



Arran Eco Savvy Community SCIO SC045785

Strategy 2020-2030

*"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 Arran's potential for a happy thriving community living sustainably, with clean air, zero waste and an unspoilt, unpolluted beautiful environment, enriched with a healthy population of wildlife, flora & fauna.

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 Waste Reduction, Energy, Food, and Transport.

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 positives and reduces negatives allowing virtuous cycles to constantly improve outcomes.

By valuing our physical and social environment, we can restore our natural environment, strengthen our social networks and improve the local economy, whilst enhancing our independence and wellbeing at a personal and community level.

By reducing harmful impacts of how we currently live we can retain finite resources and reduce risks from a changing climate. Many of the things that we do to reduce harmful impacts on our environment also promote positive benefits such as mental and physical well-being and reduce social inequalities.

Our strategy and work plans therefore need to be carefully designed to illustrate:

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

The Context

Climate Change:

The twin crises of climate change and rapid biodiversity loss are the biggest threats facing humanity. Disastrous health impacts of climate change are already being felt around the world causing deaths, illness, displacement, and loss of jobs and homes.

[World Meteorological Organisation Provisional State of the Global Climate report](#) confirmed that 2023 was set to be the warmest year on record. Data until the end of October showed that 2023 was about 1.40°C (with a margin of uncertainty of ±0.12°C) above the pre-industrial 1850-1900 baseline. Actions at a global level remain far behind that which is urgently needed across emissions reduction, adaptation, and the finance required to underpin these.

Global temperatures will start to stabilise when carbon dioxide emissions reach net zero. For 1.5°C (2.7°F), this means achieving net zero carbon dioxide emissions globally in the early 2050s. Limiting warming to around 2°C(3.6°F) still requires global greenhouse gas emissions to peak before 2025 at the latest and be reduced by a quarter by 2030. Source <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/04/1115452> - accessed 30/9/2024

International efforts to tackle climate change are made at [COP conferences](#) most years. In 2021 Glasgow held COP26 which succeeded in bringing nearly 200 countries together to commit to take action on climate change and forge the [Glasgow Climate Pact](#). This outcome kept alive the **goal** of maintaining global temperatures at or below 1.5°C. At the same time, we cemented progress on finance for climate action, adaptation and loss and damage.

The negotiations at COP28 in Dubai in 2023 made some important advances in efforts to coordinate and deliver global climate action through the conclusion of the first Global Stocktake, the operationalisation of the Loss and Damage Fund, the new Framework for the Global Goal on Adaptation, and others.

Why do we need to limit global warming to 1.5°C?

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".

In the face of this threat, the IPCC proposed (with high confidence) that sustainable development could facilitate the pursuit of climate-resilient development pathways that help limit global warming to 1.5°C via ambitious mitigation and adaptation, in conjunction with poverty eradication and efforts to reduce inequalities.

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

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

[This You Tube video](#) from the University of Aberdeen presents useful, easy to understand facts about food and climate change and what we can all do to help.

Is societal change possible?

Societies are often challenged by unexpected events and have to rapidly adjust to new circumstances. For example, the COVID-19 pandemic, with accompanying lockdown and safety measures, affected all of us. Whilst this pandemic presented a major risk to health, it 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 Political Goals

International

The United Nations 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 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.

[Sustainable Scotland Network \(SSN\)](#) launched its [strategy](#) on 16th September 2020 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.

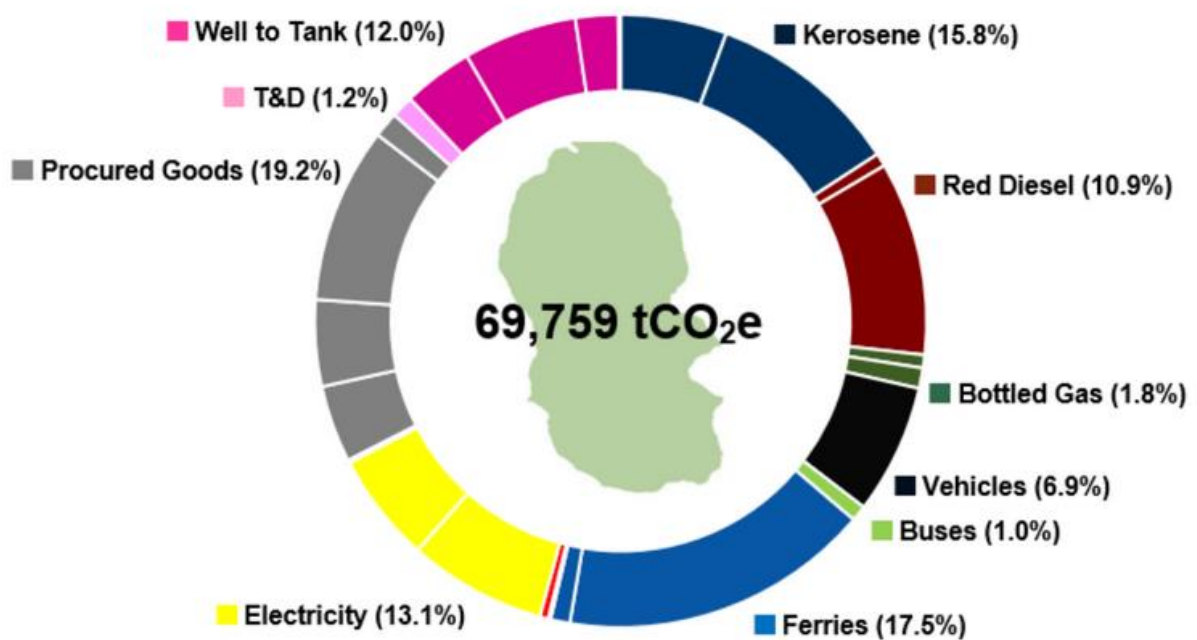
Local Context

North Ayrshire Council [declared a state of Climate Emergency](#) in 2019. They committed to take action to reduce carbon emissions across North Ayrshire and achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2030.

They also launched Ten Year [Islands Recovery and Renewal Plans for Arran and Cumbrae](#) in March 2022, developed with and for the island communities, and with the aim of driving the development of community, economic and environmental wellbeing for the islands.

Arran EcoSavvy continues to contribute to the development of the Arran Plan through the Environment strand. In particular we fed in the data from the Arran Green Islands project of the current carbon emissions per year calculated as follows:

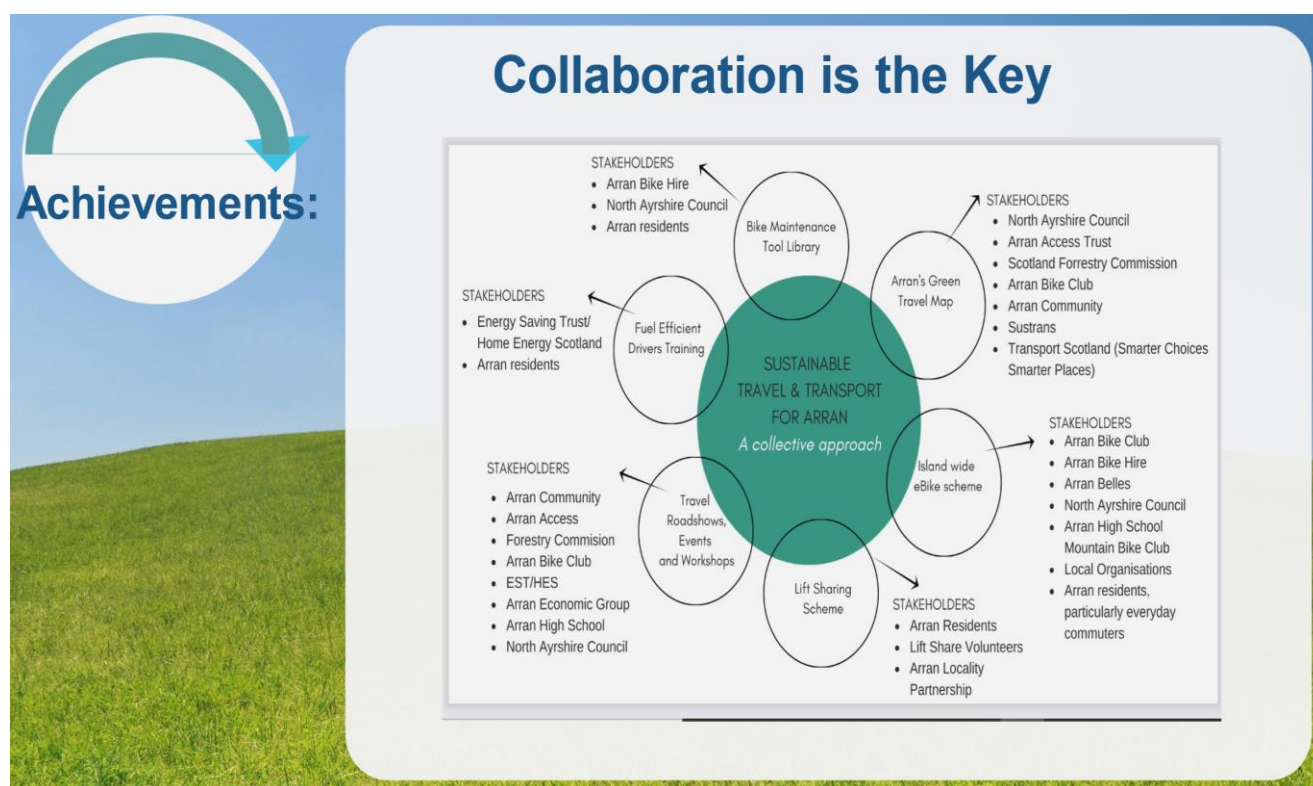
In summary, the total annual GHG emissions of the Isle of Arran are estimated to be 69,759 tCO₂e.



Source: <https://arranecosavvy.org.uk/green-islands-plans/>

Arran Eco Savvy Work Plan – 2020 to 2030

Arran EcoSavvy is well aware of the need to collaborate with others in order to make progress. One example of historic collaboration was in our work with partners on Sustainable Travel and Transport as illustrated in the diagram below.



Aim - what we want to achieve:

We will develop and deliver projects that accelerate Arran's path towards net zero and set specific commitments that contribute to Arran's progress in meeting local, national and UK net zero targets, whilst simultaneously being relevant to peoples' everyday lives and building the resilience of the local community and wildlife.

To achieve this, we will set out to:

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

Delivery - how we will achieve our aim:

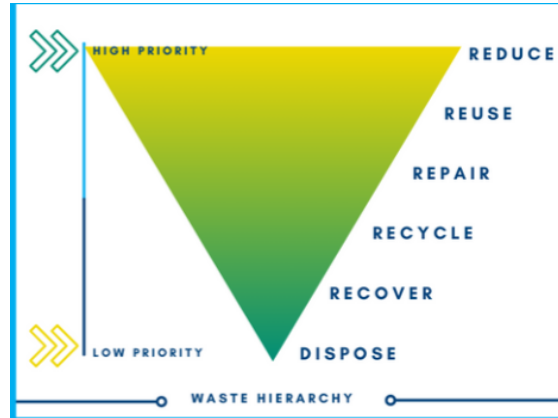
AES will undertake and contribute to island carbon audits that:

- identify, collect, collate and analyse comprehensive data to update the emissions calculations and compare with the baseline for Arran established through the Green Islands project.
- identify and collate relevant existing data for the island's energy, transport, waste, food production, water, land and forestry and housing sectors
- identify where carbon reduction activities should be prioritised
- contribute to the development of a Decarbonisation Route Map for Arran
- help inform a detailed implementation plan which can underpin AES's and our partners' funding applications and so advance the funding for new sustainable initiatives

Our Themes: Reduce **Waste** and **Energy** use, increase the uptake of sustainable **Food** and **Travel** and increase **Carbon Literacy**.

AES will run the following projects that advance our aim:

A: Objective: Waste reduction:



Build a circular economy on Arran [A circular economy is](#) a strategy that tries to reduce the use of raw materials and the production of waste. With a linear economy, we usually extract, create and then throw away after use. A circular economy first asks - Do we really need this, or can we achieve the same objective without using scarce resources? If so, it produces, distributes, uses and then repairs, reuses, recycles, recovers and disposes of any residual waste.



Delivery:

1. **The Shop:** We will 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.
2. **Zero waste on Arran** - We will explore the potential for further waste reduction initiatives e.g.: projects that promote reducing consumption, reuse and repair as well as recycling e.g. through local markets and car boot sales

B Objective: Energy - Boost renewable energy and reduce unnecessary energy use through increased energy efficiency measures:

Delivery:

1. **Arran's 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.
2. The first stage is to install a large (4.5 MW) community based solar PV project which is now in the grid connection and early planning stages. It will be owned by a community benefit society, shares in which will be offered to the island community. Additionally, all the revenue above that is required to pay back the capital costs and operational costs will be available to local community groups to support environmentally sound causes. This will power around 1,200 homes based on a typical annual consumption of 3,600 kWh.
3. This solar project is intended to be the foundation for a more ambitious project employing technologies optimised for the benefit of the island. This would include wind turbines and "green" hydrogen generated from the wind turbines, which could supply road transport as well as the ferries. Together with the solar project the generation capacity of the island would be sufficient to meet the island's electrical demand making the island self-sufficient for electricity.
4. Arran Eco Savvy bi-annual fund established to allocate surplus money from the big project to the winning application from organisations island wide for their low carbon initiative. For example:
 1. villages applying for funding to insulate/update their village halls to make them more energy efficient
 2. Green Islands projects that help to retrofit homes/invest in making old builds more energy efficient
 3. partnering with housing/Arran Development Trust to have green energy options included at the start of new building developments

C Objective: Food:

Encourage a shift towards more sustainable food consumption by projects that reduce food waste and showcase locally grown and sustainable food including:

- a) Supporting a healthy, low-carbon, local food economy by encouraging the production and consumption of sustainably produced foods by:
 - promoting plant based, seasonal and sustainably sourced foods in line with national and global recommendations
 - signposting opportunities for the increased uptake of sustainable food grown and reared on the island (as opposed to imported meat and dairy and its associated carbon footprint)
 - influencing public procurement
 - minimising food waste

- supporting incentives that drive a fair, dignified and inclusive local food economy.
- b) educating and sharing information about sustainably produced food to increase understanding of low-carbon and nature-friendly farming and the benefits of plant-based diets.

Delivery:

- Facilitate and coordinate local volunteers to deliver the Food Share from Brodick and Lamlash Coop Supermarkets to divert food waste
- Provide Zero Waste Cafes across Arran villages to reduce plastic food packaging, lower food miles, increase availability of locally grown produce, showcase vegan cookery and deliver sustainable food workshops
- Work in partnership with existing food growing initiatives on Arran (e.g. Pioneer project and community gardens around the island,)
- Work with other businesses to expand the food share model
- Work with food producers /Coop/Taste of Arran to promote and increase local food consumption

D Travel: Objective: Reduce Arran's transport emissions by:

- Reducing single use car journeys
- Increasing cycling and walking instead of driving
- Increasing use of public transport

Delivery:

- Running an EcoHub in Brodick with open day activities and bike repair and advice
- eBike loans
- Arran's Wee Green Travel Map
- expand inclusive health walk programme and inclusive cycling skills session with increased volunteer trained leaders
- roll out car lift share scheme
- 'Maintain e-bike fleet and bike library using island specialist mechanics and suitable dry storage facilities
- continue to encourage active travel including wheeling, walking and travelling by bus around the island
- Helping establish an island wide re-charging network for e-vehicles and e-bikes
- Showcasing e-van technology with our own e-vehicle used by our projects and loan to other community groups
- Reaching additional user groups, namely:
 - people with a disability needing adapted bikes,
 - school age children needing bicycles (upcycled)
 - young parents needing health walks
 - islanders needing both walking and cycling buddies to build confidence and a car share scheme

E Carbon Literacy and Action:

Objective: Contribute to carbon emissions reduction to net zero by 2030 through:

- Increase community **awareness** of environmental issues that relate to Arran.
- Increase participation in environmental projects which will increase the overall carbon literacy of island residents and numbers involved in working towards a sustainable Arran
- Incorporate carbon accounting for our activities as a way of improving understanding about carbon emissions.

Delivery:

- The Green Islands Project which, during 2022-24, aims to support the Arran community to find ways of reaching Net Zero by 2030 in line with North Ayrshire Councils (NAC) ambition and develop specific Arran Eco Savvy Net Zero Project in partnership with NAC.
- 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.
- Identify and help network small scale renewable energy initiatives (e.g.: the proposed hydro schemes in Corrie, Machrie, Pirnmill)
- Developing new initiatives which help boost use of renewable energy use and improve energy efficiency in old housing stock (e.g.: meet the buyer events, facilitating bulk buying of e.g.: insulation, collaborating with the Repair Cafe)
- Provide EPCs and carbon auditing (e.g.: via thermal loss imaging)
- Educational and consciousness raising activities (e.g.: meetings/workshops)
- Promotion of more sustainable tourism
- Facilitate 'meet the seller' green energy events and explore collective purchasing to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy