
To: Climate Change Sub-Committee

On: 17 November 2021

Report by: Head of Policy and Commissioning

Heading: Climate Emergency Work Programme – Progress Update

1. Summary

- 1.1 At its meeting on 1 September 2021, the Climate Change Sub-Committee considered a paper outlining progress on the work being undertaken by the organisation to respond to the climate emergency declared by Council in June 2019.
- 1.2 The Sub-Committee agreed a number of key priorities to be progressed by officers, recognising that it was a particular priority to continue to develop Renfrewshire's plan for achieving the target of net zero carbon emissions by 2030 and to do so alongside a programme of engagement with citizens, community planning partners and businesses.
- 1.3 This paper provides an update on the work undertaken to progress these priority actions and highlights some of the key activities that have been undertaken since the last update to Board, with section 7 of the report setting out the key priority actions which have been identified by officers for completion over the next 6 months.
- 1.4 Over and above this programme, services are continuing to progress a range of activities which support the Council's response to the climate emergency. A broad overview of these activities was provided in December 2020, and appendix 1 provides an updated position for elected members.
- 1.5 At the time of writing this report, COP26 is commencing in Glasgow, representing a critical moment in the global climate movement, reinforcing the

need for collective actions across all spheres of society to make the change needed to avert the climate crisis. Local government, partners and communities have a critical role to play, together, to make a difference in Renfrewshire, Scotland and the world. The progress update provided in this report demonstrates the action currently being taken and the planned activities to support Renfrewshire's ambitious climate plans.

2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that members of the Climate Change Sub-Committee:

- Note the progress achieved in relation to the current work programme;
- Note the progress achieved in relation to wider climate activity across the Council as outlined in appendix 1;
- Agree the proposals for progressing a pilot Community Climate Fund in section 5 and to allocate £50,000 of the Climate Action Change Fund for this purpose;
- Agree to endorse the National Climate Resilience Summit ambition statement as outlined in section 6 and recommend consideration of this by the Leadership Board at its next meeting; and
- Agree the key priorities for progression over the course of the next 6 months as set out in section 7 of the report, noting the timeline for this programme.

3. Background

3.1 As elected members will be aware, following the Council's declaration of the climate emergency in 2019, officers have been working very closely with partners to develop a programme of work which will drive the collective response to climate change in Renfrewshire. The work programme was paused in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however work recommenced on this in Autumn 2020. The core focus of the local programme of work has been to develop a plan which sets out how the Council will work with partners, communities and stakeholders to achieve the net zero carbon emissions target by 2030, which was set by Renfrewshire Council.

3.2 As previously outlined, at the core of the Council's approach is to meaningfully engage with partners, stakeholders and citizens throughout the development of the plan. In recent months in the lead up to the COP26 Summit in Glasgow, public interest and engagement around the climate emergency has increased, and the Council and our partners are keen to meet this increased interest with opportunities for a wide range of voices to be heard – our engagement activities are outlined in more detail in section 4 of this report. At the time of writing, it is also hoped that meaningful change and global commitments for

action will be agreed during COP26, which will help to frame the national and local climate agenda and potentially assist in accelerating progress.

- 3.3 As previously outlined to the Sub-Committee, there is a significant amount of learning and research that also needs to take place to support the organisation and partners to make the extensive changes that will be required to achieve the net zero emissions target by 2030. £1m of funding was previously allocated by Council to establish a Climate Change Action Fund within the organisation, with a view to this being used to support services to tests new approaches or technology and undertake work that could allow the Council to potentially lever in external funding to take forward its climate response at greater pace and scale.
- 3.4 The Sub-Committee considered a range of initial funding proposals in February, April and September 2021, and £883,000 of funding has now been allocated from the Climate Change Action Fund to support a number of initiatives. In section 5, proposals are outlined to pilot a small-scale Community Climate Fund grant scheme for community organisations. It is proposed to allocate £50,000 for this pilot phase - uptake will be monitored and reported back to the Climate Change Sub-Committee. This will complement the recent work by colleagues in Communities and Housing Services who have allocated £70,000 of Green Spaces, Parks and Play Areas, and Villages Investment Fund funding for a grants scheme for sustainable environmental projects within schools.
- 3.5 The work programme agreed by the Sub-Committee has continued to be progressed by officers in line with the key priorities agreed in April 2021. Section 4 below provides a full update on the key actions that have been progressed between September and November 2021.

4. Update on work programme

- 4.1 As part of the Council's climate engagement programme, a climate survey was issued to the Public Services Panel and also opened up to the wider Renfrewshire community to understand public knowledge and opinion on the climate emergency and specific issues in relation to Renfrewshire's challenges, opportunities and potential priority areas. This survey closed at the end of September and an initial report has been provided to the Council. The headline findings for this are currently being worked through, and should it be possible, a verbal update will be given to Members.
- 4.2 The survey also offered the opportunity to engage further on climate issues, through joining Renfrewshire's Climate Panel, a representative panel of Renfrewshire citizens who will explore climate issues in more depth and help

the Council and our partners to understand the appetite for change, the priority areas of focus and the opportunities for making a real difference against our climate targets.

Renfrewshire Climate Panel

- 4.3 Renfrewshire Climate Panel has now been established, with the first sessions taking place at the start of November. The panel offered the opportunity for both daytime and evening sessions in order to meet the needs of as many people as possible. The sessions were, and will continue to be, held remotely via teams due to the pandemic.
- 4.4 The first session focused on introducing the Panel and the reasons for establishing it; outlining the background to the global climate emergency; and explaining why Renfrewshire declared a climate emergency and what this means. The workshops also included smaller breakout sessions so that participants could get involved in more detailed discussions. It is planned to hold another session in early December to explore in more details the findings from the climate survey. After a short break for the Christmas period, it is planned to hold a session in January and one in February to identify key priority areas, opportunities and explore any barriers.
- 4.5 Whilst efforts have been taken to ensure the panel is as representative as possible, it is proposed that as part of our engagement programme that specific outreach takes place in early 2022 with particular representative organisations to ensure that priority areas, challenges, barriers etc take into consideration the voice and views of a wide range of people with different needs and experiences.

Plan for Net Zero

- 4.6 In June 2021, the Climate Change Sub-Committee approved the commissioning of technical support to establish a robust carbon evidence base to underpin Renfrewshire's Plan for Net Zero and to identify exemplar options and ideas for further initiatives and interventions that could help Renfrewshire meet the ambitious 2030 net zero target. A recent procurement exercise in relation to this commission unfortunately attracted no bids. Procurement colleagues received feedback which highlighted a lack of capacity to deliver within the outlined timescales due to other ongoing commissions. Officers are currently revisiting elements of this commission, including options to review the timescales and/or to phase the various tasks within the scope, and will continue to prioritise this to ensure that the appropriate support to progress this area of work can be established as soon as possible.
- 4.7 This support is fundamental to being able to produce a meaningful and action-focused plan for Renfrewshire and therefore it will not be possible to progress

in the same way or within the same timescales without this support in place. Equally, officers are cognisant of the climate emergency and the need to progress the response at the required pace. In light of this, officers are reviewing the broader timeline and tasks required to produce Renfrewshire's Plan for Net Zero, alongside undertaking analysis which may allow us to set out a high-level route map at the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.

Wider climate activity

- 4.8 In addition to the work programme being progressed, services across the organisation have continued to progress a range of developments and improvements in relation to for example fleet, energy management and infrastructure projects. An update on these broader activities was last provided to the Sub-Committee in December 2020, and appendix 1 provides an update against these key activities for information.
- 4.9 Particular areas to highlight include:
- progressing the low carbon district heating network at the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District Scotland (AMIDS) site as part of the City Deal programme, with 'first pipes' laid last month;
 - working with Strathclyde University on the housing innovation project to develop prototype designs for zero carbon new build (with funding from the Climate Change Action Fund);
 - increasing the Council's electric fleet to 127 vehicles, with almost 30% of the Council's car and light fleet using alternative fuel such as electricity;
 - investing £250k to support the electric vehicle charging infrastructure at the Underwood Road depot;
 - a funding bid was submitted for recycling infrastructure to improve Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) to enable more compaction for cardboard to increase recycling and remove temptation for residents to put in wrong skips if cardboard is full. An additional Recycling Officer for HWRCs is being recruited to reduce residual waste and increase recycling at HWRCs, with residents disposing of unsorted black bags having increased as a result of COVID; and
 - progressing recruitment for climate related posts across Council services, including the Climate Emergency Lead Officer within the Chief Executive's Service who started with Renfrewshire Council in September and will coordinate the Council's overall strategic climate programme and the Green Economy Officer, recently recruited to the Economy and Development team within the Chief Executive's Service, to specifically develop the response to the climate emergency from an economic development point of view and help Renfrewshire's businesses develop a just transition to greener ways of working. Alongside these colleagues, a new Tree and Woodland Officer has been appointed to the Streetscene team within Environment and Infrastructure to support woodland management issues across Renfrewshire. A Biodiversity Officer is also starting shortly within the same team, to support and enhance biodiversity, nature and wildflower habitats.

- 4.10 Taken together with the update on the work programme, a wide range of significant progress continues, at pace, to ensure the Council is a climate-responsible organisation, recognising our impact on our environment, our opportunities to do things differently and our ability to influence meaningful and long-lasting change.

5. Community Climate Fund Grant Scheme

- 5.1 Following initial discussions at the Climate Change Sub-Committee on 2 June 2021, officers have been progressing options for the development of a Community Climate Fund for consideration by the Sub-Committee. The Community Climate Fund would provide awards of up to £3K to community organisations to develop localised, green community projects and initiatives which are tailored to the needs of individual communities. It is proposed that funding of £50,000 is drawn from the Climate Change Action Fund to support this activity.
- 5.2 This will encourage participation and raise awareness of the climate emergency within our communities, with initiatives being designed and delivered by local residents but supported by the Council.
- 5.3 The purpose of the Fund is to support community organisations to develop local projects and initiatives which align with the drive to net zero and help build resilience within communities from the impacts of climate change. This might include, but is not limited to:
- Costs associated with new models of land use which improve quality, dignity or sustainability, e.g. community gardens or edible borders which provide fresh fruit and vegetables
 - Costs associated with enhancing local biodiversity and natural habitats such as planting (including tree planting), providing feeders, hedgehog tunnels, pollinator-friendly planting schemes, developing nature corridors etc.
 - Costs that support recruiting and/or retaining volunteers, or relevant training, e.g. local energy advisors, local food growing advisors, free local bike repair, community hire station for tools, local repair hubs, repair workshops, led walks or bike rides, cycling proficiency training
 - Costs associated with community climate events
 - Cost associated with equipment to enable services, e.g. tools for hire stations, bike repair essentials, repair equipment, refrigeration for community kitchens
 - Provision of support to be provided alongside local food growing advice, e.g. supply of planters, supply of appropriate seeds/plantings
 - Costs associated with running information campaigns, engaging and consulting the local community to inform projects and initiatives

- 5.4 It is proposed that successful applications would have to demonstrate:
- their understanding of local need and how their project or initiative would meet this need
 - how their project or initiative aligns with community resilience, adaptation or mitigation in response to the climate emergency and local climate change impacts
 - inclusivity and that services would be easily accessible, particularly targeting those most in need
 - partnership working to signpost people to additional support
- 5.5 If members of the Climate Change Sub-Committee support these proposals, approval would be sought from the Leadership Board in December and then it is intended that the application process for the Community Climate Fund would be launched in early 2022. Award recommendations would be then be submitted to subsequent Sub-Committees prior to submission at Leadership Board. Award recommendations would follow consideration by a panel comprising of service representatives and a community representative.
- 5.6 Draft guidance has been developed for the fund and is attached at appendix 2. Officers will work with all successful applicants to monitor the outcomes delivered by projects and initiatives supported through the Fund, as part of a wider evaluation of the local response to the climate emergency in Renfrewshire.

6. National Climate Resilience Summit: ambition statement

- 6.1 Renfrewshire Council participated in the National Climate Resilience Summit in September, which was organised by the Scottish Government, Sniffer and Adaptation Scotland. The organisation was invited to endorse or commit to the ambition statement and to communicate this collective ambition through our own channels and networks as appropriate.
- 6.2 The ambition statement, which aligns closely with Renfrewshire Council's position, is as noted below:

National Climate Resilience Summit: ambition statement

Scotland is already experiencing warming, with more extreme weather events and rising sea levels and these changes will continue due to the locked-in effects of global climate change. As a nation we must prepare for these changes in order to protect our places, communities, businesses and nature. This will include understanding climate risk and vulnerabilities, planning and implementing adaptation actions, unlocking finance and supporting transformational change at local, national and international levels. The Climate Change Committee's recent independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk is clear it will be impossible to achieve a just transition to net zero or tackle inequalities more widely without also addressing climate risks, and that the time for us to build resilience is now. As delegates to the National Climate Resilience Summit we support collective action to transform Scotland into a climate resilient nation. As part of this journey, we:

1. support enhanced understanding and action on climate risk and look forward to collaborating across sectors;
2. will further embed climate adaptation in our culture, corporate governance and organisational priorities as an immediate priority and throughout 2022 and beyond; and
3. express our support for an ambitious global deal at COP26 which addresses adaptation and resilience needs in a fair and just way.

6.3 Members of the Sub-Committee are asked to endorse support for this statement which will formally be considered at the Leadership Board meeting in December.

7. Key priority areas

7.1 Looking ahead to the next 6 months, key priority areas for the climate emergency work programme are as follows:

Progress the commissioned piece of work on carbon evidence base and potential interventions/exemplar options, under one of the proposed options as outlined in section 4	December 2021
Continue to progress the development of a Plan for Net Zero	March 2022 (timescales dependent on appointment of contractor as outlined in section 4)

Continue to engage with citizens through Renfrewshire's Climate Panel to identify priority areas for climate action, opportunities and challenges	Meetings currently planned in December 2021, January and February 2022
Engage with representative groups such as Renfrewshire's Access Panel, the DEAR group, and children and young people to discuss the findings from the Public Services Panel and explore opportunities/challenges to consider a locally Just Transition	Early 2022
Progress proposals to launch Community Climate Fund as noted in section 5	Early 2022
Continue to engage with Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce with a view to launching survey of businesses after the Christmas period	Early 2022
Establish a future programme of Community Planning Partners network events	Next event is planned for November 2021, future sessions will be timetabled in quarterly throughout 2022

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – the paper includes a recommendation in relation to the Climate Change Action Fund in section 5
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – none
3. **Community/Council Planning** – this report includes updates and further proposals to support engagement and collaboration with local businesses, partners and communities on the climate emergency agenda.
4. **Legal** - none
5. **Property/Assets** - none
6. **Information Technology** - none
7. **Equality and Human Rights** - The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
8. **Health and Safety** - none

9. **Procurement** – the Council's procurement team continue to provide support to the programme, including on the specific issue outlined in section 4
 10. **Risk** – none
 11. **Privacy Impact** – none
 12. **COSLA Policy Position** – none
 13. **Climate Risk** – this report outlines work being undertaken by the Council to respond to the climate emergency.
-

List of Background Papers:

Climate Change Action Fund, 2 June 2021 Climate Change Sub-Committee

Climate Emergency Work Programme: Progress Update, 1 September 2021 Climate Change Sub-Committee

Author: Pauline Moss, Strategy, Policy and Insight Manager
Roz Smith, Climate Emergency Lead Officer
Chief Executive's Service

Appendix 1 – Cross-council wider climate activity, updated template

THEME	ACTIVITY	UPDATE
Energy	Work with national and local partners to explore alternative energy options for Council buildings, such as solar PV, battery storage, energy from waste and district heating, ensuring the Council has robust business cases in place ready to attract significant levels of national funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The City Deal and Infrastructure teams' low carbon district heating network (DHN) at the AMIDS site has now commenced on site with a 'first pipes laid' event on 21st October. The construction, operation and maintenance contract for this ambient loop DHN has been awarded to specialist contractor FES. Grant funding has been secured in the form of capital grant from Scottish Government's LCITP funding programme and revenue from Ofgem's RHI scheme, subject to meeting specific delivery criteria. ○ Work is ongoing on the feasibility of establishing up to 4MW solar PV array on the Linwood Moss former landfill site. (4MW is the equivalent of roughly 15% of the electricity demand of all of the Council's public buildings). ○ The trial is ongoing for 3 x light fittings (2 at Renfrewshire House and 1 at the On-X) which incorporate a solar PV panel, battery storage and wind to trial if this generates enough power without grid power. These lights also have PIR motion sensor, so they are not on constantly overnight to reduce energy demand and prolong battery. ○ The business plan is at signoff stage to change all internal lights in the PPP estate to LED lights. This will be completed by October 2022, with the majority of the works taking place in the school holidays. ○ Communities and Housing Services continue to work with Strathclyde University on the housing innovation project to develop prototype designs for zero carbon new build (with funding from the Climate Change Action Fund). ○ Communities and Housing Services are leading on extensive housing regeneration projects which will include significant investment in retrofit of existing homes to reduce heat demand, alongside the broader work programme towards the EESH2 standard.
	Review the lifecycle replacement programme for Council buildings to consider how changes to current specifications could improve energy efficiency, piloting innovative materials and developing business cases to roll these out where appropriate	The Council is reviewing its design criteria for all new builds and extensive refurbishment for its nondomestic building stock. A proposal to undertake detailed energy modelling of Bridge of Weir Primary School to facilitate design and development of enhanced and integrated energy efficient 'Enerphit' refurbishment options was recently given funding by the Climate Change Action Fund.

		Bridge of Weir Primary Schools is an archetype of a number of Primary Schools in the portfolio and the modelling exercise/data will inform potential options for other properties across the school estate.
Waste	Work with staff and communities to maximise opportunities to eliminate unnecessary single use plastic use within the organisation and throughout Renfrewshire	Sustainable PPE: Waste collection teams are to be issued with carbon neutral PPE, with emissions from the manufacture of items being offset by provision of trees to be planted in Renfrewshire and tree planting in the Amazon rainforest. Washable snoods were also issued to collection teams at the start of the pandemic to reduce the need for single use masks.
	Continue to promote recycling awareness and availability of recycling facilities across Council buildings including schools and consider opportunities in relation to the reduction of food waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The programme to work within schools (from pre-COVID) to be restarted, with waste advisors to chat to children and young people. The programme is tailored to be different for primary and secondary schools, including a challenge relating to reducing your carbon footprint ○ Staff within the school estate and Council buildings to be retrained in recycling/waste reduction ○ A funding bid was submitted for recycling infrastructure to improve HWRCs to enable more compaction for cardboard to increase recycling, and remove temptation for residents to put in wrong skips if cardboard is full ○ An additional Recycling Officer for HWRCs is being recruited to reduce residual waste and increase recycling at HWRCs, with residents disposing of unsorted black bags having increased as a result of COVID
	Develop options for the promotion of the circular economy in Renfrewshire, which could provide opportunities to reuse and recycle surplus or end of life items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Deposit & Return Scheme in Scotland has been delayed beyond its initial commencement date of July 2022 as a result of the response to COVID. The introduction of this scheme will impact positively on the quality of material being recycled at kerbside and will also reduce litter and volume of materials in the grey bin ○ A waste analysis is scheduled to be carried out before the end of this financial year, currently at procurement stage. This will give data on the current average components of grey bins and enable targeted campaigns. The recycling bins for paper and card/plastics, glass and cans will also be analysed
Transport	Work with partners at a local, City Region and national level to consider low carbon integrated transport solutions – trains, buses, cycling and walking and the uptake of EVs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ City Deal and Infrastructure and Regeneration team are working with partners to consider sustainable bus solutions to AMIDS. AMIDS, GAIA and AMIDS South project all include active travel network infrastructure

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The City Region Transport portfolio group is preparing a feasibility study into a regional EV strategy and programme ○ E&I are continuing to access external funding opportunities to enhance the public transport and active travel offering to Renfrewshire residents, following a number of successful external funding bids in recent years, including securing £2M from the Bus Partnership Fund and £1M from the Clyde Mission Fund
	Promote the use of low carbon travel within the Council's workforce through the provision of electric pool vehicles and cycle to work schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Council took delivery of 26 fully electric vehicles (cars, light vans and 3.5 tonne vans) in 2021, taking the number of EVs in the Council fleet to 127. Nearly 30% of our car and light fleet use alternative fuel such as electric. 40 of these vehicles are electric pool vehicles, based at Renfrewshire House and the rest are at outlying areas throughout Renfrewshire. There are 23 charging bays based at Renfrewshire House to help support this network ○ A booking system is in place for staff to book pool electric vehicles / bikes (x10 mountain bikes and x3 electric). Further EV Depot charging Hubs are located at Underwood Road, HSCP Mile End Centre and Community Meals Service in Paisley
	Develop an electric vehicle plan for Renfrewshire, targeting opportunities to lever in additional funding to secure EV infrastructure, such as charging points, equipment and fleet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fleet Solutions Team have been working with Building Services, StreetScene and Waste teams to match requirements with planned EV demonstrations. Building Services are using two 3.5 tonne vans for their operations ○ To date, Renfrewshire Council (in partnership with Transport Scotland) have invested £1.8M in EV charging units throughout the Local Authority area. There are over 70 public EV charging bays planned in 2021/22 to support the ever-increasing demand for EV charging infrastructure ○ Workplace EV charging hubs are planned at Robertson Park Renfrew, Johnstone Town Hall, Montrose Car Home Paisley and Castle Semple Visitor Centre Lochwinnoch in 2021/22 that will allow the further roll-out of Electric Vehicles ○ A planned £250K is being invested at our main Underwood Road depot with a new electrical supply and transformer for further EV charging infrastructure
	Consider approaches being rolled out across other Local Authorities in relation to the promotion of better air quality, incl. the development of Low Emission Zones, which are also aiming to improve public health	<p>Air quality actions and monitoring results are reviewed, updated where required and reported annually to the Council Policy Board, Scottish Government and SEPA. Currently we have a network of 60 air quality monitoring sites across Renfrewshire.</p> <p>Our Air Quality Annual Progress Report (June 2021) confirmed there were no exceedances of air quality objectives anywhere within Renfrewshire during</p>

		<p>2020. Paisley Town Centre AQMA now has 6 x consecutive years of no exceedances of statutory objective levels and consideration will be given as to whether revoke or amend this AQMA.</p> <p>Scotland's National Low Emission Framework (NLEF) policy requires all local authorities with AQMAs to consider the implementation of LEZs to help in addressing transport related exceedances. Each local authority requires to undertake an initial Screening Assessment of existing action measures within the Action Plan; having done this initially in 2020 and based on our existing action plan measures and no exceedances during 2020, there is still no requirement to proceed to a Stage 2 LEZ Assessment. The Scottish Government have agreed with our conclusions - this will be reviewed on an annual basis.</p>
Engagement	<p>Introduce new mechanisms for engaging with citizens and businesses on potential responses to the climate emergency such as through Citizen's Assemblies or Climate Forums, incl. consideration of how to report the Council's progress on climate change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An extensive programme of engagement has been developed, which has included a recent climate survey to Renfrewshire's Public Services Panel and the wider Renfrewshire population which also served as the recruitment process for Renfrewshire Climate Panel who held their first meeting(s) on 9th November 2021. Renfrewshire Climate Panel will continue to meet over the coming months to consider the key issues around tackling the climate emergency and to identify the priority areas for Renfrewshire's response ○ E&I plan to carry out a public conversation to engage with residents on their transport priorities in Renfrewshire, with the overall aim being the reduction of road space available for private car travel
	<p>Actively engage with young people through the annual Youth Assembly, and involve young people in the Council's decisions on our climate change actions</p>	<p>Discussions are ongoing with colleagues in Youth Services on how best to time this work within their annual programme to maximise engagement opportunities and minimise the potential disruption due to the pandemic.</p> <p>Further to this, ongoing engagement has continued with colleagues in Children's Services to link with the excellent work taking place across schools in Renfrewshire. In addition, this work ties in with a programme of £70,000 of funding led by colleagues in Communities and Housing, for young people in schools to apply for funding for sustainable environment projects through the Council's Green Spaces, Parks and Play Areas and Villages Investment Fund.</p>
	<p>Engage at a regional and national level with other Local Authorities and agencies on these issues, incl. in relation to the delivery of COP26 in November 2020</p>	<p>Over the past 6 months officers have been engaging with a wide range of colleagues across other local authorities, the Improvement Service and COSLA and other national bodies, particularly in the run up to COP26 in November 2021</p>

Place	Put climate change at the heart of the new Economic Strategy and Skills Plan, working with businesses to lead by example and to demonstrate real change	<p>An Economic Recovery Plan is underway which will include plans for a green recovery and link closely to the Council's Climate Change ambitions. A new Green Economy Officer has been recruited that will work with the business base across key sectors to consider an approach to green growth and development – this will form a key element of our new placeshaping approach.</p> <p>Alongside this, funding was awarded from the Climate Change Action Fund for a project to encourage local businesses to cut emissions and their bills at the same time. 50% grant support (up to £10k per grant) will be offered to support local businesses to make changes to business premises and operations. For example, a move to low carbon heating systems, solar powered energy and other measures to reduce emissions. The grants will be delivered through the Economic Development Team in line with other similar business grant funds.</p>
	Use effective spatial planning to address climate change in line with legislation, the National Planning Framework and associated guidance, with a focus on adapting to and mitigating the impact of climate change through the planning process	<p>We are awaiting the publication of National Planning Framework 4 by Scottish Government. As previously advised within the context of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, the Scottish Government have set high level outcomes to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and to secure positive effects for biodiversity. Renfrewshire's Local Development Plan seeks to address climate change from a land use perspective.</p> <p>Officers from across Council services, incl. the Planning team, are engaged in implementing legislation, statutory environmental processes and relevant guidance to inform the decision-making process on development proposals</p> <p>In terms of adaptation, E&I have been working with key partners, such as Scottish Water and SEPA, to develop an annual programme of investment in drainage schemes to minimise the impact of severe weather events on our communities</p>
	Develop a Carbon Offset Plan for the Council, clearly articulating opportunities for activities such as additional tree planting and carbon sinks such as peat bogs and utilising Renfrewshire's rich biodiversity across areas such as Clyde Muirshiel	<p>Carbon offset will be a key component within Renfrewshire's Plan for Net Zero and will be taken forward as part of this programme of work.</p> <p>Tree planting is actively being progressed through links with a number of regional and national initiatives, including the Clyde Climate Forest, and peatland restoration was one of the pilot areas awarded funding from the Climate Change Action Fund by the Climate Change Sub Committee.</p>
	Consider proposals to introduce wildflower areas in Renfrewshire, and engage with local communities on initiatives which promote the awareness and use of green space	<p>Following engagement with communities on the creation of biodiversity areas in specific locations, the locations which received over 75% support will be taken forward with involvement of communities to develop into biodiversity areas over the next 3 years. The summer grass cutting is being completed and then biodiversity</p>

		preparations will be undertaken over the autumn/winter for the creation of 11 biodiversity areas, wildflower areas and a number of tree plantations.
Governance/ Innovation	Develop a Carbon Budget for Renfrewshire with community planning partners, gaining agreement on shared responsibilities and actions, recognising the presence of an international airport within the local authority area	Officers have formally engaged with the Community Planning Partners through the Executive Group to provide updates on the progress of the programme of work in relation to the climate emergency and to communicate the scale of the challenge to meet the targets for the whole area of Renfrewshire by 2030. The carbon budget element will be included in the wider Plan for Net Zero, which will include the quantifiable interventions required from all part of Renfrewshire – the Council, partners, businesses, stakeholders and communities – in order to meet the targets. As outlined below, alongside the formal Executive Group, a session was held with a range of community planning partners to take forward this work and recognise the importance of working together and sharing expertise and opportunities.
	Establish a new partnership forum to drive Renfrewshire-wide change on climate	An initial scoping session was held with a range of community planning partners in late summer to explore the appetite for a partnership forum. This was very well received and an informal network for sharing ideas, experiences and opportunities was the preferred option for moving forward. Another meeting is due to take place before the end of the year.
	Use the Council's sustainable procurement duties to consider all opportunities to reduce or offset carbon, including where possible through community benefits	Council procurement spend to be mobilised to support the climate emergency response and maximise the socioeconomic impacts which can be achieved through sustainable procurement duty. The Procurement team are engaging with Client Services to help set appropriate and proportionate carbon reduction targets within contracts and will also engage with suppliers to incorporate sustainability into contracts based on best practice. The Community Benefits Outcome Menu is under review and will be updated to incorporate additional lines under the heading "Environmental Initiatives".
	Develop a detailed adaptation plan for climate change, and ensuring the organisation has the capacity, skills and expertise to deliver a programme of work which will attract external investment/ funding wherever possible	The actions within this plan will form the framework for a broader strategy for tackling the climate emergency (now called Plan for Net Zero) for the Council, which will continue to be developed collaboratively across all Council services, over the coming months.

	Engage with industry and with academic institutions to develop possible opportunities to pilot new/ emerging technologies in Renfrewshire	<p>This links closely with the Economic Recovery Plan – working across sectors to maximise development opportunities, which will help to diversify Renfrewshire’s industries and support the future resilience of the area. Work is ongoing in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>The Climate Change Sub Committee recently agreed to fund a piece of work by consultant partners to establish Renfrewshire’s baseline emissions and also to highlight opportunities and potential (and quantifiable) interventions to help Renfrewshire meet its climate ambitions by 2030. This has recently been out to tender but unfortunately feedback from the suppliers was that due to their current workloads they were unable to resource this within our timescales – we are currently revisiting this to explore potential solutions.</p>
--	---	---

Appendix 2 – Community Climate Fund Draft Guidance

Renfrewshire's Community Climate Fund

A guide to the grant funding available for community groups and how to apply

Renfrewshire Council's Community Climate Fund is a £50,000 fund for community organisations based in Renfrewshire to develop localised, green community projects and initiatives which are tailored to the needs of individual communities.

The Community Climate Fund will provide small awards to community organisations to develop local projects and initiatives which align with Renfrewshire's drive to net zero, respond to the climate emergency and help build resilience within our communities from the impacts of climate change.

Grants are targeted at groups where a small amount of money can make a significant difference to enabling community participation.

It is anticipated that a number of the projects will advance equality of opportunity, tackling areas including food insecurity; healthy eating; and fuel poverty, as well improving health and wellbeing.

What We Will Fund

The aim of the Community Climate Fund is to support community organisations which aim to improve the lives of local people and build resilient communities through sustainable activities targeting the impacts of climate change and the climate emergency. This might include, but is not limited to:

- Costs associated with new models of land use which improve quality, dignity or sustainability, e.g. community gardens or edible borders which provide fresh fruit and vegetables
- Costs associated with enhancing local biodiversity and natural habitats such as planting (including tree planting), providing feeders, hedgehog tunnels, developing nature corridors, etc.
- Costs that support recruiting and/or retaining volunteers, or relevant training, e.g. local energy advisors, local food growing advisors, free local bike repair, community hire station for tools, local repair hubs, repair workshops, led walks or bike rides, cycling proficiency training
- Costs associated with premises, e.g. venue hire, for community climate events
- Cost associated with equipment to enable services, e.g. tools for hire stations, bike repair essentials, repair equipment, refrigeration for community kitchens
- Provision of support to be provided alongside local food growing advice, e.g. supply of planters, supply of appropriate seeds/plantings
- Costs associated with running information campaigns, engaging and consulting the local community to inform projects and initiatives

Costs associated with the direct purchase of food or energy or other direct financial support for households are not eligible.

Funding Criteria

Successful applications will require to demonstrate:

- an understanding of local need and how their project or initiative would meet this need
- how their project or initiative aligns with community resilience, adaptation or mitigation in response to the climate emergency and local climate change impacts
- inclusivity and easily accessible services, particularly targeting those most in need
- partnership working to signpost people to additional support

In addition, the geographical spread of applications will be considered in the allocation of awards.

Who Can Apply?

Any community or voluntary organisation with a constitution and a bank account can apply.

How Much Can I Apply For?

Grants of up to £3,000 are available. Applications over £3,000 will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Please note the total funding available within this fund is £50,000 – please do not apply for more than you will need for your project.

How Will Decisions Be Made?

1. Applications will be assessed by Council Officers against the criteria mentioned above in conjunction with a community representative.
2. Recommendations will then be submitted to Renfrewshire Council's Leadership Board for approval.

Key Dates

The Community Climate Fund will open on tbc and close on tbc.

Monitoring Outcomes

Council Officers will work with all successful applicants to monitor the outcomes delivered by projects and initiatives supported through the Fund, as part of a wider evaluation of the local response to the climate emergency in Renfrewshire.

The Application Process

Read the Community Climate Fund guidance. If you need more information or wish to discuss your application, please get in touch



Fill in the application form, making sure you demonstrate how you meet the criteria



Send your application to tbc@renfrewshire.gov.uk by tbc, together with the relevant bank statements, accounts and constitution



Your application will be assessed by Council Officers and decision-makers



We will get in touch to let you know if you've been successful within tbc weeks



If you are successful, you will be asked to agree the conditions of grant and payment arrangements will be made

Writing Your Application

The standard Voluntary and Community Organisations Grant Application Form is used to apply for the Community Climate Fund.

The [application form is available here](#) or please contact tbc if you would like a paper copy sent to you.

The form has guidance notes in the right-hand column to help you with what information to put in each box. The notes below provide further information about how to make the best use of the application.

Section 1 – Organisation Details

This section is for you to tell us about your organisation and what you do.

Section 2 – Project Proposal

This section is an opportunity to tell us about the project you would like funding for. This information will be used to decide on your application, so it is very important that you use this section to explain how you will meet the criteria for this fund.

Use the sections to tell us about:

- How you've identified the local need for your project
- What exactly you will do with the funding
- Who and how many people your project works with
- How you will know you are making a difference

Section 3 – Supporting Paperwork

This section is to make sure that you have included all the necessary supporting paperwork. Your application cannot be considered until you submit all of the correct paperwork. This includes:

- A bank statement less than three months old
- A copy of your most recent Annual Accounts or Income and Expenditure Statement. These should be less than 15 months old, dated and signed as approved. New organisations should submit estimates of income and expenditure for the first 12 months
- A copy of the organisation's current Constitution or Memorandum and Articles of Association, dated and signed

Section 4 - Declaration

If you are filling in a paper copy of the form to post, you can sign this section of the form. If you are doing the form online, a signature can be taken at a later date.