



**SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE TO
COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD OF 31st MARCH 2022**

Date of last meeting: 23 February 2022

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 focused on rising energy costs and the implications for our organisations and communities, including support available. New patterns and trends are emerging as the landscape changes, and this is an issue the partnership will continue to revisit and look to collaborate on. Andrew Todd, SAC Ranger, updated the partnership on the work ongoing to develop a comprehensive natural health app which will allow overview, profiling of and access to a wide range of natural health opportunities throughout South Ayrshire. This work has been collaborative both in terms of funding and approach to development. Other updates were also provided including in relation to the Earth Hour 2022 campaign which culminates on 26 March and the opening of Nethermills Hydro.

On 28 February partners were delighted to see the formal opening of the Nethermills Hydro Scheme with ribbon cutting and screw finally turning. This project, the potential for which was first identified and explored by the Council's then Energy Officer, Andy Marnie, in the late 90s, has been driven forward and delivered by the Energy Agency through a highly collaborative approach with a wide range of partners, the College ultimately benefiting from the guaranteed secure, low cost green energy supply and all money generated providing for fuel poverty projects. This is exactly the sort of innovative project required to tackle the climate crisis with a plethora of well thought out co-benefits delivering for local people and the environment. The Ayrshire Officers Network made a site visit before the opening and discussed the key learning points. The overwhelming take away was the need for more projects like this between now and 2030 if Ayrshire is to meet its targets and aspirations, and from that observation the need to learn lessons from this project to allow the pace and scale of project development and delivery to be dramatically increased individually and collaboratively by all of us.

The Sustainability Partnership will next meet in June with the Ayrshire Officers Network planning to meet in the coming weeks. It should also be noted that pan Ayrshire work is now underway to commission the development of an Ayrshire Energy Masterplan which has been brought forward through the Clean Growth Workstream. A Climate Champions scheme is also being developed by UWS with external funding drawn down by SAC. This will engage with 20 local organisations to support them on their climate journey. These projects will be ongoing over the coming months.

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.

Report Completed by:

Officer: Lorna Jarvie
Date: 23/3/2022