

Reading Friends of the Earth

Newsletter November-December 2022

For more info: www.readingfoe.org.uk ... or Twitter @ReadingFOE ...
or Facebook [Reading Friends of the Earth | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ReadingFriendsOfTheEarth/) ...
or email info@readingfoe.org.uk ... or 'phone 07503626167.



General Meetings: Reading FoE usually meet on the **second Wednesday of each month** in Room 1 upstairs at RISC, 35-39 London Street, at 7:30 p.m. (formerly 8:00 pm). Access from London Street is via passage to the right of the shop-front. Most meetings will be 'hybrid' using Zoom. Please request a Zoom link if you have not received one. Most meetings discuss plans and general topics, some have a particular focus or guest speakers. Meetings are open to all. Meetings may cancel at short notice due to Covid or availability of group officers - if in doubt check our website www.readingfoe.org.uk on the day or phone or e-mail for confirmation (contacts above).

Wednesday November 9th: 7:30 pm. Topics (details below) to include:

- Promoting FoE's 'United for Warm Homes' campaign in Reading - see below
- Reading Council's Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport committee meeting on 16th November

We will be joined on Zoom by **Brenda Pollack – FoE's South East Campaigner** – to help us with 'mapping' to build partnerships for warm homes within the Reading community, and to get ideas for the 'Warm Homes' day of action on 3rd December.

Wednesday December 14th: 7:30 pm. General meeting. Check for updates on www.readingfoe.org.uk

Saturday 3rd December: 'United for Warm Homes' national day of action on fuel poverty. One suggestion is we organise a photo opportunity to raise publicity – need to think of who to involve and where to do it. <https://unitedforwarmhomes.uk/warm-winter-day-action-fuel-poverty>

The day of action will contribute to a flurry of activity on fuel poverty at the start of December, and will immediately follow Fuel Poverty Awareness Day on 2 December. The Day of Action will see people come together as part of a wider national movement for warm homes and demand solutions to the energy and cost-of-living crises.

Here's a guide to fuel poverty and who it affects: [What is fuel poverty and who does it affect? | Friends of the Earth](https://www.readingfoe.org.uk/what-is-fuel-poverty-and-who-does-it-affect/)

At our October meeting we were told that the aim of 'United for Warm Homes' <https://unitedforwarmhomes.uk/> is to build a movement over three years to pursue three key aims:

- 1/. Urgent additional financial support to keep people warm.
- 2/. A nationwide insulation programme.
- 3/. Permanent fixes to our failed energy system. Powering our homes with cheap and clean renewables

This will be supported by FoE but branded 'United for Warm Homes' – aiming to include individuals and groups concerned with welfare and poverty and politics as well as environmental groups.

Other Local Activities (not run by Reading FoE so check for changes):

Reading Cycle Campaign – has regular monthly meetings and other activities. <https://readingcyclecampaign.org.uk/>

Repair Cafe – usually third weekend of month - <http://www.transitionreading.org.uk/projects/reading-repair-cafe/>

Reading Bicycle Kitchen – regular sessions at Unit C10, Weldale Street, RG1 7BX
– see <https://www.readingbicyclekitchen.org/>

Green Drinks – usually on the first Tuesday of every month – see [Reading Green Drinks | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ReadingGreenDrinks/)

Reducing Energy Bills by Creating Warmer Homes on-line - 7th November at 20:00 - Reading Climate Action Network – [Reducing energy bills by creating warmer homes - Reading Climate Action Network \(RCAN\)](https://www.readingclimateactionnetwork.org.uk/reducing-energy-bills-by-creating-warmer-homes) ([readingcan.org.uk](https://www.readingcan.org.uk)) . For other events see <https://www.readingcan.org.uk/events/>

COP27 and National Climate Campaigns – Saturday 12th November:

National day of action around COP27 – [COP27 Mobilisations - Climate Justice Coalition](https://www.facebook.com/events/1289040894969898/) London seems to be nearest – Shell building in Belvedere Road (near London Eye) at 12:00 to join supporters of Climate Justice Coalition
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1289040894969898/>

Traffic Management Sub-committee – 10th November.

The agenda is at <https://democracy.reading.gov.uk/mgA.aspx?M=4892&LLL=0>

Topics include changes to the Redlands traffic calming measures and notes from the August Cycle Forum meeting.

Reading's Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport committee – 16th November:

The final meeting of this important Council Committee this year is on 16th November. An opportunity to read updated reports on environmental topics and to ask questions on relevant issues – any suggestions?

Agenda and reports for SEPT usually go on-line a week before the meeting so just in time for our November meeting.

<https://democracy.reading.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeId=139>

Reading Climate Festival:

There were a lot of good events at the <https://readingcan.org.uk/festival/> but there seems to be delay in putting the recordings of the webinars on-line in an archive.

One interesting meeting included a presentation by Anita Purser, Reading's Low Carbon Housing Projects Manager, discussing 'Sustainable Warmth' who has corresponded with Paolo about his analysis of EPCs. Reading is starting to retro-fit some of its own properties with insulation, heat pumps etc. Will be good to re-watch this sometime.

Details of Sustainable Warmth Grant are at <https://www.reading.gov.uk/housing/benefits-and-assistance/sustainable-warmth-grant/> and <https://www.reading.gov.uk/housing/benefits-and-assistance/sustainable-warmth-grant/sustainable-warmth-frequently-asked-questions/>

New flats built to an improved standard are at <https://www.reading.gov.uk/news/new-affordable-flats-created-in-reading/>

Recent Reading FoE events:

- Tuesday 20th September: Reading University Freshers Fayre/Welcome Week – Sustainability theme. Graham and John put on a stall. Well attended event – had a few good conversations.
- Saturday 24th September: Climate Festival Youth Fair at Reading School. Chris ran our stall for the day. Not well attended – had a few good conversations.
- Sunday 25th September: Paolo joined Trish and Austin to give an on-line presentation on energy saving in the home as part of the Climate Festival. Subsequently he provided an analysis of EPC data for Windsor and Maidenhead.
- Thursday 6th October: John did a recorded interview by 'phone on Air Quality for Radio Berkshire based on a FoE EWNI Press Release. According to FoE: "BBC Berkshire did cover the story in their news bulletins including a very good 'sound bite' clip talking about the need to curb car pollution and the win-win-win situation it would bring in terms of cutting climate emissions, air pollution and congestion."

Graham at UoR Freshers Fair



Chris at Climate Festival Youth Fair



Cumbrian Coal Mine:

Back in March we delivered a letter to Alok Sharma MP calling on him to stop the government approving a new mine for 'coking coal' in Cumbria.

We had expected the decision to be announced in summer but then it was put back to 8th November 2022 and now until after COP27 – on or before 8th December.

For background see: [Cumbrian coal mine: Why Michael Gove must say no | Friends of the Earth](#)

Government defeated on Climate Strategy:

Back in July FoE and others persuaded the High Court to rule that the government's Net Zero Strategy breaches the Climate Change Act. Government has now confirmed it will not appeal this decision so will have to revise its strategy by March 2023. <https://friendsoftheearth.uk/climate/govt-not-appealing-ruling-net-zero-strategy-unlawful>

Useful Links and General Information:

Recent links for Reading FoE stalls and campaigns: www.readingfoe.org.uk/links

Friends of the Earth 'England, Wales and Northern Ireland' <http://www.foe.co.uk>

– Policy and Insight <https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/>

GREN - Greater Reading Environmental Network <http://www.gren.org.uk/>. Also [Greater Reading Environment Network | Facebook](#)

Reading Climate Action Network - <https://readingcan.org.uk>

Extinction Rebellion, Reading: <https://www.facebook.com/xrReading/>

Transition Reading - Reading's Transition Town movement <http://www.transitionreading.org.uk>

Reading Sustainability Centre - <http://readingsustainabilitycentre.co.uk/>

Save Our Ancient Riverside - <https://saveourancientriverside.co.uk/>

Reading FoE Officers etc.

Our 2022 AGM on April 13th elected Enrico Petrucco and John Booth to continue in the posts of Co-ordinator and Treasurer respectively. A new Constitution for the group was adopted.

Reading FoE e-mail communications

If you would like to become a supporter on our mailing list and receive and join in our day-to-day communications please send an email to info@readingfoe.org.uk to request our GDPR Consent form. We have separate lists for people who only want to receive our newsletter (currently 6 per year) and information about important events and actions, and for people who want to be more involved and communicate directly with other active supporters.

Reading FoE Subscriptions:

A donation would be welcome from supporters but is not required. We're much happier to have an extra pair of hands doing the important stuff. To join or renew, just fill in the slip below and send it off with or without your subscription. We aim to provide a regular newsletter to keep members up to date with the group's activities.

Our subscriptions run from April to March and are set at £8.00 / £5.00 (waged / unwaged) to cover newsletter costs, meeting room hire and campaign expenses. Further contributions would be greatly appreciated. Even if you don't have time to take an active part, your registration is welcome and allows us to demonstrate more local support.

Name: _____ Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Please tick ☐ if you are able to take an active part in our campaigns. We may contact you by phone.

I heard about the group from: _____

Please make your cheque (if any) payable to Reading Friends of the Earth, and return to the Reading FoE Treasurer, c/o 27 Instow Road, Earley, Reading RG6 5QH. Alternatively request our bank account details.