

Reading Climate Change Partnership Board Meeting
9.30am -11.30am Wednesday 2nd July 2014
Fountain House, Reading Council, Reading.



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

1. Minutes of last meeting/ matters arising

No updates from Thames Valley free school.

Regarding the hydro project on Caversham Lock - planners are looking at ground source heat pumps to power the lido.

ACTION Look into Reward Your World / Reading Buses - Molo awards (Ben).

Chris' presentation on fracking is very informative. The council has decided not to take a position on it as it is not relevant in their area.

Reading Friends of the Earth has an anti-fracking campaign, under which it is gathering concerns of residents. They will pass this on to the council. Ben will give a briefing to Councillor Page.

2. RCAN event feedback

This was a good, enjoyable event. SME target audience absent and there is a danger of continuing to preach to converted. Tracey fed back that she had struggled to bring sustainability issues to the fore with the LEP SME group. Larger organisations may be easier to target but often they are already doing something.

Who should the target audience be? What do we want to message, what do they need? e.g. approach shop owners with a detailed approach and tailored message.

As the LEP has a service industry bias, a more targeted approach may be more successful. It is a very difficult target group, as it is preoccupied by other things. The recession has led to more networking to enhance competition however, so there is hope of this approach working.

Business sectors identified

- shop keepers
- individual self-employed - builders and allied trades (including renewables)
- professions - legal/financial, accountants, financial advisers

- estate agents
- landlords
- use Restart links
- professional associations, is good way to get in to SMEs.

3. RCCS monitoring

Majority of actions reported on- only 3% have no RAG status. Other totals were:
 49% Green
 40% Amber
 8% Red

Better definitions of RAG needed for next time as the two criteria that defined the rating were given varying importance: resource and deadline.

Reds

Energy

4.10 Transition Town Reading (TTR) have not defined a deadline as they do not have the capacity to do this, or the technical knowledge within their group at the moment. TV Energy may be able to help with this. Chris to ask TTR for a current status.
 Could possibly get some involvement through RE:start local businesses.

Low Carbon Development

4.2 RBCs predicted estimate of the uptake of green deal finance packages for this project was too low. They also couldn't share geographical areas they were targeting, due to license conditions, which also may have worked against their bid. RBC are still working with Mitie to come up with a scheme to work with people signed up through the Pioneer Place project. The Home Improvement Fund is also available.

4.3 - review at year end.

Education and communication

1.4 Schools energy and carbon management officer still works with schools on carbon management has some level of resource for schools but now works on building school extensions. Can state 'eco school' numbers in Reading as a measure for this target.

3.1 Include commercial sector in this target? Ideally want to integrate this approach with enforcement officers in RBC, however capacity may be problem.

4.1 - Could use Re-Start Local, colleges, current teachers.

City Deal could generate apprenticeships and the Climate Berks EU fund is also possible.

A definition of green economy and a list of skills included in this would be helpful.

NB B&Q offer workshops for skills on how to do DIY for adults and how to build things for children.

4.2 - Combine with above to achieve a clearer outcome. UK working on low skilled category.

There is an overlap with Climate Berkshire work and funds, the Structural Infrastructure Fund in particular.

Purchasing

1.1 Unclear definition, Tracey to contact John Littlefair (RBC) to get a better understanding of this.

M&S and B&Q have key standards to guide people, we could use them.

Potentially invite someone from hospital from procurement as a sector representative on to the RCCP board.

1.3 We have RGBN, therefore no new forum is needed. Targets can be defined by the number of people participating.

4. Project Support from RCCP Board

Reading Climate Change Centre wants Reading to apply for the European Green Capital Award 2017. The board felt applying for awards is good and positive and awards are good for image etc. but the timescale to submit the bid is too short for this year (application needed for sept).

The board would like to invite RCCC to the next meeting in October, to hear more about their purpose and aims. How are they constituted and what is their business model?

Tracey has something on schools she will circulate.

Reading Food Growing Network grant approved.

Questions for the Local Economy Festival proposal: who is target audience and what are the objectives of the conference? The board also felt small businesses should be more prominent in this conference.

5. Any Other Business

John asked if there is anything RBC/ RCCP can offer a new free school - Hodsol School. Ben will feedback to partnership on this. FoE and solar schools may also have resources available. To help.

Chris has been involved with a new floor insulation research project Tony Cowling wants to do. He will submit a proposal form.

John thought it would be good to publicise the domestic RHI through RBC / RCAN. He will forward information on this.

Jenny has a local case study from PBA (they invite local caterers to provide lunch to their staff, who enjoy the variety of food very much.)

Next meeting

Thursday 22 October, 10.00 am - 12.00 pm at PBA offices (starting with breakfast at 9am!)