

# COVE PARK

## Cove Park Sustainable Travel Policy 2024-2027

Created March 2024  
Next Review April 2025

### Introduction

Cove Park's Sustainable Travel Policy was created in March 2024 and will be reviewed annually by our Board of Trustees. Prior to this date, policy relating to sustainable travel was included within Cove Park's Environmental Policy.

As a cultural organisation we believe we can and must play a key role in meeting Scotland's ambitious net zero target. This Policy expresses our commitment to managing our environmental impact in relation to travel and ensuring Cove Park is a model of good practice, influencing and driving change locally, nationally, and internationally. This commitment is reflected in our programme focus, and in our operational and financial planning and management. It is central to Cove Park's ethos and work culture.

Cove Park's Sustainable Travel Policy sets out how local, national, and international travel to and from Cove Park should take place, by members of its team, trustees, and residents. This Policy supports our 'climate conscious travel' approach of:

- Understanding the environmental impacts of travel and using lower-carbon methods of travel where possible
- Minimising the overall number of journeys to reduce carbon emissions.
- Sequestering the carbon emissions from travel.

This Policy will be available on Cove Park's new website (due summer 2024) and a link to it is shared via the Cove Park Handbook and our Residency Agreements.

### Cove Park's Location & Local Public Transport Infrastructure

Cove Park is based on a 50-acre rural site in Argyll, overlooking Loch Long on Scotland's west coast. The distance of the site from our nearest villages, town, and city necessitates travel by car, taxi, or bus. Although the Peninsula is well-served by public transport, the nearest bus stop to Cove Park (on Peaton Hill) is on Shore Road, at the bottom of a hill which is prohibitively steep for the majority of people coming to Cove Park.

## **Policy Scope & Purpose**

This policy applies to all the individuals and groups who travel to Cove Park.

## **Team**

Cove Park is staffed Monday to Friday through its team of 14 individuals (two full-time, 12 part-time). Members of the team also support evening and weekend events when required. Two members of the team are based in Glasgow (47 miles from Cove Park); two in Helensburgh (23 miles); and the remaining nine in villages on the Rosneath Peninsula (a maximum of 8 miles from the site).

## **Residents**

Cove Park welcomes approximately 250-275 residents each year, travelling to us from local, national, and international locations.

## **Creative Learning & Engagement Programme Participants**

In the region of 700 participants travel to Cove Park and other local sites to take part in events, workshops, and outreach projects. Approximately 150 guests travel to us each year to take part in networking events and our summer dinners.

## **Trustees**

Of Cove Park's 13 Trustees, seven are based in Scotland, five in the rest of the UK, and one in the USA. Three of our four annual board meetings take place online; the AGM is an in-person meeting, and most of our Trustees attend this meeting at Cove Park. The trustees also attend events at Cove Park when possible.

## **Contractors & Suppliers**

Finally, contractors, suppliers, and delivery companies regularly visit Cove Park, with an average of five visiting each week.

## **Purpose of Policy**

The main purpose of this Policy is to better manage our carbon emissions and the associated environmental impacts and reduce overall travel expenditure.

We believe transformational change is necessary if we are to tackle the climate emergency. Our Policy and plan for action is built on the following key priorities for this change, which connect directly to the Aims and Actions for Change as detailed in the sister Environmental Policy, 2023-2026. These aims are guided by:

**Mitigation** - Reducing emissions.

**Adaptation** - Promoting behavioral change, responding to the impacts of climate change.

**Climate justice** - Change must be based on solutions that are fair, just, and equitable.

Our fundamental aim is to promote alternatives to travel whenever possible and to reduce the overall number of journeys by opting for online meetings (Zoom and Microsoft Teams).

Where journeys to and from Cove Park are necessary, low carbon travel options should be considered. The travel options we recommend for **local travel** are: e-bike (Cove Park now provides three e-bikes), public transport, taxi share, or taxi (opting for a local firm with e-cabs); for **national travel** we recommend public transport or car share over air travel; and for **international travel**, we recommend travel via land and sea, whenever possible, over air travel.

The specific Aims and Actions for Change drawn from Cove Park's Environmental Policy and pertaining to travel are as follows:

1. **Aim:** Reduction of carbon emissions resulting from travel, in line with the Scottish Government's commitment to reduce car kilometers travelled by 20% by 2030.

**Actions:** 1) Maintain use of Zoom for as many external meetings and interviews as possible; 2) Maintain home working for full-time members of the team on a one-to-two day per week basis. 3) Encourage use of public transport over cars, taxis, or flights amongst team members, residents, and visitors (see Sustainable Transport Policy); 4) Provide e-bikes for use by residents and team\*; 5) Use only electric vehicles when a taxi is required; 6) Transition from a petrol-fueled site vehicle (used to support access across our site) to an electric vehicle in 2027-2028, and installing car chargers at Cove Park; 6) Encourage use of slow travel when possible for team and residents.

*\* With funding from Cycling UK, in March 2024 Cove Park purchased three e-bikes for use by team members and residents.*

2. **Aim:** Reduction of emission boundaries generated through the procurement of goods and services in the supply chain.

**Action:** Work only with accredited suppliers sharing Cove Park's ethos and commitment to carbon emissions reduction; purchase products and services that cause the least damage to the environment and encourage others to do the same.

3. **Aim:** To include climate risks and plans to mitigate risks in the organisation's Risk Register, and work towards the development of a Climate Adaptation Plan.

**Action:** To further this planning at Board Level and to incorporate risk relating to climate change in our Risk Register.

4. **Aim:** To rethink established approaches to international working and travel, in a way that is mindful of the climate emergency and climate justice.

**Action:** To build upon recent developments in the way we offer and manage international residencies, offering slow travel bursaries\*, working in partnership with other Scottish organisations to offer longer residencies and connected opportunities, to make the investment in international travel meaningful, worthwhile, and appropriately managed.

*\* Cove Park will offer two annual slow travel bursaries over the course of its Business Plan, 2025-2028.*

### **Monitoring & Reporting**

Since 2017 Cove Park has submitted annual Carbon Management Reports to Creative Carbon Scotland. We continue to monitor and evaluate all team and residents' travel as part of this process. This work is overseen by Cove Park's Site Manager.

**End**