



Visit Inverness Loch Ness Community Update

November 2022

Firstly, a warm welcome to you all. Although we haven't been able to meet you all in person, we are making a start to make introductions for a better connection between VILN and all the Community Council groups in the area. It has been a pleasure to meet those we have and hope to make more connections in the near future. Please find our updates below;

Climate Action Plan – First quarterly review.

We have recently undertaken a review of our climate action plan for the months May – September. We are delighted to share that 30% of our targets are complete, these include the new creation of a sustainability section on our website and community engagement – we are now meeting with community councils and sharing monthly updates with them.

39% of our targets are ongoing, these include, measuring our carbon footprint, which to date is 60.3t CO₂, working on partnerships, promoting local employment, and showcasing sustainability best practice.

Climate Action Plan Review in full [here](#).

Reminder of what's on offer for members

- We can help you to determine your business's carbon footprint and how you can go about offsetting it.
- Do you have a biodiversity project you need help with?
- Is there something about sustainability or climate action you'd like to learn more about? We can offer free climate action education webinars and workshops.
- Do you need help with funding applications? We're happy to provide assistance with this.

For any questions or if you'd like to take one of our offerings, please contact bryony@visitiln.com

Awards

We are delighted to have been selected Winner at this years Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards in the RBS Climate Champion category for our work on the climate action plan. We have also been shortlisted for another two awards: SCDI Highlands and Islands Awards for Excellence in Natural Capital, Climate Change and Sustainable Communities and also Scotland's Town Partnership Climate/Net Zero Town. Keep an eye out for our newsletter next month to see if we are winners.

Sign up to our newsletter

If you are not signed upto our weekly newsletter but would like to be, please get in touch with admin@visitiln.com and we will be able to add on you onto the list!

Culinary Working Group

A Culinary Working Group has been created to discuss a Strategy for Food and Drink Tourism in Inverness and Loch Ness. All those interested are welcomed to join us in creating such a strategy, and the group are meeting on 24th November at Glen Mhor, Waterside Suite between 2pm- 5pm. Please email emma@visitiln.com if you are interested in attending.

We are also looking for chefs in the area to attend a get together to discuss campaigns for the area and introduce a working group to share ideas. If you know any chefs that may be interested, please ask them to get in touch.

New Business Plan in Development

All our team met at the end of October for the first time in person after COVID to work through our next steps and new ideas for our next business plan which will take place between 2024 and 2029. Consultations will be taking place soon, so we'll keep you updated.

Fresh Water Top Up

We are urging Community Councils to send the word round regarding the VILN Fresh Water Top Up scheme. The aim of the scheme is to reduce the use of single use plastic bottles, and for visitors and locals to be able to top up their water bottles easily when travelling around the Loch and in the city. There are 34 business's involved so far, each placing a sticker in their window to show they are participating. More information can be found [HERE](#) and business's can sign up easily using [THIS FORM](#)



Loch Ness Challenge

GOYA Events are hosting the Loch Ness Festival taking place between 26th May – 4th June 2023. Communities are welcomed to get in touch with the organisers to help take part in this event and are encouraged to



join in on discussions regarding this. The contact email for this is info@lochnessfestival.com

About Us

The organisation became the first Tourism Business Improvement District (BID) in the UK when established in 2014 and operates within a defined destination area that covers over 1200 square miles, including the Highland Capital Inverness and world-famous Loch Ness. To support its members, who operate in more than 30 sectors, the organisation delivers a range of activities from its business plan including marketing, infrastructure, events, business tourism, business development and lobbying.

In 2022 the organisation was named the first carbon neutral BID in the UK and has also signed the Glasgow Climate Declaration and the Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency declaration in line with its sustainability goals. The team has doubled in size since in the past two years, including the appointment of the first Loch Ness Ranger.

Contact us

Bryony Beck, Destination Development Manager, bryony@visitiln.com

Emma Harrison, Destination Development Manager, emma@visitiln.com