

**Reading Climate Change Partnership Board Meeting
9.30am -11.30am Wednesday 23rd April 2014
Fountain House, Reading Council, Reading.**



Attendees:	
Tom Yearley	University of Reading
Ben Burfoot	Reading Borough Council
Summreen Sheikh	RBC (minutes)
Chris Rhodes	Transition Town Reading
Sally Coble	Environment Agency (Chair)
Jenny Allen	Peter Brett Assoc.
John Booth	GREN
Paul Gittings	Councillor RBC
Attended for Presentation	Tony Cowling
Jill Marston	RBC Policy Officer
Apologies:	
Tracey Rawling Church	Kyocera Document Solutions
Tony Page	Councillor, RBC

1. Minutes and matters arising

The Thames Valley Free school are agreeing heads of terms initially and then will be surveying the roof prior to getting the panels installed on the building.

There is a possibility of linking the hydro project up with the Kings Meadow Lido building. Tony Cowling has been in discussion with RBC, and planners have discussed renewable options with the developer.

Reward Your World - questions about how the environment benefits and what the agreement involves. ACTION: Councillor Page is due to feed back information on the Reading Buses MOLO awards scheme.

Chris has sent his presentation on fracking to Councillor Page, Ben would also like a copy of it.

John raised some questions about the communication of climate change news through the website. To be discussed in the meeting.

2. RCAN event - content and invitees

The upcoming event on 14th May was discussed (presented by Summreen).

Invitees:

Jenny suggested BRE Smart Waste database may have some useful contacts to send invites to. Re3 partnership, LEP and through Tracey to the CBI and TV Enterprise. Select Environmental. Charity shops.

Purpose of event:

Give updates on progress of delivery of action plan. Find out what key partners are doing. RCCP Board have a slot to give updates on the action plan. Publicise action plan and things we need more engagement on. Quick highlights from each theme.

Think about what the audience is coming for and explain how this is a benefit to businesses. Simplify wording in advert.

Will we have food? Ben offered to give a presentation on delivery of the climate change strategy and Tom and Chris are happy to help or present / co present. Sally would chair and Shoosmiths LLP Solicitors will host.

Press release:

The RBC & EA will refrain from doing a press release due to timing with the elections coming up. UoR will do a press release with other members asked to publicise the event as well.

3. RCCS monitoring

Timetable:

Jill would like theme leads to obtain updates on actions by the end of April.

She would like these in to her by end of May so she can collate a report for the July RCCP Board meeting.

Paperwork to complete reporting is available on the [RGBN website](#).

Internally at RBC, this report will go to the SEPT committee thereafter (Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport), where Councillors will discuss the report in relation to RBC's activities.

The RCCP sub group will meet on 20 May and in mid-June to talk about the reporting and aim to have an action plan updated with progress showing using the 'traffic light' system (red for major problem, amber for a few issues and green for going well).

The annual review of the action plan will take place in the autumn.

The government figures on 2012 emissions for Reading will be out after the first reporting and will also be reported in the Autumn by RBC.

4. Solar funding

A paper was presented by Summreen on a funding stream made available from solar revenues.

The board agreed that small businesses should also be welcomed to apply for funding and agreed the proposed criteria subject to removing the clause about non-profit and suggested wider advertising to promote the fund.

There should be a balance in funding awarded between fuel poverty and low carbon projects.

Should there be a separate allocation for RCCP board activities?

Add a paragraph at the start of the funding guidelines stating that the board will oversee funds.

[\(Guidelines now published\)](#).

5. Green Deal

RBC was not awarded the Green Deal Communities Fund. They applied for £1.2 million for solid wall on heritage buildings. Successful bids included 6 London authorities, West Berkshire conglomerate (x16 authorities), Bracknell Forest Council and Action Surrey (LA backed county wide partnership).

Other options are:

- Team up with Mitie, who are a big name in the heating industry and have a contract with the National Landlords Association, to target private rented properties in poor condition Victorian housing.
- Bracknell are doing a program with Insta group and the Snug Network. RBC could also use the Insta group.
- The RE:Start Local project participants (small businesses supplying to the renewable and energy efficiency markets) could be used to create a local supply chain - The partnership could get involved, can create wider partnerships, there may be fewer contractual limitations on the

partnership than on the public sector. The partnership may also be able to help with media opportunities and provide a platform for publicity.

- Partnership to establish a commercial partner. Because of changeable nature of Green Deal, companies may stay away from this at the moment. Also, it is currently not a very attractive offer for the customer.

It was agreed that something should be put on the RCAN website giving the situation in Reading on Green Deal at the moment.

In summary, RCCP can help with

- Raising the public awareness of scheme
- Supporting local businesses.....making it locality relevant.

Link in with Re:start Local who have 50/60 businesses signed up and runs until September. RCCP can brand as a service and make sure it's highlighted that it is independent advice.

Contract side of it / future of green deal provision.

Maybe another round of bidding - £450 million will be available in the future for private rented.

Add additional wording on website to say RCCP doesn't endorse those businesses. RBC doesn't endorse businesses due to reputational risk unless they go through the 'Buy with confidence' scheme and even then it is not endorsement. Any company that wanted to appear on the RCAN site would need to become members of RCAN.

6. Reading Sustainability Centre

Tony Cowling delivered a presentation on the RSC. There is more information on the [GREN website](#).

TV Energy have done a preliminary feasibility study and can be commissioned to do another more detailed one costing £2,000. The board agreed this spend from the solar fund. Sally and John both declared an interest in this.

Tony Cowling will return in October with a more detailed business plan.

7. AOB

Tom took part in a B&Q competition which included receiving green gadgets in the home and monitoring of their energy use. Could we replicate something similar?

Councillor Page and Gittings are going to be visiting Southampton to discuss Green Deal and changes proposed by the LGA. John asked if RCCP want to also get involved in this?

John asked if RCCP should join RNN (Reading Neighbourhood Network?). Summreen updated the group on the RNN Climate Change Initiative which is a promotional campaign from the RNN steering group. More information will be included in the action plan monitoring report ([and is now on the RCA website](#)).

John told us about the ['Green Environmental Hustings' event on 13th May](#).

John is to engage with the [Reading Climate Change Centre](#), who have a good promotional side and seem to be taking a few initiatives on climate change Europe wide.

DONM 9.30am Wed 2nd July, Council Chamber, Reading Civic Centre.