

Reading Friends of the Earth

Links to information, petitions and actions – for August 2024

Up-coming meetings on Reading Climate strategy:

Wednesday August 14th – 19:30 - Fox and Hounds in Caversham – to include workshop on **Reading Climate Action Network (RCAN) - new strategy**. This strategy is important because RBC are on RCAN and (as usual) are expected to adopt the strategy. <https://readingcan.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Discussion-Pack-Designing-a-Net-Zero-Reading-2805.pdf>

Wednesday August 21st – 19:30 – RISC. GREN/RFoE meeting on Reading Climate Strategy – to discuss response to first phase report from a ‘Deliberative Group’ – feedback required by 5th September. Survey document at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3WG8MWL>

Planet Over Profit:

Petition for a new law to hold business, finance and the public sector to account when they fail to prevent supply chain human rights abuses and environmental harms:

Petition is at:

<https://action.friendsoftheearth.uk/petition/make-companies-accountable-harm-people-and-environment>

Background information on Planet over Profit:

<https://www.foe.uk/supplychains> and <https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/insight/environment-act-wont-halt-deforestation-or-protect-human-rights>

Reading Transport Strategy 2040

Adopted by Council in spring 2024

Consultation documents are at: <https://www.reading.gov.uk/vehicles-roads-and-transport/transport-strategy/reading-transport-strategy-2040/>

Councillor Ennis has written “This strategy provides high quality and realistic alternatives to the private car through new and upgraded railway stations, new park and rides and quick, reliable public and affordable transport routes. It includes major new schemes to promote and strengthen public transport links, including a fundamental review of options to improve sustainable travel over the River Thames to reduce congestion and improve air quality for residents.”

“It includes new pedestrian and cycle routes, and the infrastructure to support it. It includes demand management schemes, to remove the most polluting vehicles from our streets, particularly those with absolutely no business in Reading. This strategy also outlines how we will work with partners to fund and to help deliver the vision.”

Lots of useful information and idealistic ‘visions’ and policies – very little detail on improvements to expect in next few years. Presumably RBC would say ‘it’s a strategy’ not a commitment. But road transport CO2 emissions target is only to drop from 100.4 kt in 2020 to 54 kt by 2040. Not clear how this fits with Council’s stated “objective to create a net zero carbon Reading by 2030.”

General information:

Contact Friends of the Earth:

National Friends of the Earth website is <https://friendsoftheearth.uk/>

Reading Friends of the Earth new website (under development) is <https://www.readingfoe.co.uk/> old website is <http://www.readingfoe.org.uk/>

Reading Friends of the Earth newsletters are at <https://readingfoe.co.uk/newsletters/>

Reading Friends of the Earth Facebook is [Reading Friends of the Earth | Facebook](#)

National FoE 'Policy and Insight' pages. <https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/> - research papers and in-depth reviews of many topics.

Other environmental groups in Reading:

Greater Reading Environmental Network (GREN) website is www.gren.org.uk It has links to many environmental groups. GREN Facebook is [Greater Reading Environment Network | Facebook](#)

Extinction Rebellion website is <https://rebellion.earth/> Extinction Rebellion Reading Facebook is <https://www.facebook.com/xrReading/> .

Reading Climate Action Network website is <https://readingcan.org.uk/> It gives access to Reading Climate Change Strategy, Action Plan, and opportunities for individuals, organisations and businesses.

Information on your Local Environment: Enter your postcode and then click on 'Ready to discover more?' to access local data on Energy; Homes; Transport; Nature; and Health. <https://friendsoftheearth.uk/near-me>

Energy Saving Trust: Guidance on home improvements, retro-fit etc.
<https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/>

Heat Pumps:

Official guide: <https://mcscertified.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Heat-Pump-Guide.pdf>

Insulation: Carbon Co-op presentation titled, "How much insulation do you need to fit a heat pump" [Carbon Co-op webinar programme | Carbon Co-op](#)

Carrington Building – UoR has had Ground Source Heat Pumps for years.
<https://www.gshp.org.uk/documents/Ground%20Source%20Now/Richard%20Turner%20-%20Uni%20of%20Reading.pdf>

RBC has some plans for up-grades:
<https://www.readingchronicle.co.uk/news/politics/19391974.reading-councils-10-million-carbon-cutting-plans/>

RBC has agreed a programme for property improvement works and thermal efficiency upgrades including External Wall Insulation and Air Source Heat Pumps to 31 RBC properties in Tilehurst [KEN - 220190 - Bramshaw Road.pdf \(reading.gov.uk\)](#) .

Kensa – market leader in **Ground Source Heat Pumps**
<https://www.kensaheatpumps.com/> - for air source see Mitsubishi and many others.

National initiatives and guidance:

Friends of the Earth on Future Heating:
<https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/insight/future-heating>

Climate Change Committee on Housing fit for the Future:
<https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/uk-housing-fit-for-the-future/>

National Retrofit Strategy: [National Retrofit Strategy V2 launches » Construction Leadership Council](#)

Government Heat and Buildings Strategy:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/heat-and-buildings-strategy>

New Economics Foundation "Great Homes Upgrade" [Great Homes Upgrade campaign toolkit - Google Docs](#)

Climate Change:

"Climate Negotiations in 81 seconds" cartoon which emphasises the importance of getting the rich, major nations to take action is <https://youtu.be/B11kASPFYxY>

"What's Causing Global Warming" Carbon Brief animation which illustrates that only man-made emissions of greenhouse gases can account for observed global warming <https://twitter.com/CarbonBrief/status/1151479413369786373>

Transport:

Reading FoE - see links on our website <http://www.readingfoe.org.uk/>

National FoE - see 'Policy' papers on Transport

<https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/topic/transport> - lots of good but fairly deep articles.

Transport Action Network legal challenges to government as well as more local actions <https://transportactionnetwork.org.uk/>

Reading's draft Local Transport Strategy various documents at <https://democracy.reading.gov.uk/documents/s27712/Appendix%20A%20-%20Reading%20Transport%20Strategy%202040%20-%20Draft%20for%20Consultation.pdf>

Reading's Active Travel proposals 'Tranche 1' and 'Tranche 2' explained <https://www.reading.gov.uk/council/policies-finance-and-legal-information/transport-schemes-and-projects/active-travel/>

Our 2015-16 Campaign against M4 Widening web-page is www.readingfoe.org.uk/m4 . The government has given permission for this to go ahead. Term traffic is slow because of lane narrowing in certain sections of the M4. A 2016 presentation giving a summary of impacts on safety, climate change, congestion, air quality and noise is at Impacts of Smart M4.

Agriculture and Wildlife:

National FoE on Sustainable Eating: <https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/policy-positions/sustainable-eating-our-position>

National FoE on principles for land use:
<https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/insight/nine-principles-using-our-land-wisely-time-climate-and-nature-crises>

National FoE web-pages on nature and wildlife <https://friendsoftheearth.uk/nature>

Flooding:

Wildlife and Countryside Link – Blueprint for Water:
<https://www.wcl.org.uk/blueprintforwater.asp>

Flood risks to Reading: search 'Environment Agency Caversham Flood Scheme'

Plastics:

National FoE web-pages on Plastics <https://friendsoftheearth.uk/plastics>

National FoE petition help reduce plastic oceans - over 332,000 signatures already telling the UK government that we need a new law to phase out plastic pollution

National FoE report on plastics in UK waterways River Thames - 84.1 microplastic pollutants per litre