



SHETLAND CLIMATE FESTIVAL 2026

Sat 5th September 10am-4pm, Clickimin Bowls Hall

Event Programme

What's On?

Throughout the event:

Main Exhibition

The main exhibition, held in the Bowls Hall at Clickimin, is divided up into different zones to offer different perspectives on climate change:

Zone 1. What is climate change from a Shetland perspective?

Zone 2. What can I do in my community to help?

Zone 3. What can I do at home?

Zone 4. What business and employment opportunities are available?

Zone 5. Kidz Fun

Zone 6. Performances



About

The Shetland Climate Festival is back! Now in its fourth year we have a busy day with a variety of exhibitors, workshops and activities. We hope there will be something for everyone!

The festival is a chance to celebrate climate action in the isles as well as explaining climate change through a Shetland perspective. We want to give you the chance to speak to Council staff about our work as well as hearing from a range of other organisations on things like biodiversity, energy use and community projects.

This year sees new elements including a Repair Cafe, cookery demonstrations and poetry readings. We are happy to welcome back Bookbug, who will be running a session in the morning for bairns and parents. Throughout the rest of the day we will also have an exciting area set up just for kids where they can find climate craftivist activities, recycling games and eco-bingo!

Make sure to head to the Loch Bar for question and answer sessions ranging from energy saving tips to food security and support for businesses.

The main exhibition hall is colour coded into key areas with more than 30 exhibitors taking part.

Welcome to the Shetland Climate Festival 2026!



A brief history of the SIC Climate Change Programme

In January 2020, the Council recognised the global climate emergency with a new strategic programme.

Our purpose is to:

- Provide overview of the strategy, governance arrangements, target development and action planning required to adapt to, and mitigate, climate change in Shetland
- Contribute to an effective Scotland, UK and international response
- Inform the identification of issues and options
- Assist in evidence based planning and decision making so that environmental, economic and social needs are recognised, balanced and met

Our Participants

Join us at the festival for an exhibition and workshops that showcase the work that our departments and a variety of organisations are doing to address the challenges that arise from climate change.

Zone 1. What is climate change from a Shetland perspective?



Zone 3. What can I do at home?



Zone 2. What can I do in my community to help?



Zone 4. What business and employment opportunities are available?



Kidz Fun Zone



Presentation Schedule

The Loch Bar



HIE Drop-in Support Session

10:00-10:30

Session by: Andrew Gear, Highlands & Islands Enterprise

Highlands and Islands Enterprise can support businesses, social enterprises and community organisations on their transition to net zero whether that be changing how you operate, investing in new 'green' products or processes, or creating new jobs that support your transition to net zero. HIE can provide a range of services, including advice, funding, events, and links into the wider support network.

Home Energy Savings Tips

11:15-12:00



Session by: John Clarkson, Home Energy Scotland

Join a Q&A session with Home Energy Scotland. Home Energy Scotland is an impartial advice service funded by the Scottish Government and managed by the Energy Saving Trust. The session will aim to answer questions on alternative heating systems, insulation and funding schemes available for households. You can hear about practical steps you can take in your home to lower your energy use and reduce your carbon footprint.

Shetland's Food Security

12:00-12:30



Session by: Andrea Sánchez Quiroz, Highlands & Islands Climate Hub

Hear how climate change and food security are connected in Shetland with Andrea Sánchez Quiroz from The Highlands & Islands Climate Hub. Funded by the Scottish Government, the hub supports community-led climate action across Shetland. It's part of a network of 24 hubs throughout Scotland. The session will include information on local growing and the new community fridge scheme.



An Approach to Exploring Community Energy Options

13:00-13:30



Session by: Joanne Jamieson, Sandwich Social and Economic Development Company (SSEDCo)

This session will be of interest to community groups and community interest companies addressing the cost-of-living crisis and the climate emergency. A short talk on how SSEDCo engaged with people across the community and identified their key priorities. Those views informed a competitive tender for a grant-aided pre-feasibility study on the options available to the community. Findings and 'what happens next', will also be discussed.

Repair Café Take Home Skills

15:00-15:30



Session by: Katie Hatfield, Repair Café

Wondering what to do with that well-worn gansie? You're in luck! Volunteers from Blyde Welcome's Repair Café explain its origins as well as sewing and mending tips you can try at home.

Special Feature: SIC Kit For All Stall

All Day!



Session by: SIC, Kit For All

Head to the Kit For All stand where there's pre-loved sports clothing for adults and children. The sportswear recycling project means folk can access things like t-shirts, trainers and other sports footwear, donated by the Shetland community. The programme aims to remove barriers and increase accessibility to physical activity. Feel free to bring sportswear donations on the day.



Performance Zone

Bowls Hall Main Exhibition

Championing Local Produce and Lowering
Food Miles - Cookery Demonstration

12:00-12:45



Session by: Akshay Borges

Award-winning Shetland Chef Akshay Borges will be creating a delicious dish of Shetland mussels, infused with flavours from his native India. Originally from Goa, but raised in Mumbai, Akshay works closely with a range of Shetland food producers, including fishermen, crofters and local butchers. This year Akshay was announced winner of the "Best Use of Highlands and Islands Provenance" award at the 2026 Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Awards.

Poetry Circle

13:15-14:00



Photo: Rob McDougal



Session by: Siún Carden, Peter Ratter and Jen Hadfield

Siún moved to Shetland from Belfast in 2016. Her recent poetry pamphlet, *The Boat Game*, was published by Stewed Rhubarb. The publisher describes *The Boat Game* as moving “through a world of ships, ferry routes, offshore rigs, and subsea cables, tracing the hidden systems that connect lives across oceans and islands.”

Siún won a New Writers Award from The Scottish Book Trust in 2024. Her first pamphlet, *Tract*, was published by The Well Review in 2023. Her poetry can also be found in journals such as Irish Pages, The North, Magma, The Interpreter's House, Glasgow Review of Books and The New Shetlander.

She says she finds it impossible not to think about the climate and environment at this point in history, when the effects of human activity are so clear and collective action to address them is so difficult.

Peter grew up in the village of Ollaberry in Northmavine to a large crofting family, and as such was immersed in Shetland’s natural environment from a young age.

He was short-listed for the 2018 Edwin Morgan Award, as well as receiving first prize both in the Scottish Place Names Competition organised by Glasgow University, and the Inspired? Get Writing! Scottish poetry competition, both in 2012. His work has appeared in The Dark Horse and The Scotsman. He continues to write in both English and Shetland dialect.

Poetry Circle

13:15-14:00

Jen Hadfield's poetry, non-fiction and visual practices sprout from the wildness of our world. Her work tries to honour and celebrate the diversity of our local environment, and, in failing to imitate perfectly a sundew or sandeel, to say something about how precious they are.

She says we ask sometimes what good art or poetry can do in the face of climate change or pollution or extinction. Jen says that when we make art we make these almost unimaginable catastrophes human-sized for a moment, and we help ourselves and each other to process our existential fears and grief, and perhaps to act for the greater good.

In 2008, Jen was the youngest winner of the T.S.Eliot Poetry Prize. *Storm Pegs – A Life Made in Shetland*, her first non-fiction title, was published by Picador in 2024, along with her Selected Poems. She is a recipient of a Windham Campbell Prize for Literature and lives, with her family, in Shetland.

Shetland Youth Voice: A Young Person's Perspective on Climate Change in Shetland

14:15-15:00



Session by: Shetland Youth Voice

A presentation from Shetland Youth Voice about young people's perspectives on climate change, focusing on the question: how do young people feel about climate change in Shetland? Followed by audience participation and a Q&A with the young people, where they will gather questions to ask the wider Youth Voice group. What would you like to hear from young people and their experience of climate change and environmental issues? Come along to hear their thoughts and views.

School Climate Roadshow

Woodland Walk Exhibition



School Climate Roadshows Year 2 Showcase

Year 2 of the School Climate Roadshows was rolled out to P5-7 and S1 classes in schools across Shetland - raising climate change awareness in the community and continuing the Shetland climate conversation. This included a climate presentation, experiments, videos, activities and discussions.

Schools were then tasked to make a creative climate promise tree displaying their climate messages on the leaves and to use recycled or sustainable materials to decorate it. Come along and visit our Woodland Walk Exhibition displaying the climate trees, highlighting the pupils' art pieces, and messages from the project. Walk through the woodland display to see their work!



The tree template used for the project.



For the bairns

Bookbug

10:30-11:00



Session by: Bookbug

Stories, singing and fun for bairns and big bairns too. This session is for babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers and their families and carers to enjoy together.

Kidz Zone - ALL DAY!

Main Exhibition in Bowls Hall

Craftivist Activity: Dream-making Cloud

Activity provided by the Climate Action Leadership Programme.
What does your dream world look like? Craft and create a dream cloud from recycled and sustainable materials.

Face Creations by Morgan

Face painting fun for all ages! Come along to get a wonderful face design painted by Morgan.

Scavenger Hunt

Use your searching skills to scout around the exhibition to find the hidden clues and complete the scavenger hunt activity.

Eco-bingo!

Get thinking about what you could do to help the environment and reduce carbon emissions with a fun bingo game. Win a gold star sticker!

Recycling Games

Can you make sure the correct item goes in the correct bin? Try it in real time with our big bins or play the flashcard game version.

Earth Modelling Activity

Can you create your own model planet earth using dough?



SHETLAND CLIMATE FESTIVAL

HOSTED BY:



SHETLAND
ISLANDS COUNCIL



**SHETLAND
CLIMATE**
CONVERSATION