



**SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE TO
COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD OF 20th JANUARY 2022**

Date of last meeting: 1 December 2021

MAIN CURRENT FOCUS OF THE SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERSHIP

Supporting sustainable development, partner collaboration and the Ayrshire Regional approach to climate change.

PROGRESS UPDATE

At the last meeting the Partnership heard from Alastair Kay of NHS Ayrshire and Arran about the both national NHS and NHS Ayrshire and Arran Sustainability and Climate Change Strategies. Health links to sustainability with all Sustainable Development Goals influencing and being influenced by health. Rapid change is required to reduce the NHS carbon footprint. Current figures show a reduction of 35% of carbon emissions since 2015/16. There is still a long way to go however to reach the targets for 2030, 2040 and net zero for 2045. Covid-19 has had a major impact and has meant rapid changes in the way the NHS delivers services with some positives but also some negatives with a sharp increase in PPE and single use products. Whilst the NHS has a big carbon footprint, other sectors associated with health also present huge – or even bigger – footprints such as the pharmaceutical sector. The NHS also recognises its influence on local communities and ability to make a positive difference by purchasing more locally and for social benefit, using buildings and spaces to support local communities, widening access to quality work, reducing its environmental impact and working more closely with local partners.

The partnership also discussed COP26 at the last meeting. Partners had been involved in a range of events, many of them virtual but some attending in person. This included the NHS conference which took place online during COP26. There are also a number of post COP events and initiatives still to come. This, at the time of the last meeting, included the SSN annual conference which took place on 8 December and was attended by several partnership members. Most notably the conference heard from Chris Stark regarding the recommendations of the Committee on Climate Change and how Scotland was progressing relative to these. This will provide useful input for future partnership discussions.

Other updates were also provided on Nethermills Hydro project by the Energy Agency, on various ongoing projects by the South Ayrshire Rangers Service, and on Sustainable Travel Projects by Ayrshire Roads Alliance.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

The Ayrshire Officers Network continues to take forward the work of the partnership on a pan Ayrshire basis and make linkages across different partnerships and boards. The network now has a vision and mission, but the detail of how we resourcing the network to allow it to progress still needs to be tied down. Key aspects in support of many partners public sector duties will depend on this. Partners are asked to consider how their organisations can contribute.

A number of consultations are open and partners may wish to consider contributing to these, including those on the NHS Scotland Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy 2022 to 2026 and the NHS Ayrshire and Arran Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy 2021 – 2032.

Report Completed by:

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