

**Reading Climate Change Partnership Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday 22nd October 2014, Civic Centre, Reading.**



<b>Attendees:</b>	
Sally Coble	Environment Agency (chair)
Ben Burfoot	Reading Borough Council
Jill Marston	RBC Policy Officer (10.30-11 only)
Summreen Sheikh	RBC (minutes)
Tracey Rawling Church	Kyocera Document Solutions
John Booth	GREN
Chris Rhodes	Transition Town Reading
Paul Gittings	Councillor, RBC
Tony Cowling	Reading Sustainability Centre (2- 2.30 only)
<b>Apologies:</b>	
Tony Page	Councillor, RBC
Dan Fernbank	University of Reading
Jenny Allen	Peter Brett Assoc.

**1. Reading Sustainability Centre (hydro project) update - Tony Cowling**

- The community members behind the sustainability centre proposals are looking to form a CIC (Community Interest Company).
- They have increased their media presence by being in the local newspaper and held an event for community energy fortnight. They have had lots of volunteers come through RVA
- They have received a grant from the Earley Charity to get their website up and running
- They have received extra funds from Naturesave
- The prefeasibility study for the hydro project paid for by RCCP is now available (Summreen and John were sent a copy)
- There are five potential locations for the sustainability centre: Kings Meadow, Lock Island, View Island, Hills Meadow and Kings Meadow. They have listed Hills Meadow on local plan with RBC planner.
- Aiming to get the licence by April 2015.
- Want to apply for a DECC (Dept of Energy and Climate Change) fund, however the delay in its launch could delay the project - they are ready to apply to it.
- There is a change in the FiT (Feed in Tariff) in April. This will cause the financial model to become quite stressed.
- Reading Museum have a 2050 project, with which they are engaged.
- Next open meeting in January at new civic offices (tbc)

RCCP board congratulated Tony on his achievements to date.

Tony stayed to give some information on the application from the 'Innovative Insulation group' - this is an application for funding for a pre-trial pilot study. The government has offered a scheme to insulate lofts and walls but floors are not covered. 15 - 20% of heat lost is through the floor. Monitoring of the effectiveness of the innovative insulation will be through energy bills, people's perceptions and temperature controls for two years, however, they should have a good idea after 6 months.

The funding is for the materials needed to do the work. They are also applying to the National Grid who require match funding.

They will use private dwellings with varying floor types to do the trials. This can be anybody's house, with agreement to on access and they want to get the insulation in before Christmas.

## 2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The Molo Awards were purchased by Reading Transport directly. Reward Your World has applied for £30k LSTF (Local Sustainable Transport Funding) for another scheme to reward sustainable transport travel. Transport department at RBC are monitoring delivery of this. John requested more information, however this is not available at the moment it is a trial.

John has sent Friends of the Earth's briefing on fracking, the conclusion of which is the likelihood of Reading of fracking is low.

### Matters arising

John has sent the Renewal Heat Incentive (RHI) information to Summreen for inclusion on the RCA Reading Climate Action website. The uptake figures for this scheme has been good, as payments have been back dated to 2009.

## 3. RCAN (Reading Climate Action Network) November event

Organisation for the event has is underway:

25<sup>th</sup> November, 4.30 – 6pm at Caversham Bridge House (Peter Bretts Offices) has been booked. Sally is not available. The theme is food and 'Springboard' who want to set up a City Farm in Reading are invited to speak. Summreen is also thinking of inviting Reading Food Growing Network and someone to speak about the food digester at the Broad Street Mall. A research project at the university, focussing on the possibility of commercialising food growing, may also be interesting to hear about.

There will also be an explanation of the opportunities to feedback into the action plan each year.

On the boards suggestion, Summreen will also look into;

food waste users (Readifood and feeding homeless people in Reading?)

food waste minimisation (WRAP)

In addition, she will look into any good news stories of RCAN members achieving their targets to celebrate them at the event.

Invites to be sent next week (w/c 27<sup>th</sup> October).

SS to send out a job list for the chair of the event and other jobs to board members.

Rundown to include more networking time at the end, extending the time to 6.30pm.

## 4. Project support fund applications including

There is about £38k available with two successful applications so far, however, only one has claimed the funds.

### a) Wind Turbine (Ian Gough)

The board requested a breakdown of costs and the percent spent on lecturer fee's and transport fee's, how long the fund will last, how many people will be reached and if there are any plans to make the visits sustainable.

They would also like Ian to ask Ecotricity if they have any funds or opportunities he can tap into.

### b) The Innovative Insulation group (Tony Cowling)

The board were concerned about health and safety and public liability – would he be seeking accreditation for materials? If UoR were involved in the trial, the monitoring on it is likely to be thorough. This could be a good story for RCAN.

There are four conditions of awarding the grant:

- 1) commercial element to be clarified and explored (any return of funds to RCCPs fund?)
- 2) does it comply with building regulations
- 3) health and safety - robust risk assessment in place and does he has PLI and
- 4) what his next steps are

Regarding a University representative on the RCCP board - Dan Fernbank has been in touch and will come to a future meeting to see if he, or a colleague could sit on this board.

#### 5. Renewable energy strategy

Action T1SP4.3 of the RCCS action plan states that we will produce a renewable energy investment strategy to provide 8% of local power.

TV Energy have done some work on Readings renewable energy composition and the potential in the future to meet this amount (see evidence base circulated). The end of this document gives the statistics of what technologies are needed to achieve the ambitious 8% target. In addition to this information, we are going to do a consultation with some key stakeholders. Want to convene people interested. John booth has volunteered and others are welcome - maybe other community members. U.o.R. people would be good - the renewables afternoon ie Phil Coker and one other could be useful.

Ben clarified that this is a partnership action plan and we are looking at the potential of what can be done in the whole borough. (RBC is and policy for its own estate at the moment.) The strategy will give the detail behind the aspiration for 8%.

Comments on the evidence base included;

lowering the demand for energy will make it easier to meet the target;

there is a large reliance on biomass - where this is imported wood, it will not meet our aims;

RBC are sourcing biomass locally for their first boiler at Cedar Court. This will be a good case study to publicise and an example to other businesses.

#### 6. Climate change strategy action plan monitoring updates

Oct 31<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for theme leads to return reporting - the water chapter has been completed by Sally.

Alongside the 'RAG' (Red, Amber, Green) system, there should be a category for action for which no delivery partners have been identified i.e. 'ndp'. This will allow 'parking' of actions, which would be preferable to a long standing red 'RAG' status when the target is dependent on things that are out of our control i.e. funding streams.

Annual review of action plans

Invites to take part in the review have gone out through RGBN and the RCAN newsletter. There have been no responses back. It was agreed that the deadline be extended to incorporate comments from the RCAN event.

This opens up the possibility of deliverers to add their current actions / area of activity (especially if the listed actions are not being progressed).

#### 7. Any Other Business

##### a) Cultural partnership

This partnership meets four times a year to assess allocation of grants from a fund of £85k. A representative is needed for sustainability. This is a council partnership and an off shoot from the LSP. Most meetings are at Reading College at 5pm on a Thursday. Ask Paul for more information if you know someone who would be interested.

b) Divesting in fossil fuel

Oxford City Council have taken a move to withdraw its investments from fossil fuel companies. John asked whether RBC do the same?

Ben replied that RBC have energy on a green tariff, and don't invest in 'loan shark' companies. He will speak to OCC and get more information to Councillor Page and the head of finance at RBC. The RBC local government pension scheme, which is part of a wider Berkshire pension group, could have investments in fossil fuels. It may be possible to address this through Climate Berkshire.

Chris said that Rockafella have just divested from oil, ironically after having made all its profit from that industry in the first place.

c) MP Alok Sharma event

MP Alok Sharma is attending a 'question your MP on climate change' event on Sunday. It was decided to make him aware of us. Summreen to draft a few lines explaining who RCCP are for his press office. The churches are picking up on the climate change agenda in relation to poverty and global equality.

d) Thermal imaging camera

Summreen made a request for funds to train community members to make the most of the RBC thermal imaging camera. This will cost about £600 and train 6 people. The board agreed the spend.

e) LSP event

Sally is unable to attend the 'Narrowing the Gap' event on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November and wondered if someone from the RCCP board would like to go? Details of the event are [on eventbrite](#).

f) EA update

Sally mentioned that the new regional officer focussing on climate change is now in Sally's department and is linking to Climate South East.

g) Hodsall school

The new RBC energy policy being written at the moment will cover consideration of the feasibility for solar panels on all Reading state school extensions.

The remainder of the LSP money for solar panels has been reserved for the new free school next to the Meadway Leisure Centre. This hasn't progressed yet but it is still be RBC staff will attempt to push this forwards.

## Next meeting

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2pm – 4pm in room 'North 1a, Civic Offices, Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU'.

