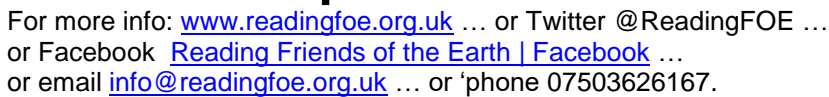


Newsletter September-October 2022



Wednesday September 14th: 7:30 pm. Topics to include:

- Wednesday October 12th:** 7:30 pm. General meeting. Check for updates on www.readingfoe.org.uk



Stop calls for new oil and gas projects

Rapidly build more renewable power

Help households get off gas

Make our homes warmer

Make oil and gas companies pay

<https://friendsoftheearth.uk/climate/5point-plan-meet-uks-energy-needs>

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Other Future Activities with Reading FoE:

Saturday 24th September: Possible Climate Festival event in Reading School – decide at September meeting.

Sunday 25th September: Help needed on our stall at **Reading Cycle Festival** in Christchurch Meadow

Sunday 25th September: Paolo has agreed to join others in an on-line session at 17:30 - [Cheap fixes for a more energy-efficient home this Winter Registration, Sun 25 Sep 2022 at 17:30 | Eventbrite](#)

Friday 30th September: Possible Climate Festival event in Broad Street Mall – details pending.

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](#)

Earley Green Fair:

Thanks to Paolo, Barbara, Chris, Anne and John for a good day at this event on 6th August. We talked to a lot of people, including Wokingham and Earley Councillors, often about heat pumps.

Burghfield Incinerator:

Thanks to Graham for speaking out against the Burghfield Incinerator at West Berkshire Planning Committee. Sadly the committee did not see it our way but they heard our position and Graham was quoted in the Newbury Weekly News <https://www.newburytoday.co.uk/news/plans-for-huge-waste-burning-plant-are-rubber-stamped-9270944/> and Reading Chronicle.

Developer J Mould is to spend £260 million on a plant to burn stuff without the carbon capture and storage recommended by the Climate Change Committee. 39 heavy lorries will bring material to the plant every day. 50m tall chimneys will be visible from the M4.

Video of the meeting is at <http://decisionmaking.westberks.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&MId=6836&Ver=4> Incinerator starts at 1 hour and 56 minutes in. Graham starts at 2 hours and 17 minutes in.

Bloomfield Hatch Solar Farm:

Last week West Berkshire Council also gave itself planning permission for 30 years for a Solar Farm (76.2 Acres, 26.65 MWp, claimed to be sufficient to supply electricity for 7,828 average homes) on agricultural land between Grazeley Green and Mortimer that it owns. The agricultural land is 'Grade 3b' and the area is about 0.045% of the West Berkshire land area.

Video of the meeting is at <http://decisionmaking.westberks.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&MId=6836&Ver=4> First topic is the solar farm.

There was a lot of discussion and a Councillor suggested that a new Conservative Prime Minister might change planning laws to prevent such developments in the future. One also commented that if the land had been higher grade agricultural land the Officer's recommendation might well have been to reject the application.

Reading Climate Festival = Great Big Green Week – 24th September to 2nd October.



Reading Climate Action Network is curating and publicising this series of events.

Listing of events so far is on [Reading Climate Festival 2022 | Eventbrite](#) and diary is at [Events calendar - Reading Climate Action Network \(RCAN\) \(readingcan.org.uk\)](#) and a sequential presentation (but the links don't work) at [Climate Change Events — Reading Climate Action Network \(readingcan.org.uk\)](#)

Most on-line events will be recorded so may be available later. However the 'Introduction to Net Zero' course is only available during the festival [Introduction to Net Zero - Reading Climate Action Network \(RCAN\) \(readingcan.org.uk\)](#)

FoE home heating and fuel poverty campaign

FoE's main campaign this autumn is about heating our homes without heating the planet. There's a choice of 3 online events from 12th September to explain the campaign and how we can be involved.

Here's a guide to fuel poverty and who it affects: [What is fuel poverty and who does it affect? | Friends of the Earth](#)

Launch events are on-line on Monday 12th September at 18:00; Tuesday 13th September at 13:00; or Monday 19th September at 20:00; Sign up to make your choice at [Launch Event: Campaign on Home Heating and Fuel Poverty Registration, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](#)

Warm This Winter:

FoE has united with other leading environmental and anti-poverty organisations to launch a new campaign: "Warm This Winter" to demand action that meets the scale of the energy crisis.

Please publicise it – there is a petition to sign! [We Demand To Be Warm This Winter](#)

Transport for the South East – Consultation closes 12th September – act now!

Transport for the South East (TfSE) (the non-statutory grouping of local authorities and others) has launched a consultation <https://transportforthesoutheast.org.uk/our-work/developing-our-strategic-investment-plan/> on its draft Strategic Investment Plan. Consultation ends on 12th September so please respond soon - see below – it can be as easy or as difficult as you like ... but you have to register with TAN or TfSE.

It is the investment plan for the previously defined strategy to 2050. Forecasts 2050 reductions in carbon emissions but without 2030 targets. Proposes to spend around £1.5 billion per year. Proposes heavy spend on rail improvements but mostly not until late in the period to 2050. Not enough on active travel and carbon reduction in next decade.

Transport Action Network (TAN) has an on-line template response [Help stop the south east being swamped with even more traffic \(actionnetwork.org\)](#) which you can adapt. They say “Unfortunately, TfSE's plan contains over 90 road schemes, over 50 of which it wants built by 2030. In contrast, while the plan contains ambitious ideas for public transport, these are far less developed, have no delivery plan and risk never being built.”

TAN's final submission is [online](#) and they have also just published a blog on the topic: <https://transportactionnetwork.org.uk/taking-the-wrong-road-for-climate-change/>

Bill of Rights (or the ‘Rights Removal Bill’ as it’s been dubbed by campaigners) and the Public Order Bill:

These contain threats to the space in which we campaign for environmental and social justice - restrictions on our right to protest. FoE would like us to meet with our Conservative MPs before 12th September if possible, but failing that FoE have put together [this briefing](#) about the two bills (which includes a [template email](#) for you to get in touch with your MP) and [this shorter summary version of the briefing](#) if you’re short on time.

Other National Climate Campaigns:

XR return to London on Saturday September 10th (10am at Marble Arch) for a ‘Festival of Resistance’ <https://extinctionrebellion.uk/next-uk-rebellion/> and [SEPTEMBER 2022 | Facebook](#)

Just Stop Oil will be active in Westminster from Saturday 1st October <https://juststopoil.org/>

4,500 Homes and maybe a new M4 Junction for Hall Farm?

The Conservative group that had put greenfield development at Hall Farm on UoR land south of Earley into their draft Local Plan for Wokingham Borough lost power to a Liberal Democrat led partnership (including Independent and Labour Councillors) at the June elections.

New leader Clive Jones is having meetings with local MPs to try to get the government to agree to reduce the number of new homes Wokingham is required to build. Objectors to the proposed development have so far failed to get him to commit to drop Hall Farm from the next draft plan.

To follow this campaign by ‘SOLVE Hall Farm’ see <https://www.green4grow.org/>

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 very soon but now it has been put back to 8th November 2022. 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. [Gov’t climate strategy deemed "unlawful" in historic ruling | Friends of the Earth](#)

Sizewell C:

Boris Johnson has just agreed the next phase of funding for Sizewell C nuclear power station.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/aug/31/who-will-fund-sizewell-c-nuclear-plant-when-will-it-be-built-explainer>

The University of Greenwich forecasts predict it will take 15 years to build Sizewell C, or 17 years under its gloomiest forecast, and cost £43.8bn compared to official estimates of £20bn to £30bn. So it won’t start generating until the late 2030s but because of the ‘regulated asset base’ funding mechanism it will add between £1 and £2.12 to people’s monthly bills from the start of the project.

FoE’s 2017 policy position is to oppose new nuclear power stations. [Nuclear energy: our position | Policy and insight \(friendsoftheearth.uk\)](#)

There is a legal challenge based on demand for water in the area – government overruled the Planning Inspectorate. <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2022/aug/08/sizewell-c-nuclear-plant-approval-faces-legal-challenge>

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.