

ABCAN

Argyll & Bute
Climate Action Network



Welcome to the third quarterly newsletter from the Argyll & Bute Climate Action Network (ABCAN). The following information is a brief look at the wide variety of work undertaken between November 24 and January 25.

With Scottish Government funding and overseen by a collaboration between the Argyll & the Isles Coast & Countryside Trust (ACT), Argyll & Bute Third Sector Interface and Time for Change Argyll & Bute, the ABCAN Hub coordinates and builds on current climate activities and is led by local communities.

Healthy Happy Homes!

In January there was an ABCAN and Grey Matters Active Ageing collaborated event, Healthy Happy Homes, in Helensburgh which was well attended by the public. Those who made the trip to the Parish Church Halls had a chance to engage with representatives from the housing sector including Home Energy Scotland and Argyll & Bute Council, to obtain advice on reducing the energy consumption of their accommodation.

Heat Hacks also helped some community group to look at their specific building challenges, and the housing sector reps had a meeting to look at the barriers that make it hard to upgrade housing. Further work needs to be done around breaking down perceived home energy obstacles and tackling real barriers. **If you run a community building in Argyll and Bute and would like to attend an online event on how to make these buildings more sustainable please sign up at [Healthy Happy Community Buildings Tickets, Thu 20 Feb 2025 at 19:00 | Eventbrite](#)**



Officer reports

Kate & Brenna

Sustainable Food Partnership

The officers throughout Argyll and Bute have been working together to plan in person events titled: Food for Thought: Conversations Across Argyll & Bute. The plan is to deliver 4 events, one in each of the Argyll and Bute administrative regions over the course of late winter/spring.

- *The date and venue for the Bute & Cowal event is now confirmed! Contact below for more details or book directly by following the QRcode*



The Oban, Lorn, & the isles event is in the pipeline to run before the end of March so reach out to the team to be kept up to date with latest developments! More events coming soon too!

Brenna Anderson, Sustainable Food Development

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Kate Shaw, Oban, Lorn, and the Isles

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Sunday, February 23

Food for Thought: Conversations Across Argyll & Bute



Supporting the 'Connecting Communities Collective' Oban High School Jingles Event

ABCAN assisted an event that The Connecting Communities Collective organised in Oban at the Re:Store on George Street. The event was attended by around 60 Oban High Pupils. 89 items were taken by the young people, helping to save the purchase of new items that may end up being thrown away after one use! Skilled sewers and machinists were on hand to help adjust clothing before leaving the store. The event helped to highlight the damage of the disposable fashion industry, consider its climate impact, and encourage reuse and repair of clothing.



The Rockfield Centre Garden space

ABCAN has continued to support the development of TRC garden and have been working with a small local group to look at setting up a separate constituted group to be able to more easily access funding. Kate and Brenna attend garden sessions when possible and are very much enjoying the process of seeing this very central and valuable piece of ground become a naturally rich resource for Oban and beyond.

The first crops of onions and garlic were planted in November.

Lindsey

Local Place Plans

Lindsey is enjoying being involved in Local Place Plan creation across Helensburgh and Lomond and has a particular focus and role within the Cardross Place Planning Team. When submitted these place plans will help the council understand what places and buildings are important to communities and will take this into account when creating the next 10 year Local Development Plan.

Invasive species

Helensburgh and Lomond invasive plant species project continues to develop. Following the successful initial event in Cove Park Lindsey collaborated with Forth Environment Link to run a further event in January where we enjoyed learning about how the National Park is tackling riparian invasive species and got some top tips on in completing successful funding forms from Stuart at FEL. The next stage of this project is to create a steering group and an action plan for steps forward.



Education

ABCAN continues to support eco clubs in Cardross Primary and Hermitage Academy. Cardross Primary eco club is focussing on climate ready playgrounds and how they can help our local endangered animals and make our playgrounds more biodiverse. If your primary school would like some support with eco projects, please get in touch with lindsey@act-now.org.uk.

ABCAN is also involved with developing Future Learning Pathways, a project which hopes to produce a resource of all the STEM and climate learning experiences available across Argyll and Bute for children with the action to review, promote and identify gaps. This piece of work came about due to there being a gap between how many jobs are needed to get Argyll and Bute to net zero and how few people there are qualified to do those jobs in our local area.

In December Lindsey collaborated with the Grab Trust to deliver sessions across community groups and schools on how to have a more sustainable Christmas.



Future Learning Pathways



Repair and reuse

January also saw the first public event for those interested in creating a repair cafe for the Helensburgh and Lomond area. ABCAN is collaborating with the Helensburgh Community Hub and Jeans Bothy to create this project, funded by ABCAN seed funding, and we were delighted to see over 40 members of the community attend who had repair skills in one area or another. After further learning the project hopes to see a cafe established over the next 6 months. This will enable members of the community to come and have items repaired which will save them from landfill, save money and save the carbon footprint of a new item being purchased!

Marylou, Mark, & Nicola

Riverwoods

ABCAN decided to run this event on the back of feedback from Col-Glen and Kilfinan Parish communities place planning work with folk wanting to find out how climate change is impacting the local area and what we can do about it. We organised a film screening of the Riverwoods film along with a special presentation from the River Ruel Association telling us about their habitat and salmon restoration projects. We shared insightful discussion afterwards on the relationships between river, woods and sea with support from ACT woodland co-ordinator and members of Kyles Coastal Community. Members from Kilfinan Community Forest volunteer group have already been to visit the River Ruel project.



Kilfinan Parish place planning

ABCAN had a busy stall at the local producers' market in December gathering ideas and visions from the community around tackling impacts of climate change at a local level. We look forward to more focused events and workshops over Feb/March to feed into local place planning. These include workshops with the whole community around visioning our woodlands and local food ecosystems.

Col-Glen place planning

ABCAN officers visited and chatted with community members at the local Nordic walking and warm hub Wednesdays and with the community resilience groups. We're now at the end of our survey phase and are pleased with how this phase has gone and will continue to work with the local steering group to share results and co-produce goals. In Winter, officers ran two climate events and created a bespoke short survey with a climate lens. Although we had to cancel our Young Persons event due to inclement weather, we managed to engage face to face and through a bespoke survey we have reached 80% of targeted young people. We continue our work engaging with the local primary school and are supporting them look at climate ready school grounds and buildings and supporting them to implement some of their plans already through the prep and planting a living willow fedge along the side of the road and school playground which will create a safer space for the young people, build new habitat for the birds and beasts, create ongoing willow resources for play and craft projects and provide shade. The willow fedge will be planted at the end of Feb 2025.





The Lochgilphead climate cafe is the last Thursday of the month in the Snowdrop centre.

In Oban it's last Wednesday of the month in Hope Kitchen or St Johns church alternately.

A new ABCAN Steering group has been established, and we would be delighted to hear from you if you wish to join and contribute to this Climate Action Hub. For more details, please contact abcn@act-now.org.uk

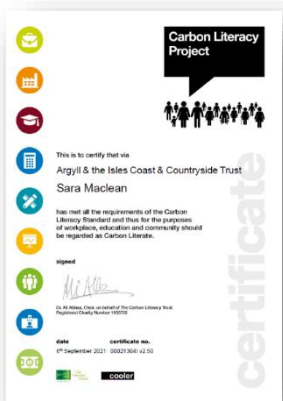
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‘Relevant climate change learning for everyone’.

Next training dates 20th and 27th of February!

ABCAN continues to offer free ‘Carbon Literacy for Argyll & Bute’ training, suitable for all residents.



This training covers the following topics with a specific focus on the needs of Argyll and Bute-

- The science behind climate change.
- Social equity & climate change.
- What you can do to act on climate change.
- Strategies and skills for communicating action on climate change.

Successful completion of the training, followed by a short assessment, awards a **Carbon Literacy Certificate**



This training can take place online, or face to face, and will take around 7 hours to complete, with an additional hour for assessment. Contact abcn@act-now.org.uk or scan the QR code.

Engage with ABCAN!

You can email any of the staff team or reach out at abcn@act-now.org.uk

Alternatively, you can call Jamie on **07943 020 241**

Join the free ABCAN online network by clicking [here](#).

Formal membership is free to individuals and organisations. The benefits of membership are available by clicking [here](#).