



To: **GREENER RENFREWSHIRE THEMATIC BOARD**

On: **09 NOVEMBER 2015**

Report by:
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OVERVIEW OF INITIATIVES AND GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLES

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of recent developments, initiatives and funding streams made available to Community Planning Partnerships in Scotland. It takes account of the emerging work streams and actions identified by the Board.
- 1.2 A similar update will be provided for each Board to stimulate awareness and decisions about the wider Greener theme and agenda. If any Board member has any information they would like included and circulated in future issues of the update, please forward to the report author.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board:
 - notes the content of the appendices to this report.
 - agrees that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Board on how Renfrewshire Council, Regulatory Services is responding to the Scottish Government's report on the improvement of air quality.

3. Background

- 3.1 In order to provide the Board members with support, policy advice and consistency of approach, this report explores communication received from the Scottish Government and other statutory bodies, good practice examples from other local authorities as well as national and local initiatives and projects. Where available, a



local view has also been provided on the topic.

- 3.2 Two areas to be noted, in particular are: the 2016 Environment Competition, being run by Scotland's Environment Web for primary and secondary school age children; and the Young Reporters Scotland scheme, encouraging young people aged 11-21 to raise awareness of sustainability issues within their communities. Both these projects will be promoted through the Greener Communities sub group with further details available on the Renfrewshire 2023 website.
- 3.3 Also detailed in the appendix is a new report, published in September 2015, providing evidence that Scottish emissions of most air pollutants continued to fall during 2013, with significant reduction in emissions of all, air pollutants since 1990. A report on the work being carried out by Renfrewshire Council to improve air quality will be submitted to the next Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board.

4. Resources

- 4.1 Information on funding streams which have been identified and which Community Planning Partners can apply for in relation to the Greener agenda are included in the appendices of this report.

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Appendix 1

Good Practice Examples

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Scotland's Environment Web, in partnership with SEPA, Keep Scotland Beautiful, Young Scot and Education Scotland is accepting entries for the 2016 Environment Competition. They are looking for young people with a passion for the environment, which care about environmental issues and want to make a difference to their local community.

Open to those of primary and secondary school age living in Scotland, entries are welcome from individuals, school classes, clubs or groups. The organisers want to:

- Find a local environmental problem;
- Investigate it;
- Tell us how to reduce the problem and make the environment better.

The winners of each of the competition categories will win £100. The overall winning entry will receive £1,000, help and support to take the idea forward and will be nominated for the Young Scot Awards.

Entries can be produced in any format, but must be submitted electronically. Formats can include:

- Written work;
- Animation;
- Comic format;
- Art work;
- Audio or video.

The closing date for entries is 31 March 2016. Further information about the competition can be found on Scotland's Environment website.

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

In June 2014, Article 8 of the European Union Energy Efficiency Directive introduced a number of new mandatory requirements for larger businesses across Europe relating to their energy consumption.

To enable businesses across the UK to comply with the European Union Energy Efficiency Directive, the UK Government introduced The Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme (ESOS) Regulations in 2014. In a nutshell, it means that all qualifying businesses must carry out ESOS assessments every four years. These assessments are audits of the energy used by their buildings, industrial processes and transport to identify cost-effective energy saving measures. The first assessment must be completed, and notification given to the Environment Agency by 5 December 2015.



Who does the scheme apply to?

ESOS affects all business that are classed as a 'large undertaking'. These include:

- any UK company that either:
 - employs 250 or more people, or
 - has an annual turnover in excess of 50 million euros (£38,937,777), and an annual balance sheet total in excess of 43 million euros (£33,486,489);
- an overseas company with a UK registered establishment which has 250 or more UK employees (paying income tax in the UK).

In Scotland, there could be around 600 businesses that need to participate in the ESOS.

Submitting a notification

It's important that this be done on or before the 5 December 2015, to ensure compliance with the legislation. For more information and how to apply see the following website:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/energy-savings-opportunity-scheme-esos>

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT)

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

SPT's Operations Committee agreed to subsidise several vital bus routes serving local communities across the region at a cost of more than £400,000.

The award of these contracts ensures that socially necessary bus routes will continue to be available to the travelling public ensuring access to employment, education and healthcare opportunities and other essential services.

The services cover areas in Glasgow; North Lanarkshire; North, South and East Ayrshire.

SPT Vice-Chair Councillor Denis McKenna said: "I'm pleased that in awarding these contracts SPT is enabling people to access vital, socially necessary bus services that ultimately enable them to live their lives.

"From medical appointments, to education, employment and leisure – services like these need to exist so that the travelling public of Strathclyde are adequately provided for."



Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN)

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

The Scottish Government announced on 24th September that a record amount of Scotland's electricity was generated from renewables in the first half of 2015. However Energy Minister Fergus Ewing warned that the huge progress towards decarbonising electricity generation is being put at risk by the recent plans from the UK to remove support from renewable generation earlier than previously planned.

Statistics, published by the Department of Energy and Climate Change, show a 13.5 per cent increase in renewable electricity generation compared to the first half of 2014. The Scottish Government's energy consumption target, to reduce consumption by 12 per cent by 2020, is already at the required level in 2013 - down by 13.3 per cent from the 2005-2007 baseline.

The statistics also show:

- Scotland generated 4,832 GWh of renewable electricity in Q2 2015, a 37.3 per cent increase in renewable electricity from the same quarter in 2014
- Wind and hydro output increased by 52.2 and 27 per cent respectively compared to same quarter the year before
- At the end of Q2 2015, there was 7,444 MW of installed renewable electricity capacity in Scotland, an increase of 5.5 per cent from end of Q2 2014

Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN)

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Keep Scotland Beautiful Community Development Team is launching four new initiatives to engage individuals, communities and organisations in sustainable development – Adopt-a-Garden, Bee Diverse, Tasty Spaces and Young Reporters Scotland. The Team works with a wide range of individuals, groups and organisations across Scotland, and aims to help communities re-engage with Scotland's environment and to improve local environmental quality.

Adopt-a-Garden

The Adopt-a-Garden campaign supports volunteer groups to care for the gardens of vulnerable adults in their community. An attractive, flourishing garden can be a source of great pride for many of us but everyday gardening tasks can become increasingly difficult for older people or those with chronic health conditions. This campaign aims to give residents a safe, tidy outdoor space that they can enjoy, develop volunteers' practical skills, and enhance local environmental quality.



An Adopt-a-Garden toolkit is being created to provide groups with guidance and inspiration to take action in their local community and Keep Scotland Beautiful plans to support Adopt-a-Garden groups through networking and sharing good practice events during 2016.

For more information contact Vhairi Tollan, vhairi.tollan@keepscotlandbeautiful.org

Bee Diverse

The Bee Diverse campaign aims to encourage and enable communities to plant for pollinators, specifically bumblebees and butterflies, to encourage biodiversity. By offering community groups, organisations, schools and individuals the opportunity to apply for and receive native seeds to help butterflies and bumblebees flourish, as well as resources to inform groups and individuals about what they are planting, how to maintain and benefit from their plants, and why this is important, this campaign hopes to reconnect people with their environment, learn a little about biodiversity through the help of online resources, and create a healthy and diverse outdoor space for their communities and themselves to enjoy.

For more information contact Pamitta Mall, pamitta.mall@keepscotlandbeautiful.org

Tasty Spaces

The Tasty Spaces campaign encourages schools and community groups to produce their own Scottish food to use in a One Planet Picnic, reducing food and packaging waste and reconnecting people with healthy food and the environment. Groups who register for Edible Borders will receive native edible plant seeds and will be supported through the campaign's web pages which will signpost existing networks, good practice case studies, training opportunities, resources, recipes and contacts.

For more information contact Vhairi Tollan, vhairi.tollan@keepscotlandbeautiful.org

Young Reporters Scotland

Young Reporters Scotland (YRS) provides exciting opportunities for young people to build life-changing skills and be part of an international group of young people creatively raising awareness of sustainability issues within their communities.

To take part in YRS, young people across Scotland aged 11-21 are asked to use their creativity to produce a report about a sustainability issue or environmental problem. This could be done by writing an article or blog, creating a video or animation, or capturing a topic through photography. Reports can be entered into the national annual competition.

In addition to the competition, we also ask young people Scotland to share with us stories about great events they've been to or that have inspired them, groups they know of in their local communities that are tackling environmental problems or projects and activities they are involved with.



Appendix 2

Research and Consultations

Scottish Government

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

A new report published in September 2015 shows Scottish emissions of most air pollutants continued to fall in 2013, with significant reductions in emissions of all air pollutants since 1990.

Environment Minister Aileen McLeod said: “Air pollution is harmful to human health and can contribute to climate change, and I very much welcome the significant progress that has been made reducing emissions of nitrogen oxides and other air pollutants in Scotland.

“However, more needs to be done. The Scottish Government is already working closely with local authorities and other partners to improve air quality and the lives and well-being of communities and individuals across the country.

“Local authorities with air quality issues in their areas have in place local action plans to improve the situation which can include measures such as promoting of walking and cycling, for example, or greater use of cleaner vehicles. And the forthcoming national Low Emission Strategy – which we consulted on earlier this year - will ensure greater consistency in approach across Scotland.