious mitigation and

adaptation in conjunction with poverty eradication and efforts to reduce inequalities (high confidence). (IPPC, 2018)

What does all this mean?

This You Tube presentation by Professor Kevin Anderson from Scotland's Climate Assembly puts the case very clearly for assessing the challenges that we face through the direct relationship between rising emissions and climate change and what needs to be done to mitigate the risks

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3jLK\\_K-LUmM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3jLK_K-LUmM) (Anderson, 2020)

It is therefore, extremely important for our lives and our children's futures, that we all act to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

## Coronavirus Covid 19

There are often unexpected challenges and the extremely contagious Coronavirus COVID-19 with accompanying lockdown and safety measures, affects all of us. Whilst this pandemic presents a major risk to health, it has also illustrated the ability for society to change the way that we live and work and we can learn from this when considering the action needed to tackle climate change.

## Legal Framework and Goals

### International

**The United Nations** has set a series of [Sustainable Development Goals](#). These are 'global goals' and targets that are part of an internationally agreed performance framework. All countries, including Scotland, are aiming to achieve these goals by 2030. Arran Eco Savvy aims to make our contribution to achieving these goals through this strategy.

### National

**The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019** sets targets to reduce Scotland's emissions of all greenhouse gases to net-zero by 2045 at the latest, with interim targets for reductions of at least 56% by 2020, 75% by 2030, 90% by 2040. The 2019 Act embeds the principles of a Just Transition, which means reducing emissions in a way which tackles inequality and promotes fair work, at the heart of Scotland's approach to reaching net-zero.

(Scottish Government, accessed 8/1/21)

**Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN)**, launched its strategy on 16 September 2020 which aims to support public sector action on the climate emergency and a sustainable green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. SSN, Scotland's all-public-sector network which specialises in sustainability and climate change will support over 600 members across Scotland's public bodies as they work towards net zero emission targets by 2045.

The strategic framework will guide the SSN as they continue to facilitate and inform collaboration; build public sector capacity; and improve alignment and coordination with national policy priorities. (Sustainable Scotland Network, 2020)

### Local Context

**North Ayrshire Council** declared a state of Climate Emergency in 2019. They have committed to take action to reduce carbon emissions across North Ayrshire and achieve net-zero carb on

emissions by 2030. Source: <https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/news/Council-set-sights-on-becoming-Carbon-neutral.aspx>

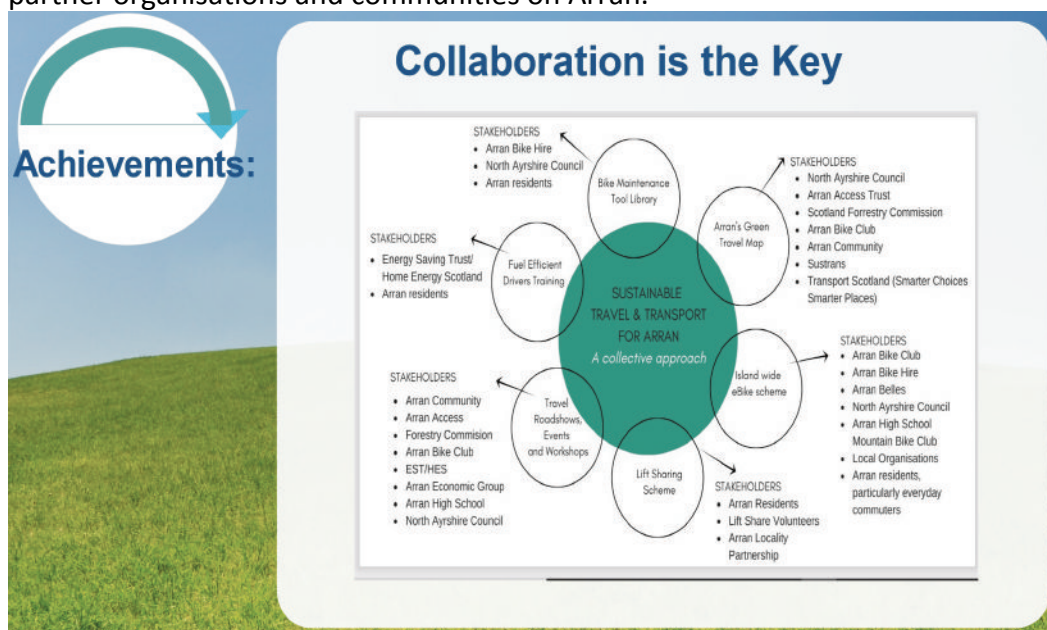
Arran Recovery Group

Developing a Recovery Plan which balances the three main strands of Island life, Community, Environment and Economy through each stage of recovery, underpinned by National and local HSCP guidance.

## Arran Eco Savvy Workplan – 2020 to 2030

### Method

AESC trustees, staff and members will utilise the Arran Eco Savvy Trello Board to develop our strategy and workplan here: - <https://trello.com/b/V10XLtAJ/aes-example> with contributions from partner organisations and communities on Arran.



### Overall Aim of Projects

We will develop and deliver projects that accelerate Arran's path towards net zero and set specific commitments that enable Arran to be on-track with local, national and UK net zero targets.

This will include undertaking/contributing to island carbon audits that:

- identify, collect, collate and analyse comprehensive data to set the emissions baseline for Arran
- identify and collate relevant existing data for the island's Energy, Transport, Waste, Food Production, Water, Land and Forestry, Housing sectors.
- identify where carbon reduction activities should be prioritised.
- contribute to the development of a Decarbonisation Route Map for Arran
- produces a detailed implementation plan to support funding applications that identify and deliver partners:
  - Requirements for electric vehicles (EV) including bikes and infrastructure to support EV uptake and travel
  - Potential for the creation of Low Carbon Hubs
  - Potential for active and sustainable travel that supports community renewal and the visitor economy.

## Themes:

- reducing **Waste and Energy use**
- increasing the uptake of sustainable **Food and Travel**
- and increasing **Carbon Literacy**

## Carbon emissions reduction to net zero by 2030 through:

1. **Waste** reduction: – building a circular economy
  2. **Energy**: Reduce unnecessary energy use
  3. **Food**: Increase in uptake of sustainable food grown on the island: - adapt the following statements to AES
- Prioritise healthy local food economies
  - Promote provision of incentives (funding, training), regulation (public procurement, planning) and disincentives (advertising restrictions, sales limits) to support economically robust local food systems.
  - The aim: create a steady supply of affordable, healthy and sustainably produced food for Arran's population;
    - support inclusive, sustainable local economies;
    - contribute to a healthy environment and zero carbon goals.
    - make locally produced whole foods more affordable than unhealthy ultra-processed foods.

Minimise intensive livestock farming practices Disincentivise use of intensive industrial livestock farming practices (meat and dairy) that damage the environment and climate, require overuse of antimicrobials, and reduce animal welfare. This should be a priority for domestic production and within trade agreements so imported meat produced with these methods will not have commercial advantage.

- Measure, monitor and report carbon footprint of UK diet at local, regional and national level. Establish common and consistent carbon emissions measurements for food and drink. This allows for measurement of benchmark levels and annual tracking. Reduction targets for the carbon footprint of the UK diet can then be set at national and regional level, all initiatives and interventions to meet these targets can then be tracked over time, and policies adjusted accordingly.
- Source: Food SIG response to the Food Research Collaboration to share with Defra regarding sustainable diets, and what the policy priorities should be.  
(e mail KB 3/6/21)
- Travel:
  - Reduction in single use car journeys
  - Increase in cycling and walking instead of driving
  - Increase in use of public transport when restrictions relating to Covid ease.
- Carbon Literacy:
  - Increase in **awareness** of environmental issues that relate to Arran
  - **Educational** and consciousness raising activities (meetings/workshops) to Increase participation in environmental projects which will increase the overall carbon literacy of island residents and numbers involved in working towards a sustainable Arran
  - Incorporating carbon accounting for our activities as a way of improving understanding about carbon emissions.

- **Arran Eco Savvy community:** Happy and growing membership who contribute to Eco Savvy's development through meetings, workshops and surveys.
- **Partnerships:** Increase in working partnerships with organisations in public, private and third sectors to bring green and sustainable practices to more areas of life on Arran

### Projects that help us to meet our Objectives

**Examples of new projects that have been discussed** that build on the work we've done through the Climate Change Funding **are as follows:**

#### A Waste:

1. **The Shop:** Re-establish the shop as an expanded centre for recycling household goods, for upcycling and for educational events and workshops, relevant for residents across the island as a meeting place to provide social interaction on a daily basis.

**Potential Resources:** apply for National Lottery or similar funding?

2. **Zero waste on Arran - a circular economy project?**

Potential resources: projects funded from new sources e.g. Community Climate Action Hubs?

#### B Energy:

**3.1 Arrans big Energy Project:** A new far reaching energy project (think [Orkney](#)) for the whole of Arran with the direction and management broadened to include suitably qualified/ interested parties from the Arran community with majority support from the whole community and with clear community benefit at its heart.

**3.2 A smaller energy project benefitting local business/es**

Arran Eco Savvy bi-annual fund established to allocate surplus £ from the big project to the winning application from organisations island wide for their low carbon initiative. For example;

- villages applying for funding to insulate/update their village halls to make them more energy efficient?
- helping to retro fit homes / investing in making old builds more energy efficient?
- partnering with housing /Arran Development Trust to have green energy options included at the start of new building developments?

#### C Food:

**4.1** Partner with the food growing initiatives already happening on Arran? E.g. Pioneer project, further collaboration with ACLI

**4.2** Working with other businesses to expand the food share model?

**4.3** Work with food producers /Coop/ Taste of Arran to promote and increase local food consumption.

#### D Travel:

### 5 Expansion of the eBike fleet particularly for keyworkers?

#### E Carbon literacy:

**6** Develop specific Arran Eco Savvy Net Zero Project in partnership with NAC

**7** Develop carbon literacy workshops as part of Arran’s strategic action and in partnership work with other organisations, to support individuals and organisations to account for and reduce their carbon emissions in line with net zero targets.

## References

Anderson, P. K. (2020). *Scotland's Climate Assembly*. Retrieved from You Tube: :

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