

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of Zoom meeting on Wednesday 7th May 2025 at 7.30pm

Present: 13

Apologies: 1

1. Save Energy presentation

- SE is very keen to get the message out about saving energy.
- SE is local, passionate about community and social justice. Personnel come from different backgrounds.
- Vision: A community that does everything it can to reduce energy consumption sustainably by improving homes in the UK and they want to allow everyone to have the opportunity to do this and will help those who can't pay.
- Anyone can be a member for £1 for life.
- SE is a democratic movement which is not for profit. It is a commercial organisation with community benefit at its heart.
- SE received a £36k seed funding grant in 2023, and then registered in June 2023. Has received funding from Community Energy Fund and National Lottery.
- 4 main services -
 1. Energy advice free to all
 2. Triple A evaluation: advice assessment and action
 3. Give help with Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs)
 4. Practical interventions to improve homes.
- 20% of help will be free or low cost to benefit our community.
- SE also wants to encourage the green skills industry.
- Operates in a 10 mile radius from Maidenhead, which includes High Wycombe.
- 50% of homes in the area are rated D or E so it is a massive challenge.
- Domestic energy accounts for a high percentage of energy usage so it's important.
- SE aims to raise a min of £50k and a max of £100k. Share offer is open 2nd April through to 16th May with a possible 2 week extension to end May.
- Investment can be between £100 and £10,000 but can hold a max of 10% of shares.
- HMRC Advance Assurance. The offer qualifies for SEIS - 50% tax relief on the investment.
- Money will be used on staff, equipment, training and to support growth in the sector.
- As of tonight SE is at £45,000. More details on SE website: www.saveenergy.coop
Email: pioneer@saveenergy.coop Or call Kit on 07311 138315

2. Finance

The Treasurer to send out reminders for membership fees. £826 in the bank.

3. Ecotip

Travel

Summer is coming and you might be planning a trip abroad. Consider a train trip to Europe. For example, Eurostar to Paris or Amsterdam, and then take a sleeper train and wake up in Toulouse, Berlin, Vienna, Venice etc. Flying is the most polluting way to travel, especially short-haul flights, and is about 10x worse than the train. See also <https://www.responsibletravel.com/holidays/flight-free>.

80% of trips are less than 10km from home so if they were undertaken by walking or cycling rather than by car that would make an impact. It's national walking month.

4. Social media

Other 'local' posts have included Pann Mill, Contact your Mp re Swift Bricks in New Builds, Home Compositing, Marlow FM Earth Show, Bucks Community Energy Champions, Hughenden Valley Group Bug Hotel, Bucks New Uni Fisheye Festival Environmental Documentary, Chinnor FoE film screening, saving Trees in Hazlemere, Bee Seed project in Hazlemere, Community and Climate Cafe meeting, Grow Together volunteering + more.

Global posts include - Gov Green Energy plans, save Energy Coop, Active Travel, 89 Percent project plus Talking about the Climate Crisis (Katherine Heyhoe Texas Tech scientist), ethical Broadband, Natural History Museum "Fixing our Broken Planet" Gallery, Peruvian farmer's lawsuit against Germany's largest energy company, Aviation and Climate, Climate and Nature crisis meetings, petitions - End Fossil Fuels, Warm Homes Debate, Why Local Elections Matter, Best way to save Water, Climate Injustice, Eco Anxiety, Climate and Behaviour.

Posts	Comments	Reactions	Most Viewed	Least Viewed
Feb 49	12	68	Relaunch of Community & Climate Cafe (L) Wycombe Environment list of local events	Greenpeace petition to stop Deep Sea Mining before it starts. (GI)
March 40	13	70	Lindengate Charity and Poplar Trees (L) Refresh Store Sewing Course (L)	What areas do you want to protect in Hazlemere (and High Wycombe) (L) Grow a Butterfly Garden BBWT - free ecology walks.

April 55	10	106	Leather Lane Bat Conservation Walk (L) WFOE May Meeting (L)	FoE Debunking Myths and Revealing Top Facts about Renewables. (GL)
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5. Events coming up

- WEC community meeting at Wrights Meadow 14th May, 7pm to help organise the craft jam WEC is doing for Frogfest at the Refresh Store in the Chilterns on Sunday 25th May.
- Chinnor FOE has a Wilding film screening
- FOE climate action is planning a march in July. 10th June - webinar 6.00-7.15pm.
- FOE is asking us to contact our MPs to attend the warm homes debate tomorrow.
- Booker Common Car boot sale on May bank holiday, 26th May, on Booker common.

6. Pann Mill - 11th May

The rota is full and a member will provide children's activities, alter the display board as appropriate and send out rota and notes to attendees in the next day or two.

7. Speaker event

- A member contacted 2 speakers, Prof Kham Bui of Oxf Uni is willing to take part - his research is on Air Quality and Mental Health. Baroness Jenny Jones (Greens) is willing to cover Climate change, biodiversity.
- Jenny Jones needs 6 weeks notice.
- It was decided to proceed with the two speakers on a Wednesday in October if possible, but not half term week - 8th, 15th or 22nd.
- It was agreed to have a separate meeting to discuss publicity, venue, focus etc.
- A member will put a pole for dates on Whatsapp and will liaise.

8. Film screening

Grow Together is interested in screening a film on soil perhaps at Wrights Meadow (£15 per hour to hire). It was agreed we could do this together. Possible film - '6 inches of soil'. Perhaps in early Autumn. One Climate at Bledlow Ridge has facilities for film screening; every Wed, at present, they are putting on a film about regenerating farming. A member will find out more about the soil film.

9. Pride of Place

- Funded by Wycombe Community bBoard. To be launched at Frogfest on 25th May.
- Purpose is to make people aware of the climate crisis locally.
- Dates of events can be put forward for advertising at Frogfest. Autumn events can be pencilled in.
- Does WFoE want to organise an event? Our film screening and speaker event could be under the Pride of Place banner. It was thought that these two events, with stalls at Pann Mill will be as much as WFoE members could manage this year.

10. Meeting with Emma Reynolds

- A member has finished his notes on international comparisons. Another member has researched warmer homes. Thank you, both. A date for another meeting with Emma Reynolds will be arranged, perhaps with MP Watch, although MP watch is taking a break at present.

11. WEP/WEC activities

- Community meeting on 14th May. See item 5 above.
- Frogfest, 25th May in Wycombe (WEC specifically at the Refresh store in the Chilterns).
- Arranging funding for bulb planting on Red Kite land in the Disraeli area in the Autumn.
- Open meetings about creativity and Sustainability coming up.
- Repair Cafe on Saturday 10th May.

12. AOB

- Hazlemere councillor is trying to save some trees and hedges that have been removed for development of the land. He is trying to find a home for them. A member made the point that, while the individual bushes and trees can be saved, the habitat of an established hedge cannot. Better than losing it all though.
- Hazlemere will be distributing wildflower seeds again this year.

13. Next meeting

- Next meeting will be an in-person meeting on Wednesday 4th June and will be the AGM. If anyone would like to take on the offices of Co-ordinator and Treasurer their offer would be gratefully received. A member to book the room at The Friends Meeting House.
- An interim meeting to be arranged as above for the speaker event. Dates to be arranged.