



Sustainable and active travel on the Isle of Arran

Where is it and what did they do?

The Isle of Arran is the largest island in the Firth of Clyde off the west coast of Scotland. With a population of around 5,000, it has several villages, the largest being Lamlash, with a population of approximately 1,000.

Ecosavvy is a grassroots organisation that has been operating since 2014 and started through the operations of a local charity shop with a focus on waste reduction and reuse. Over time they have expanded their activity into energy sustainability, food production and low-carbon transport. **They operate a weekly travel hub in a local leisure centre where they run e-bike loans, Dr Bike check-ups, e-bike service and**

repair and support for those wishing to cycle more around the island. They have also set up the Arran recharge network, working with local businesses that can offer e-bike charging to those using their company. **The network gives tourists and residents who use e-bikes confidence that they can travel around the island and recharge their batteries if needed.** Their Arran Green Travel Map provides the location of charging points for bikes and cars and bike repair stations on the island as well as information on cycle tracks and routes, including distances, estimated journey times and difficulty.



“Having access to an ebike was a real game changer for me - it provided an opportunity to get back into exercise in preparation for hip surgery. Without doubt, it played a vital part in both my mental and physical health.”





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What was the result?

In the 2020 – 2021 report produced by the organisation, it was reported that **22 businesses had signed up to the e-charge network, there have been 17,557 e-bike miles cycled, residents have bought 14 e-bikes and they have 264 active members on the Arran lift share forum.**

Committed volunteers drive the group's progress; however, they face significant challenges in finding funding and managing the administrative burden. They have found they make the biggest impact through projects that take a holistic view of climate actions (i.e. address transport alongside energy, waste and food production) and link into several services.

What was learnt?

- Organisation in rural areas are often made up of passionate dedicated volunteers giving their time for free. Local authorities and the Scottish Government can support these groups with resources, simple guidance and considering the time burden of reporting requests.
- This group have made great gains with funding that supports the community and decarbonisation. More funding that supports the community rather than a single initiative is helpful.
- Rural areas face infrastructure challenges, but that does not mean that action isn't possible and this example demonstrates that sustainable travel is not just feasible but a real benefit to rural communities.

Further links or information

- [Arran Eco Savvy](#)

