COLONSAY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

CCDC Board Meeting
22nd May 2025

Document Pack

Public

Please note that not all items on the agenda have supporting papers

Confidential items (e.g. relating to staffing) are not published in public

COLONSAY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

Board Meeting

Thursday 22 May 2025 at 7pm – Colonsay Village Hall and by Zoom

Please note that times are approximate. * means associated paper

Agenda

Public

1.	19:00	Attendance and apologies	
2.	19:02	Minutes of last meeting and matters arising	
3.	19:05	Declarations of interest	
4.	19:07	Monthly Bulletin*	Dannie
5.	19:10	Ben Sgoiltaire allocation*	Darragh/ Carrie
6.	19:15	Scalasaig update	Carrie/ Dannie
7.	19:20	Local Place plan report*	Dannie
8.	19:25	Carbon Neutral Island report*	Maggie
9.	``19:35	Fuel Supplies report*	Callum
10.	19:40	Machair Wind update	Dannie
11.	19:45	AOCB	

DONM

Private

12.	19:50	Minutes of last meeting and matters arising	
13.	19:52	Declarations of interest	
14.	19:55	Financial updates	Carrie/ Callum
15.	20:00	Bookkeeping – authorisations*	Callum
16.	20:05	Stone arisings disposal	William/ Dannie
17.	20:15	Fuel supplies – for noting*	Callum
18.	20:15	AOCB	

24 April 2025 - PUBLIC MINUTES DRAFT

Attending: Callum Hay (CH), Dannie Onn (DO), William Joll (WJ), Andrew Abrahams (AA), Lesley McInnes (LM)

Apologies: William Young (WY), Darragh Keenaghan (DK), Helen Mann (HM), Linsay Chalmers (LC), Carrie Seymour (CS), Lizzie Keenaghan (LK)

Minutes of last meeting agreed and signed.

Matters Arising – the Radio 4 reporters visit has happened and to thank all that were involved.

Declarations of Interest: None.

Monthly Bulletin:

Circulated prior to the meeting. DO suggested that the monthly bulletin be used to update the website every month. The board agreed. CS is now set up as administrator for the colonsay.org website.

Scalasaig Report:

Circulated prior to the meeting. The opening event was considered a great success. Helen Bain and Morag Goodfellow from HIE seemed very impressed by the development.

Local Place Plan Report:

Circulated prior to the meeting. The board noted the content and the date of the public meeting. Caitlin McNeill has volunteered to be involved with the publication of the LPP and will be available on 10 May. Other directors and staff are encouraged to attend. CH took part in a seminar, which identified the importance of having a local place plan on development ambitions and future funding.

Machair Wind Update:

There has been further progress with SPR's local Machair engagement group. Our local representative group has asked for senior decision makers at SPR to visit the island to have a better understanding of the impacts here and this is being considered. The first round of Public Consultation will be on 4 June 2025 in the village hall. There will be a second event in August.

AOCB:

Surf Award – have requested that CCDC do a presentation on 1 May in Edinburgh. CH has volunteered to do this.

The Babtist Manse – tenants plan to depart this summer. Therefore, decisions on how to upgrade the house and grounds will be the next project that needs to be addressed. RIHF may have grants for retro fitting and upgrading existing houses – LK looking into this. CH suggested that big projects may not be funded but interim funding for smaller works may be available. DO will bring a project plan to the next board meeting.

A private mooring on the north side of Queens Bay is coming up for sale and the owner has spoken with DO to see if the community would be interested in buying. CH concern is maintenance, moorings are marginal at best regarding the funding that they bring in and asked whether the owner would donate it to the community? DO to contact MOWI to explore the condition of the mooring and its maintenance before we make a decision.

DONM: Thursday 22 May 2025

COLONSAY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

Community Bulletin - May 2025 DRAFT

Ben Sgoiltaire croft

Another big success for our community - Ben Sgoiltaire croft has now been allocated. The successful applicants and soon-to-be Colonsay residents are Kate Ives and Murray Woodward and their son Fraser. We look forward to welcoming them to their new home once all the legal work and practicalities have been sorted.

[Insert picture if applicants agree?]

We thank the interview panel (Andrew Abrahams, Diane Clark, Darragh Kenaghan, Amy Millard and Carrie Seymour) for their time and effort assessing applications and conducting interviews, and to Will Young for helping entertain the children.

This project would never have happened without the foresight and wisdom of Darragh and the hard work and commitment of Lizzie Keenaghan as our project coordinator. And of course, a generous grant from the Scottish Land Fund and MOWI.

Scalasaig housing

The official opening of An Faire Mor was held on 9th April. Supported and organised by MOWI it was a splendid day (also helped by the amazing weather) with lots of local folk coming to witness the cutting of the ribbon and to take part in a street dance version of Strip the Willow. The ribbon was cut by Argyll & Bute MSP Jenni Minto and was attended by representatives of Argyll and Bute Council, MOWI, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and TSL Contractors. After the ceremony and a few words from Callum, all headed down to the village hall for a buffet lunch provided by The Pantry and Colonsay Smokery. The event was broadcast on BBC Alba and covered in the local press.

The community-owned developments at Scalasaig continue to attract attention. CCDC has been shortlisted for an award in the SCVO annual Charity Awards with a gala ceremony in Glasgow in June. We were nominated by our MSP Jenni Minto and are delighted that Jenni will be joining us at the event.

Directors and Staff have been busy representing the community achievements at Argyll and Bute Council and Scottish Government committees. There has been great press coverage and national radio interest.

We have also been invited to contribute to the committee stage examination of Part 1 of the Land Reform Bill and are asked to provide further representations in June. Our efforts on behalf of the community are making quite an impact.

Fuel supplies

You may have noticed that our coal and gas supplies are now being stored at our business unit site on Colonsay Business Park. New storage facilities are on their way. Please continue to buy your coal and gas through the Service Point. We would like to thank Colonsay Estate for allowing use of their Coal Righ for this community-led service over so many years.

In other news - we now have planning permission for the pay-at-pump installation and will be placing the order for the new kit as soon as grant funding is formally approved and final specifications agreed.

In our last bulletin, we announced that Callum Hay will be leaving CCDC this year, having managed our fuel supplies for the last few years. Callum joins a line of previous community stalwarts who have given freely of their time to looked after our community fuel supply for decades. We would like this to continue, not least to keep the prices down. We are therefore looking for one or two people to step in and oversee the ordering of stocks and the maintenance of the equipment. Full training will be given. Please look out for further advertising of this role. Callum is particularly keen to hear from anyone soon, so they can join the filling station project and help shape the new design.

Local Place Plan

The introductory event was held in the Village Hall on 10 May. It was led by Dannie Onn, with help on Community Plan preparation from Caitlin McNeill. The presentation was well-attended. Around 30 residents came to learn what a Local Place Plan is, what it will do for our community and how it will be prepared. In particular, the plan will locate our Community Plan projects and other land use matters into the maps and policies of the Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan.

Some initial discussions have already taken place with the Heritage Trust and the Tourism Marketing Group. There will be further engagement with them and with employers on the island. There will also be engagement with non-domestic landowners and, of course the wider community. A draft plan will be prepared over the next couple of months.

Carbon Neutral Islands

Our first Carbon Community Action Plan (CCAP) has now been published. Maggie Fay prepared the plan for us alongside Community Energy Scotland based on all the community feedback from the Climate Café weekend held earlier this year. Maggie continues her employment with CCDC under a further funding agreement. Key projects for the coming

year include investigating funding for: reviving the e-bikes project; enhancing the resilience hub at the Village Hall; and reducing dependency on fossil fuels in homes, businesses and community buildings with an initial emphasis on cooking and space heating.

Machair Wind

The group representing Colonsay Community are in discussion with Machair Wind/ Scottish Power Renewables (SPR) about the statutory consultations coming up this year. This will consist of two visits to the island to present the wind farm proposals in more detail, the first on 4 June and the next probably in August. There may also be a visit from SPR executives this summer. Please look out for further postings on these important events. We hope you will all be able to attend and see for yourself the impact that the turbines etc would have.

Playpark

You may have noticed that the basket swing is out of use. There are also signs of deterioration elsewhere. The equipment is still under warranty, and we have been in touch with Caledonia Play to provide replacement parts. We hope that the play area will be fully operational in the near future.

Visitor Moorings

The summer buoys are back in place and open for business. Our thanks to MOWI local team for organising the installation and checks.

If you would like any further information on any of our work, please talk to one of our directors; get in touch at the Service Point (drop in or call 200244); or email to contactccdc1@gmail.com

Dannie Onn

COLONSAY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

PROJECT REPORT – Local Place Plan

Project	Local Place Plan			
Report Compiled by	Dannie Onn			
Reporting Period	May 2025			
Project Status	Previous Status:		Current Status:	

1. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY SINCE LAST REPORT

The introductory event was held in the Village Hall on 10 May. It was led by Dannie Onn, with help on Community Plan preparation from Caitlin McNeill. The presentation was well-attended. Around 30 residents came to learn what a Local Place Plan is, what it will do for our community and how it will be prepared. In particular, the plan will locate our Community Plan projects and other land use matters into the maps and policies of the Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan.

Some initial discussions have already taken place with the Heritage Trust and the Tourism Marketing Group. There will be further engagement with them and with employers on the island. There will also be engagement with non-domestic landowners and, of course the wider community. A draft plan will be prepared over the next couple of months.

A further report will be brought to the board in late June with an example of how the plan might shape up. A report will be given to the next CCC meeting. The community will be kept informed via our monthly bulletins.

2. KEY ISSUES

There are no issues requiring discussion or resolution at this meeting. The important issues at this stage are: engaging with the community and relevant bodies; removing barriers to involvement; making clear the purposes and limitations of the process; and keeping accurate records of the process. A file will be opened in the office for key documents.

3. FORMAL APPROVALS / DECISIONS REQUIRED

None

4. NEXT REPORTING PERIOD ACTIVITIES

- Share the presentation with those unable to attend
- Prepare a draft LPP map and example policies based on the LDP
- Advise Argyll and Bute Council on progress.
- Schedule further meetings with representative bodies, landowners, and stakeholders

5. APPENDICES

None

COLONSAY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

PROJECT REPORT – CARBON NEUTRAL ISLANDS

Project	Carbon Neutral Islands - CNI – Phase II			
Report Compiled by	Maggie Fay			
Board reporting dated	22.05.2025			
Project Status	Previous Status:		Current Status:	

1. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY SINCE LAST REPORT

Background

In August 2024 Colonsay was accepted as one of the islands that will participate in the next phase of the Carbon Neutral Islands programme, led by Community Energy Scotland (CES).

CES provided funding support to enable CCDC to appoint a Project Officer, Maggie Fay, to deliver an initial carbon audit and community action plan by the end of March 2025. The funding for the post ended on 31.03.2025.

Progress

Colonsay Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP)

This document, the outcome of the first phase of the project, has been sent to and approved by the Scottish Government. Print copies will be available at the Service Point in the next few weeks. A PDF copy is attached . NB the CNI website is currently being updated so a digital version is not currently available on the CNI site.

Home Energy Scotland (HES) : A further raft of assessments were completed in March and included Beinn Sgoltaire plus 3 households living in tide properties belonging to Colonsay Estate. CCDC has received the report on Beinn Sgoltaire

Funding for 2025/2026

The project has received funding from CES for this financial year .Maggie Fay is continuing as Project Officer and a draft Proposal form for priorities based on the Colonsay Community Climate Action Plan has been submitted to CES (please see attached document).

COLONSAY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

PROJECT REPORT – CARBON NEUTRAL ISLANDS

2. KEY ISSUES

- None

3. FORMAL APPROVALS / DECISIONS REQUIRED

Directors are asked to:

- note SG approval of the CCAP, and approve publication of the CCAP on the CCDC website in due course
- note the proposed CNI programme for the current year as appended to this report for approval (and/or suggested amendments)

4. NEXT REPORTING PERIOD ACTIVITIES

- Prioritisation of project work
- Report progress and potential funding sources for projects

5. APPENDICES

- CCAP (low resolution version)
- Proposed CNI work programme 2025-26

Carbon
Neutral
Islands

Colonsay

Community Climate Action Plan

Author: Maggie Fay

March 2025

Photo @Carrie Seymour

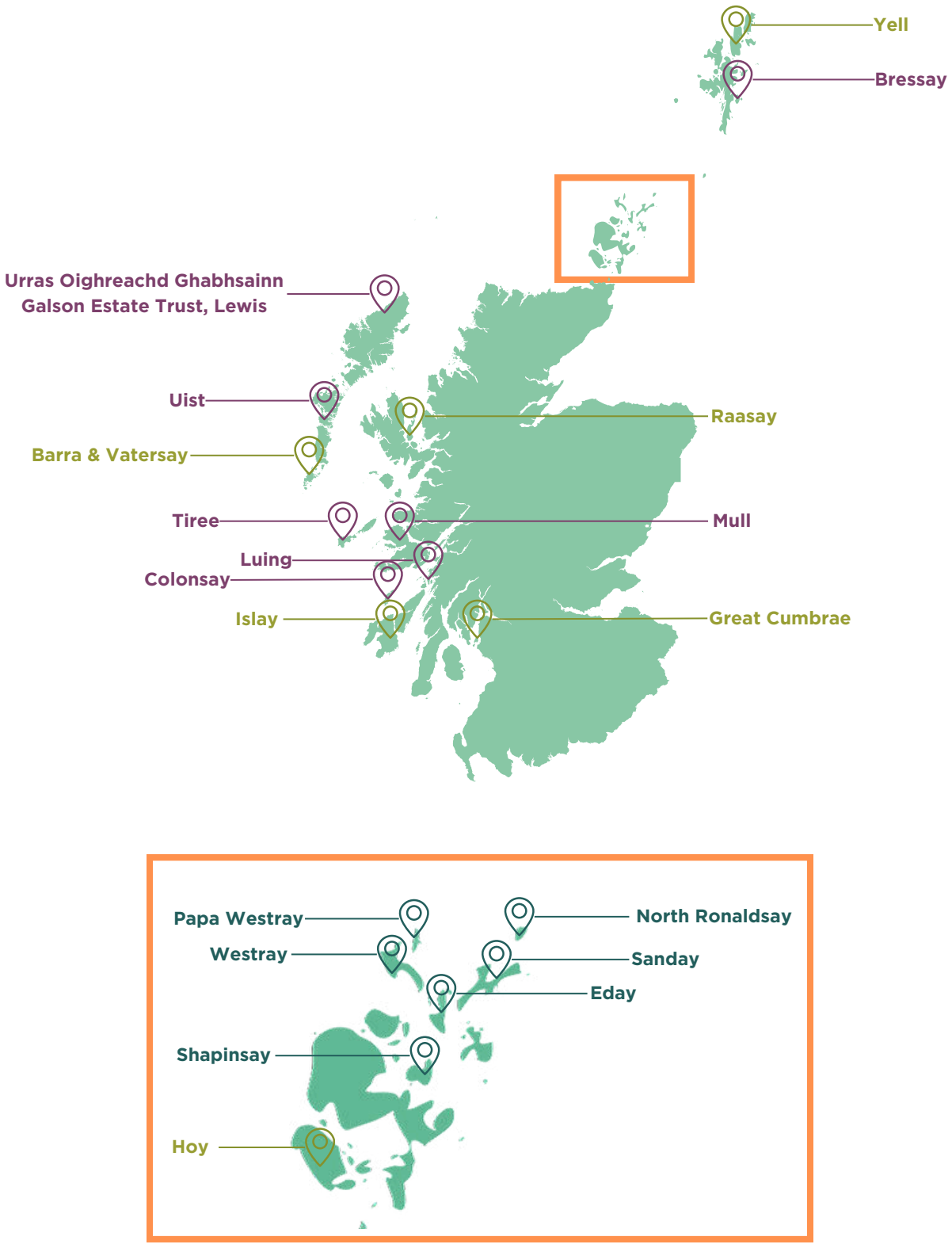
Community Energy Scotland

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

COLONSAY
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
COMPANY

THE ISLANDS SCOTLAND ACT 2018
ACHD NAN EILEAN ALBA 2018

The Carbon Neutral Islands



Key

- Original Six Islands
- Community of Practice
- Community of Practice: Orkney Cluster

The Carbon Neutral Islands Project

The Carbon Neutral Islands (CNI) project started in 2022 to support six islands—Barra & Vatersay, Hoy & Walls, Cumbrae, Islay, Raasay, and Yell—become carbon neutral by 2040 using a community-led approach. These islands are seen as examples for others, and the lessons from their work will be shared with all Scottish islands and beyond.
In 2024, the Scottish Government provided funding for 15 more islands to join communities of practice, led by CES, to engage with their residents, complete carbon audits, and create climate action plans. The project supports broader efforts to achieve net zero emissions and contributes to Scotland's legal goal of reaching net zero by 2045.

What is carbon neutral?

A carbon neutral island is an island where the greenhouse gas emissions are in balance with what the 'sinks' can absorb. Sinks can be natural resources that absorb CO2 (like trees or soils) or technological solutions that do the same thing (carbon capture and storage). If an island's sinks—such as its forests—remove more CO_2 than the emissions produced by activities on the island, then it becomes carbon-negative.

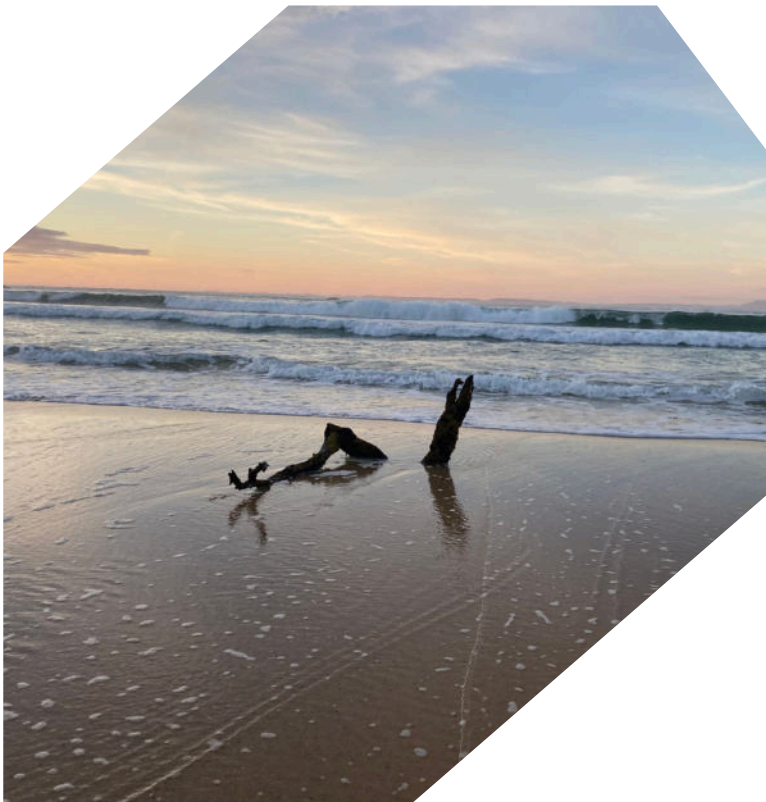
Decarbonisation means reducing or stopping carbon emissions. For example, by walking or cycling instead or driving.

Decarbonisation is a big part of tackling climate change globally, but it also brings local benefits. Community climate actions can lower costs for households and businesses, improve health and living conditions, create new job and training opportunities and help create more resilient communities.

What we're working on

Colonsay engaged in the community of practice, represented by Maggie Fay from Colonsay Community Development Company. The outputs for Colonsay's involvement in this project are:

- Community Climate Action Plan
- Home Energy Assesments completed by Home Energy Scotland on eligible properties
- Community events to scope ideas for adaptation and mitigation



Our island context

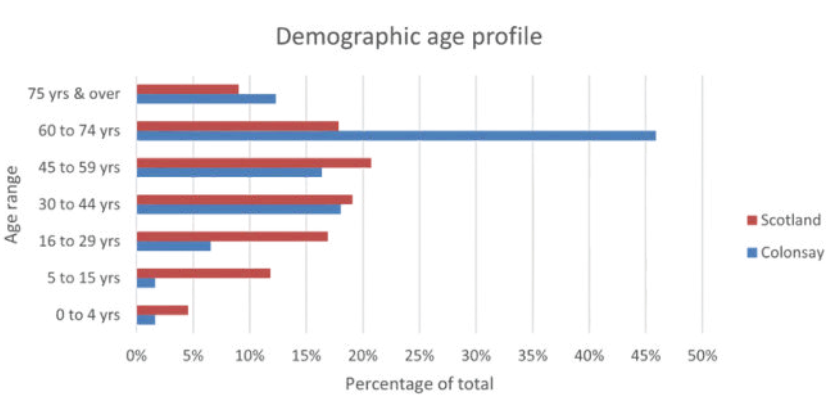
Colonsay and Oransay

Colonsay, linked by a tidal causeway to Oronsay, is part of the Inner Hebrides off Scotland's west coast, situated between Mull to the north and Islay and Jura to the south, within the Argyll and Bute Council area. These islands span approximately 10 miles by 2 miles and are celebrated for their stunning sandy beaches, rugged rocky shorelines, several lochs, rolling machair, and remarkable flora.

Colonsay is a haven for bird enthusiasts, with over 240 recorded species, including the rare red-billed chough, found only here and on Islay in Scotland. The islands' natural beauty and biodiversity make them a cherished destination for nature lovers and conservationists. North and South Colonsay and the tidal island of Oransay are designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

The population is 122 (Scotland Census, 2022).

Population and age



Key issues

- Lack of affordable housing
- Aging and declining population
- Unreliable transport links

Main Industries

- Farming
- Tourism

The island has a small primary school, a hotel, a shop and post office, a cafe, two seasonal galleries and a seasonal tearoom. On the western side of the island there is a crofting community

Community vision

Nature and Biodiversity: To protect and celebrate our unique natural environment and biodiversity that exists on Colonsay and Oransay

Population and Housing: To increase our declining and ageing population by providing affordable housing and local job opportunities.

Energy: To become a community that is less reliant on fossil fossil fuel based heating systems and transition to become a community which uses low carbon forms of energy for heating. To continue to collaborate with partner organisations to improve energy efficiency and reduce fuel costs in islanders homes.

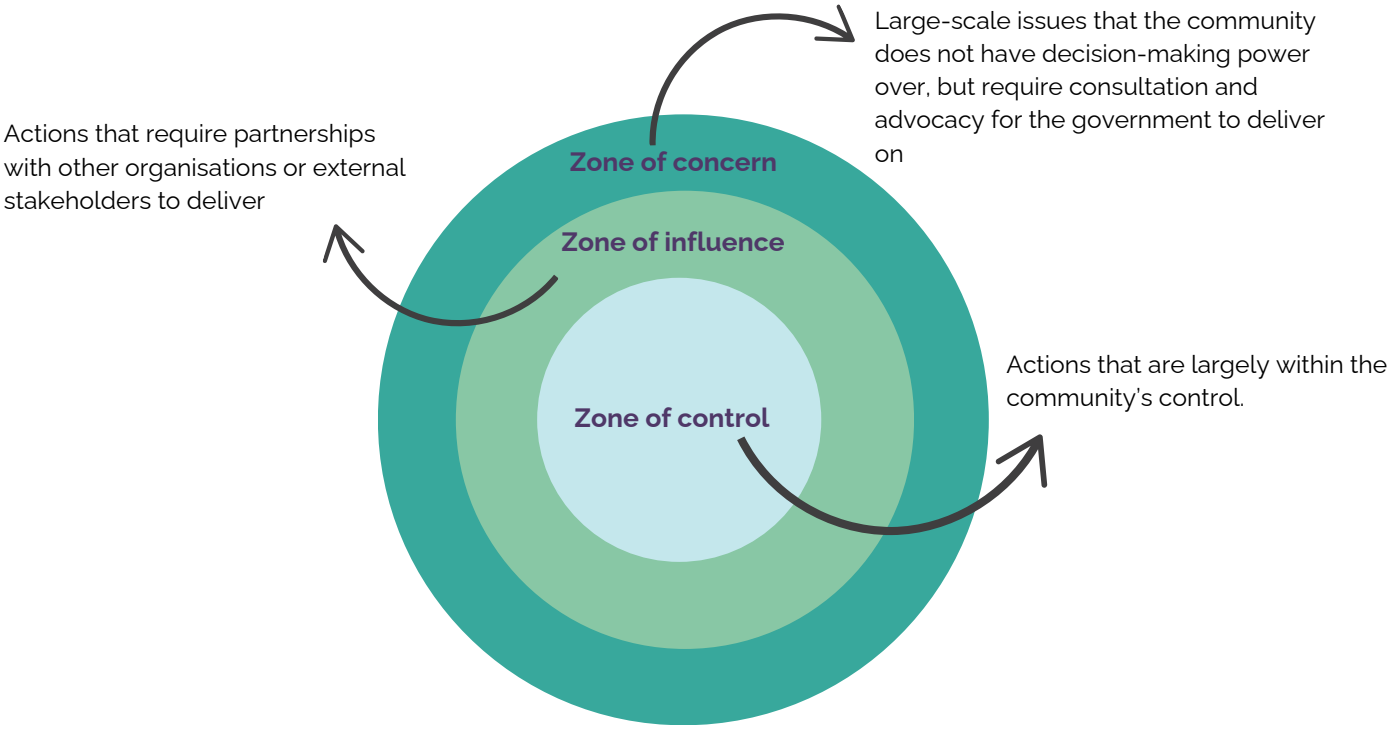
Transport on Colonsay: To become a community that has the infrastructure to support electric vehicles and where shared forms of transport are available for all.

Food: To become more self reliant as a community in the supply of food and having access to food growing spaces.

The Zones of Control

This action plan prioritises actions within the community's direct control while recognising areas we can influence or are concerned about. When we can separate and understand what level of influence we can have on an issue, it allows resources and energy to be more efficiently allocated.

For example, promoting cycling and walking instead of car use is within our control. Building new walking and cycling paths falls under our influence, while moving to low-carbon ferries is a national issue beyond the community's direct control but is still important to work towards and be involved in.



Based/adapted from Stephen Covey's Circle of Influence and Circle of Concern - "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People"

Climate change and Colonsay and Oransay

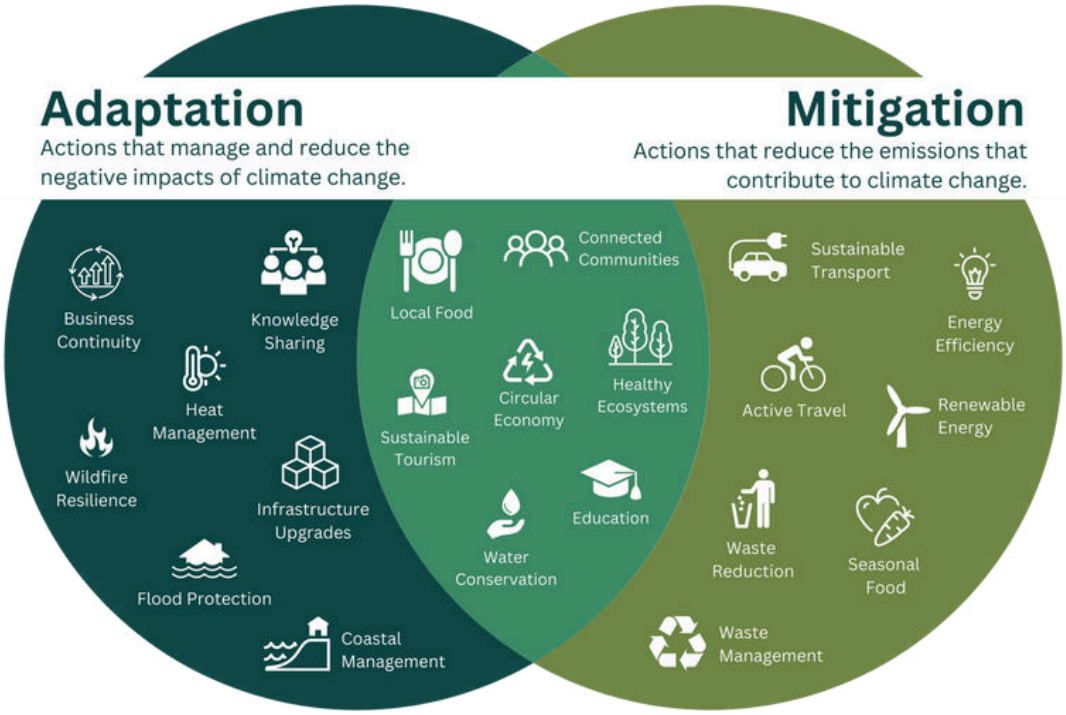
Colonsay and the tidal island of Oransay measure 10 miles by 2 miles and are situated far out into the Atlantic Ocean , on the Western side the only land fall between Colonsay and Canada is the Du Hirteach lighthouse. Being an island on the edge of the Atlantic, with a climate protected by the Gulf Stream any change in the natural environment is experienced in an acute way, having a direct impact on the diverse and unique flora and fauna of the island. One local resident, Andrew Abrahams, has been farming oysters and bees on Colonsay for nearly 50 years and has given anecdotal evidence of the impact of climate change from his own experience. →

"The prevailing wind direction was predominantly from the SW. This has changed with many gales from the SE. The beaches on the eastern side of the Strand where I farm oysters have become heavily eroded. Large area of dunes have been ripped out. The old system of farming the oysters on low trestles has become impossible, as they become buried by the sand. Sea water temperatures have risen by around 2 degrees C average. Further warming of the oceans is likely to bring catastrophic consequences (toxin blooms, eutriphication events [excess richness of nutrients], loss of Gulf Stream). Bee farming has become more difficult due to cooler, wetter summers. Lack of winter frosts and the large reduction of the cattle herd on Colonsay is allowing the spread of bracken. Hundreds of hectares of good heather ground is being lost each year to bracken spread . This will have a large impact on island biodiversity as well as honey yield."

This plan includes action in two key areas:

Adaptation – Actions to manage and reduce the negative effects of climate change.
Mitigation – Actions to reduce the emissions that cause climate change.

The diagram below shows how adaptation and mitigation often work together. Both are essential for reducing risks from changing weather and building stronger, more resilient communities.



Adapted from Highland Adapts, available at: https://highlandadapts.scot/

Colonsay's carbon audit

A carbon audit is a process that measures the amount of greenhouse gas emissions that are produced by an island.

Community Energy Scotland conducted a carbon audit for Colonsay to establish our baseline emissions and help to identify priority areas for decarbonisation and track progress toward carbon neutrality.

These audits, made possible by the cooperation of local residents and businesses, measure emissions and sinks for the key sectors of **Energy** and **Transport.**

Methodology Overview

The energy and transport audits use the globally recognised methodology [1]. This standard helps communities identify, measure, and report emissions consistently. The audits provide a baseline to understand emission sources, plan reduction strategies, and track progress over time. Detailed methods for each sector are included in the carbon audit reports.

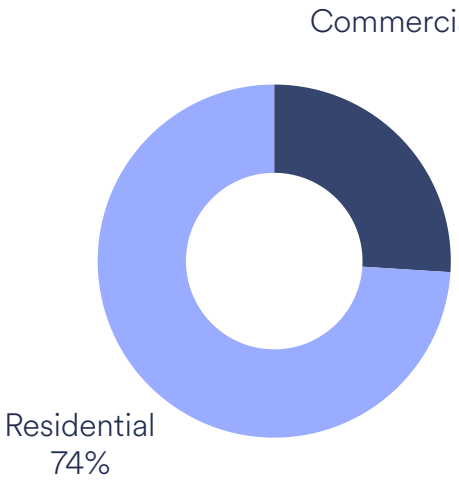
Key Findings

The graphs on the following page show emissions from Energy and Transport, providing an overview of current emission levels on Colonsay. The audit results show that ferries contribute significantly to the island's carbon emissions. While decarbonising them is important and requires advocacy from local people, it lies within the zone of concern and is beyond the community's direct control to address. Therefore this plan focuses on actions the community can implement themselves.

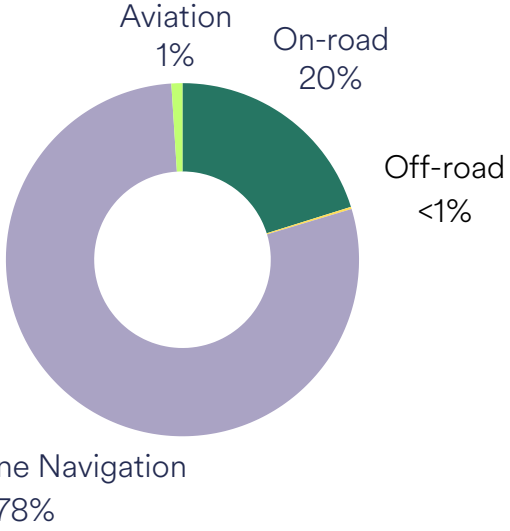
1 - 2021 Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Inventories, aligned with the 2019 IPCC guidelines.

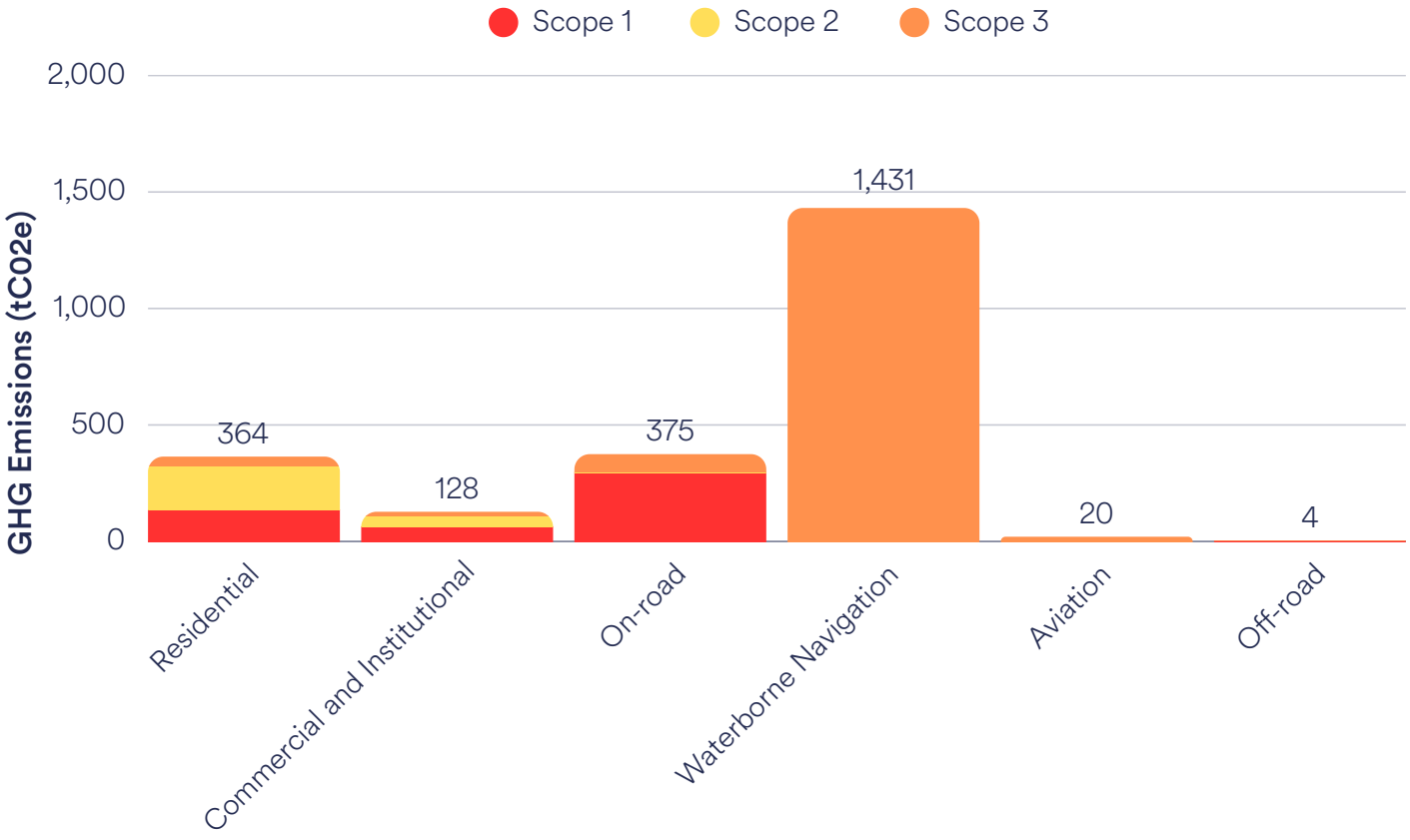
Colonsay GHG Emissions

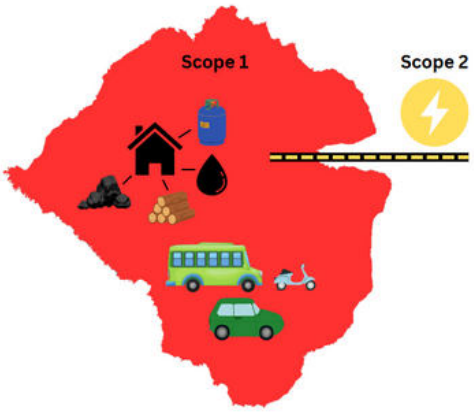
Energy

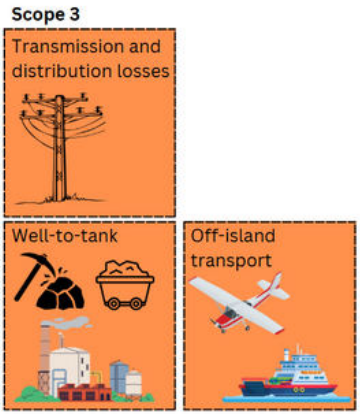


Transport









This carbon audit is using 2023 as the baseline year. Figures are based on 2023 data wherever possible. Please note, figures may be subject to alterations if improved data becomes available. All GHG emissions have the units tC02e (metric tonnes C02 equivalent) unless otherwise specified. Emissions from the agriculture, forestry and fishing activities has not been included yet as the information is not easily available. This will be updated once available.

Community input

December 2024

CNI project introduced to Colonsay via leaflets and social media.

Households referred to HES for home energy assemenets

February 2025

Colonsay Climate weekend:

Day 1:
Climate cafe with speakers and round table discussions.

Day 2: film screening and Q &A followed by community meal featuring local produce.

Participants in the weekend vote on their top 5 ideas

March 2025

Information analysed and summarised

Results shared with the community for feedback

Based on the engagement, information on the community's priorities was collected and an initial impact/effort analysis was done to assess the project ideas that came out.

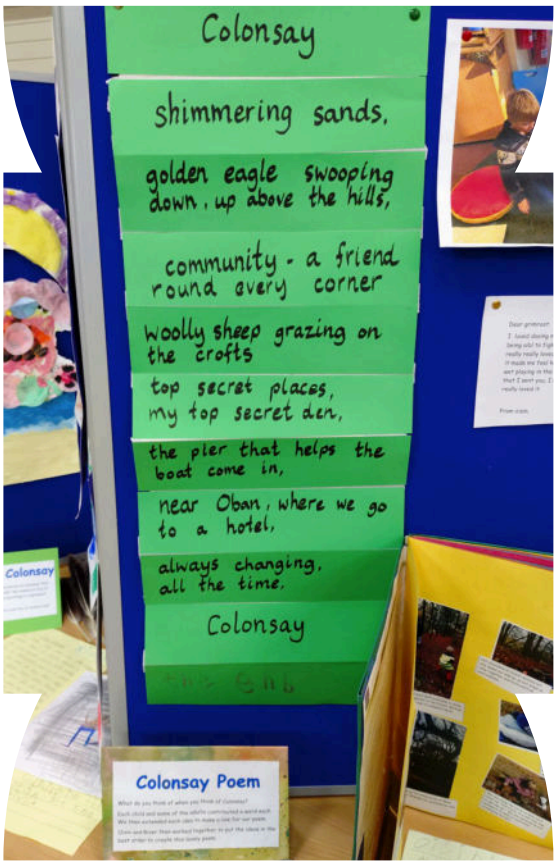
The next section summarises the top ideas for action within each sector and gives an idea of the impact they would have and an indication of their cost.

Colonsay Climate cafe with displays from the RSPB, The Woodland Trust, HES and Argyll and Bute Council.. People were able to enjoy cake made from local eggs, honey and carrots.

Ideas generated from the faciliated round table discussion on energy

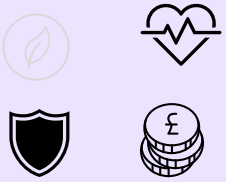
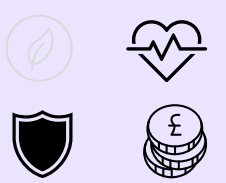
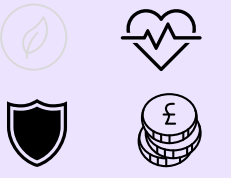
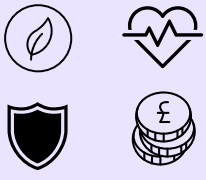
The Community Supper featured local produce. People were invited to try these pea shoots, grown by a crofter in their Polycrub.

Kilchatten Primary School children shared their thoughts on why they love Colonsay "The sea caves are my favourite place because I love the murky darkness"



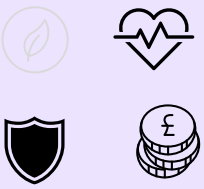
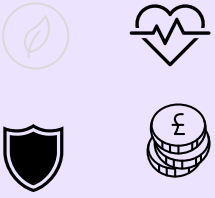
Energy

- The carbon audit identified that 43% of the energy used in residential properties on Colonsay comes from heating oil and coal. The local service point supplies coal as ovoids, and propane gas.
- The electricity supply for the island comes from Islay via an undersea cable. Colonsay regularly experiences power cuts as a result of storm damage to electricity supply lines, both on the island and on Islay.
- Assessors from Home Energy Scotland (HES) have completed assessments on residential properties with the aim of identifying measures to improve energy efficiency and as a result, reducing energy costs and GHG emissions.
- Colonsay Estate has a privately owned 100kW wind turbine, which supplies Colonsay House, with the surplus being sold to the grid.
- The community is engaged with Scottish Power Renewables (SPR) regarding community benefits from the proposed Machair Windfarm.

Activity	CO2 saving	Co-benefits	Cost
Explore options for future community renewable energy projects including wind, solar, tidal and battery storage			
Transition from fossil fuel based heating for homes and business to energy from renewables to decrease our GHG emissions.			
Explore opportunities to improve home insulation and energy efficiency by working in partnership with HES to assess properties and explore grant applications and how these could be facilitated and coordinated.			
Enhance energy security and reliability by strengthening grid infrastructure and exploring local energy storage and generation solutions for community benefit.			

Transport

- Colonsay has a single track road. There is no bus service. During the holiday season a bike hire business operates.
- There are electric vehicle charging points at Colonsay Estate, at the Pier, the Hotel and at the local café.
- Colonsay Community Development Company operates a non-profit petrol and diesel pump, available only during shop hours for payment.
- Whilst the figures on page 8 show that the ferry is responsible for 78% of GHG emissions related to transport it is recognised that the ferry is essential to the islands population for the transportation of goods, vehicles and animals.

Activity	CO2 saving	Co-benefits	Cost
More reliable transport connections to the mainland, including an interlinked ferry and air service with more frequent flights . While ensuring travel for vehicles, goods, and animals.			
Increased number of Electric vehicle charging points through supporting people to install electric car charging points in their own home.			
Community owned shared transport options such as electric bikes and trailers .			
Signpost people living in the community to interest free loans for electric vehicles .			
Shared transport -A bus/taxi/lift service. Become a hitchhiker friendly island, e.g. use window stickers to indicate that this vehicle is hitchhiker friendly.			

Food

The culture of growing food exists today on Colonsay within the crofting community and reflects the history of Colonsay as being 'the island on the edge', reliant in the past on growing its own food. The local food economy is being nurtured and developed through the provision of community crofts and the Community Development Company continues to look for opportunities to acquire land for community crofts.

"The locally grown and reared produce speaks for itself in terms of its quality, and is a pleasure to cook with. We would love to prepare more meals at Sunday Sessions with local produce to showcase its quality for all customers." Helen Mann, The Sunday Sessions

Activity	CO2 saving	Co-benefits	Cost
Community land access for allotments and polytunnels to increase the proportion of food grown on Colonsay. Identify suitable areas for growing and ensure these are made rabbit proof.	CO_2		£ £
Establish a farmer's market for local produce.	CO_2		£
Creating a position for a market gardening coordinator to run a community allotment and support volunteers.	CO_2		£

Photo Lizzie Keenaghan @ the Wee Croftt

Amy Millard

CO_2 Estimated carbon saving potential

Improves ecology

Builds resilence

£ Encourages economic sustainability

Enhances health & wellbeing

£ Estimated cost to implement action

Land Use & Agriculture

- Colonsay has an area of 4,074 hectares with approximately 85% of the land owned by Colonsay Estate who employ a farm manager. They are working towards organic farming.
- Oransay is privately owned and has an area of 543 hectares and the land is managed by the RSPB to benefit wildlife.

"As an island off an island and one governed by a tidal strand, we are acutely aware of the risks that our changing climate cause. The RSPB on Oronsay are working to reduce our carbon inputs in our extensive farming model where we work with nature to deliver the RSPB's Strategy to 2030. Balancing habitats, species and biodiversity aims alongside the reduction of carbon inputs to our farming system is the main aim, while continuing our work on Oronsay promoting rare species such as red-billed chough and corncrake, in addition to a host of botanical and invertebrates unique to the Scottish West coast."
Morgan Vaughan, RSPB farm manager, Oransay

Red billed chough Morgan Vaughan

David Hobhouse is a tenant farmer at Balnahard at the northern end of Colonsay. He describes the agricultural context of Colonsay and the challenges created by climate change:

"Farming on Colonsay is traditional hill farming with hill sheep and suckler cows .We have to be concerned for habitat as the land we farm is an area of Special Scientific Interest and Special Protection Area . We follow a traditional stocking regime managing our farmland as habitat for choughs, corncrakes, lapwing, curlew and sea birds. In order to maintain the right conditions for these birds we need to maintain a certain stocking density. Climate change has bought more heavy rains, more gales resulting in saturated ground . The gales and increased rain that we are experiencing during lambing means that the new-born lambs are at risk of hypothermia leading to death."

Activity	CO2 saving	Co-benefits	Cost
More of Colonsay's land to be put into food production, particularly marginal land, for example re-establishment of a dairy herd of cows. Explore options for pest control and control of invasive species, such as rhoddendron so more land is made available for growing.	CO_2		£ £ £

CO_2 Estimated carbon saving potential
Improves ecology
Builds resilence
Encourages economic sustainability
Enhances health & wellbeing
£ Estimated cost to implement action

Challenges to Resilience

As mentioned at the beginning of this plan, both adaptation and mitigation measures are important to bolster community resilience in the face of climate change

- Colonsay depends on an unreliable and an unpredictable ferry service for the transportation of goods (including food) , vehicles and animals.
- With the pending digital switchover in communications Colonsay will become more reliant on digital systems (Broadband, 4G/5G services) which currently do not have sufficient resilience.
- Any changes in climate and weather patterns have an impact upon the island as described elsewhere in this plan e.g. coastal erosion and rising sea levels, wetter Springs.
- A declining and ageing population. There is a need for a viable working age population to implement any actions identified by this plan and to ensure a viable future for Colonsay.

Achievements so far

- The community owns and lets 5 crofts which are in productive use.
- The community owns 6 moorings in Queen's Bay that enhances the island's tourism potential.
- The completion of an affordable, high energy efficiency, housing scheme in 2024 gave residents the opportunity to access affordable and long term housing. The community also owns land to build up to 15 further new houses to meet future demand.
- The Community Development Company has purchased a croft which it will be leasing to a family in the near future. There are plans to reinstate the old harbour area at Port Mor with plans for affordable housing in the area. The opening of two new business units has given opportunities for new businesses to develop .

Next Steps

Next steps in this action plan will be decided following analysis of the content by the Board of Directors of the Colonsay Community Development Company. Following this analysis the Board will decide on next steps and create an action plan for the financial year 2025/2026. Next steps work will be enabled and supported by the Carbon Neutral Islands team.

The Colonsay community will be consulted to determine which next-step actions should be prioritised, ensuring their voice is heard in the decision-making process.

Acknowledgments

Thank you to all those who supported, through their time and energy, the Colonsay climate weekend.

Thank you to the teams from the Sunday Sessions and The Pantry for the food and beverages.

Thank you to the following people who supported the writing of this report:

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Home Energy Scotland
Lizzie Keenaghan and John and Shirley Oldroyd, The Wee Croft
Carrie Seymore, Woody End Croft
Morgan Vaughan, RSPB Oransay

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Proposal Form

Island & organisation
Colonsay Community Development Company
Please provide a short description of the specific output(s) you will be working towards. Please note there will be flexibility to adjust these as projects develop.
The anticipated outputs are based on the Colonsay CCAP. They are prioritised below. *Priority outputs:* 1. Identification of grant funding to improve community resilience through creation of a resilience hub at the Village Hall. To include solar powered electricity , a water collection system, a food growing hub and provision of emergency supplies allowing the Hall to function off-grid and improve community resilience. This would follow on from and provide support for an existing Village Hall project, to install PV panels and batteries to become a net renewables power exporter.CNI to provide project development resource. Main funder: tbc 2. Introduction of a community E-Bike rental scheme. Objective will be to give users confidence to buy their own E-bike, change local travel habits, reduce car emissions and deliver knock-on health benefits. CNI to provide project development resource. Main funder: HiTrans *Secondary outputs:* 3. Improved quantitative data through completion of the Island Profile questionnaire and data gathering, to enhance and refine the existing CES Colonsay carbon audit. *Outputs for exploration:* 4. Identification of grant funding for a Polytunnel/PolyCrub to support community food production as a demonstrator for future local "Market Garden" initiatives to offset food importation. CNI to provide project development resource. Main funder: tbc 5. Identification of grant funding to support reduction of dependency on fossil fuels through retrofitting and transition to non fossil fuel energy sources for home and community buildings. Initial focus on cooking and space heating equipment. Assemble proposals and funding for 2026/27 implementation –

earlier if possible. CNI to provide project development resource. Main funder: tbc
What is the expected cost to your organisation of undertaking this work? / How much are you applying for? (between £10k - 14k)
£13,960
What training, if any, would be valuable to support your involvement in this work?
Opportunity to visit, connect with and learn from other islands with a similar demographic, where the outputs identified above have been achieved or there are similar projects in development.
Please provide a breakdown of expected costs. **(note: please include staff costs, any external consultancy fees (if applicable), overheads, and any other expenses or direct costs)**
See separate sheet At this stage it is not possible to allocate costs to each of the anticipated projects accurately. 15 hours of project resource will be used initially to undertake more detailed scoping work to arrive at best estimates for staff time and permitted on-costs for each separate project. Following the initial scoping work projects will be prioritized to maximize impact, and to meet any external timing requirements (e.g. deadlines for support funding applications). The final programme / proposals will be agreed with CES
Who will be responsible for the delivery of this work? Please include whether you intend to hire someone new or whether an existing staff member will take the work forward.
The work will be delivered by Maggie Fay, CCDC project development officer. Maggie delivered Colonsay's 2024-25 CNI project and has been retained to deliver 2025-26. Maggie will report to the Projects Director / Treasurer for general direction Maggie will report progress monthly to the CCDC Board, where any key decisions will be considered / approved as required.

Is there any specific support you will need from CES?
Signposting to grants. Connecting with other islands as described above.
How will the completed outputs be shared with your community?
Once agreed with CES CCDC will publicise the approved CCAP and proposed 2025-26 Colonsay CNI programme and invite comments. The programme may be adjusted or re-prioritised accordingly, in discussion with CES. Colonsay Community Development Company produce regular information updates which are circulated community wide. Monthly progress reports (including CNI progress) to the CCDC Board are published on the company website. A public presentation event or follow-up community Climate Café will be held towards the end of 2025-26 to demonstrate progress, outcomes and invite pointers and priorities for future work.

COLONSAY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

PROJECT REPORT – Fuel Supplies

Project	Fuel Supplies			
Report Compiled by	Callum Hay			
Reporting Period	May 2025			
Project Status	Previous Status:		Current Status:	

1. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY SINCE LAST REPORT

Project update

- Planning approval for the updated equipment and control cabin at the filling station has been granted, without conditions. This has taken much longer than anticipated.
- The Coal Righ has been vacated at Colonsay Estate's request. Coal and gas supplies have been re-located to the new business units in a temporary arrangement, pending a permanent solution. We're very grateful to George Leslie (Contractors) and their local team for all their help us make the move
- HIE have approved grant funding required for the coal and gas storage areas at the new business units and the offer of grant is imminent. The works will be undertaken by local contractors. An opportunity has been taken (at CCDC's risk) to pre-order some material for the gas storage area, to take advantage and "piggy back" on an existing HGV delivery to Colonsay to reduce haulage costs.
- Funding for the filling station equipment and installation is confirmed and awaiting formal approval from HIE. Top-up grant funding has been confirmed from Islay Energy Trust, and decisions are awaited from two other sources.
- ABC Trading Standards have advised we are free to sell fuels at any time, provided we can show we have controls and procedures in place to provide adequate emergency cover during chosen opening hours. This will require submission to ABC of a satisfactory risk assessment, which is in hand.
- A Financial agreement has been set up and approved by the new card payment supplier to include trade fuel cards – this required for commercial account holders, to make fuel purchases. The system will also support normal Debit/Credit card payments. Petrol and diesel will no longer be provided on account once the new system is installed.
- An initial project start-up meeting has been held with HIE and a specialist Project Manager (Tommy McQuade, Morham and Brotchie) who will deliver the filling station project on CCDC's behalf.

- West Highland Gas have informed us that they will no longer support bulk deliveries to Colonsay unless a local driver is available with the appropriate hazardous materials driving licence / certificate, required by their insurers. No-one on Colonsay has this qualification, and it is unlikely to be cost-effective to train anyone for just 3-4 deliveries a year.

PROJECT REPORT – Fuel Supplies

- West Highland Gas have also advised that even if the driver issue can be resolved, the subsidy that has covered the cost of gas haulage to and from the small islands served from Oban has been discontinued.
- The Trading Company is exploring options for future delivery arrangements, but in the meantime has agreed a provisional holding position with MacLennans who are able to deliver smaller quantities (but more frequently) as part of their regular Colonsay service.

2. KEY ISSUES

- Formal approval of HIE funding for the filling station will take some time, and there will then follow a 6-8 week lead time on equipment delivery. It is expected that the filling station upgrade works will be programmed for September. The work on site is expected to last about a week.
- It has been difficult to get confirmation of power consumption figures from our supplier for the new filling station installation. This is required to ensure that the proposed off-grid power supply proposals will be adequate. Figures were eventually supplied in April, and checking (including 3rd party checking) is underway prior to finalising the off-grid power supply proposal and specification

3. FORMAL APPROVALS / DECISIONS REQUIRED

Directors are asked to:

- note progress to date

4. NEXT REPORTING PERIOD ACTIVITIES

- Formal approval and grant offers from HIE
- Confirmation of match funding
- Start work on coal and gas storage areas
- Finalise design of filling station off-grid power option

5. APPENDICES

None