

Thank you, thank you, thank you...


What's been going on?

Over the past 2 years the project has concentrated on the 4 key areas below:

1 Reducing energy consumption in the home

- * Produced and distributed a newsletter on energy efficiency to all local residents
- * Carried out a REAP Petite Home and Lifestyle audit of 130 homes in North Kintyre area
- * Provided one-to-one advice to 18 people on household energy saving measures and renewables
- * Started a smart meters loan scheme
- * Created a Householders Energy Efficiency Manual to help people lower their energy use in the home
- * Carried out an energy audit on a block of ACHA flats to provide recommendations on how these old blocks can become more energy efficient

2 Stopping using plastic bags

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- * Designed and produced an exhibition on marine litter
 - * Registered Tarbert harbour as a Marine Conservation Society Adopt a Beach
 - * Organised 4 beach cleans including 2 national 'Beachwatch' events
 - * Surveyed traders in Tarbert on plastic bag use

3 Growing you own food/buying local produce

- * Produced and distributed a newsletter on growing your own food to all local residents
- * Ran a Growing your own food course for 10 people
- * Ran a 3 composting workshops resulting in 20 people starting composting
- * Collectively produced 6.5 tonnes of compost during the project
- * Recruited 20 people to our 'Eat Scottish Food' campaign

4 Cut down car use

- * Produced and distributed a newsletter on public transport to all local residents
- * Lobbied the local authority on public transport
- * Organised a bike maintenance course with 13 participants
- * Promoted the www.IfYouCareShare.com at all events

The growing your own food initiative developed into the Tarbert Community Gardens and we were successful in attracting more Climate Challenge funding to employ a coordinator for 9 months. Key achievements over that time include:

The major outcomes of the Community Garden project can be listed as:

- * Local people are much more aware of where their food comes from and the impact food has on our climate
- * A number of local people in the community now have skills needed to grow their own food
- * A number of local people are now keen to have their own allotment
- * Local young people have been inspired to grow their food and now have facilities to do so
- * More local people have become community garden volunteers
- * Set up the Outdoor Classroom at Tarbert Medical Centre and a community orchard that has inspired local people to grow fruit. Created 2 new community gardens – the Youth Garden and School Nature Trail.
- * The target for the life of the project was a total reduction of 520 kgCO₂/yr

....we achieved **819 kgCO₂/yr !!!**

A main strand of the project was to raise awareness of the issues. This was done through regular newspaper input, attending local events and writing newsletters. We also organised 2 conferences on community sustainability with over 150 people attending.

As well as encouraging people to reduce their energy consumption, the project provided advice to people on renewable energy and progressed the villages own Community Wind Turbine project. Over the past 2 years of the project has organised the community ballot and progressed the wind monitoring and grid connection aspects of the project.

What happens next?

The Trust has applied for another year's funding to extend the work of Big Green



Tarbert. It proposes to join forces with South Kintyre Development Trust to provide a Kintyre wide insulation service. This project will also promote the Householders Energy Efficiency Manual to the wider Kintyre area. The Trust is also seeking further funding to develop the Community Garden concept to cover allotments and community supported agriculture from South Knapdale to Southend and Islay. This project will be in partnership with Skåne in South Sweden.



..... Watch this space!