

## Wycombe Friends of the Earth

### Minutes of Monthly Zoom Meeting on Wednesday 7th January 2026 7.30pm

**Present:** 11 plus 2 from Save Energy Group      **Apologies:** 0

Names in **bold** indicate action by that person.

1.      **Talk and update from Save Energy Group** (details below after the minutes)

Followed by a Q&A session.

2.      **Finance**

Money paid out for website security, just under £990 in the bank.

3.      **Ecotip**

**January eco tip:**

Christmas and New Year is a time of indulgence which inevitably results in a lot of waste. Some suggestions:

- Gift packaging (paper/plastic) can be reused, or at least ensure noncontaminated paper is recycled kerbside
- Shipping materials (bubble wrap, boxes) E.g. bubble wrap could be given to our local scrapstore (Refresh shop) and boxes can be reused or recycled as paper.
- Christmas cards are recyclable except those with glitter and other contaminants
- Christmas trees can be chopped up and put in your green wheelie bin, taken to the tip as is, or you can arrange collection...

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/changes-to-recycling-and-waste-services-christmas/#how-to-dispose-of-your-christmas-tree>

For collection from your doorstep, see if your postcode qualifies at:

<https://www.bucksfreepress.co.uk/news/25695961.dispose-christmas-tree-bucks-2025-2026>

General info from Bucks Council about post Christmas recycling at:

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/changes-to-recycling-and-waste-services-christmas>

4.      **Social media**

- 3 people joined in Oct/Nov 328 followers, (a respectable average would be 330), most views are local, fewer views on the larger issues.

**Nov : 75 posts (12% up on Oct 25), 21 comments, 110 reactions**

Views - up 36% on the same period for October (according to FB stats)

Most viewed - Chinnor FoE Christmas Fayre and Ultra Processed Foods (local)

Least viewed - Global Day of Action organised by Climate Justice Coalition (15 Nov)  
(Global)

### **Dec. 52 posts, 13 comments , 113 reactions. (\*\* down a bit on Dec due to Christmas and New Year)**

Most viewed - Steve Morton Memorial Walk (local)

least Viewed - National Emergency Briefing videos posted by Michelle Price BCCA  
(global)

#### **5. Events coming up**

- **WFoE 20th anniversary 2026 (Nov)**

A member will put history notes on a slide presentation maybe for the speaker event. Perhaps organise an early Christmas gathering (as the anniversary is in November) and invite local groups to that but not a business meeting. Ideas welcome.

- **Steve Morton Memorial walk Sunday 1st Feb, 11am. Approx 2 miles circular route.**

On Facebook page. A member has sent invitations to other interested people. Meet at Pann Mill, walk to the old railway bridge and back down Bassettsbury Avenue and along the back of the Dyke. Venue for final coffee could be the Front Room who would like an idea of numbers. So if people are coming to the Front Room, please let us know. 2 members will welcome everyone at the start and explain the plan. 2 members will lead the walk and 2 members will take the back.

- **Library Stall Saturday 7th Feb, 10am - 12 noon.**

2 members will man the stall.

Could try just a table without the display board, plus leaflets and FOE T-shirts.

#### **6. Speaker event - being dealt with by sub-group**

- Progressing the plastics event and the speaker event. A member is organising some food input.
- A member will log achievements and successes to add them to the history notes so people can see what we have achieved and might encourage people to join.

#### **7. Meeting with Emma Reynolds**

- More likely to get a meeting with her at her surgery so A member will email her office.
- Her 12 election climate pledges could be talking points. These include the 5 that we discussed with her last year.

8. **Glyphosate - Bucks Council** - deferred to next meeting

9. **Films?**

- Power Station shown by Climate Community Cafe - film about solar panels being installed on houses along a street in Walthamstow. We perhaps could screen this. Climate Community Cafe were keen for it to be a wider screening.
- Venue - Bucks New Uni is expensive. Others - arts centre, St Francis church, Terriers. A member will update the group when he has found out more.

10. **AOB** - none.

- The Treasurer will firmly book The Friends Meeting House every 3 months on Wednesday evenings - March, June, September.

11. **Next meeting** will be a Zoom meeting on Wednesday 4th February.

## Save Energy is

- about community, local to Maidenhead with radius of 10 miles plus
- Getting to net zero is necessary but a challenge.
- Vision - a community that does everything it can to reduce energy consumption.
- Need to start the journey with free energy advice and act locally.
- Operate on cooperative principles, owned by members, not for profit, A social enterprise not a charity, asking those who can afford to pay to do so to support others.

## History

- Running since July 2023, Ran a community share offer in 2025.
- Grants from Climate Partnership which led to the Community Energy Fund and
- National lottery funding,
- Raised £85,000 in 8 weeks in a share offer which qualified for the Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme. There will be further share offers.
- Could get money back but many just want the enterprise to succeed.

## Personnel

- There are energy advisers and energy assessors trained to Energy Action level 3, City and Guilds in Energy Awareness level.
- Which leads to ABBE level 3 domestic Energy assessors - they assess homes for an EPC.
- Assess - heat loss surveying, air permeability testing, retrofit assessors and more
- Offer:
  - energy advice, free to all
  - energy advice plus - free or low cost
  - energy efficiency consultancy - hourly rate
  - energy performance certificates
  - triple A home energy evaluations

## Operation

- Positioning themselves as a trusted, expert, independent source of advice and guidance.
  - Leading to the installation of renewables so moving towards decarbonisation.
  - No commission from suppliers, working for the consumer.
  - In lofts - 80-90% of people have between 8-10cm of loft insulation between joists but current guidelines are 27cm.
  - SE will remove things from the customer's loft and put in the deeper insulation, return the belongings in provided boxes and will dispose of/recycle what is not required.
  - SE don't install heat pumps or external insulation etc. will leave that to the experts.
- To engage people with carbon reduction, they use:
- face to face events
  - social media and digital marketing

- email marketing
- sponsorship and promotions
- word of mouth and recommendations

How is it looking?

- It's working. 11 people training/trained
- marketing presence is building
- energy consultancy
- new triple A bookings already
- future developments

Lofty Ambitions - February

landlord MEES advice

What have we learned?

- most people don't care that we're green, just care about comfort and bills
- the consumer energy industry has a terrible reputation
- if we talk to people, we can demonstrate the difference
- we know we need to build our brand and reputation - the key to success

What we've learned about engaging people with decarbonisation

- only a small number of people are motivated by carbon reduction
- reduction in energy bills is also a consideration, but isn't the motivator
- most people want warm homes or have specific problems

How can you help?

- recommend us, tell everyone
- suggest groups or organisations that we could talk to
- comment on our social media posts - facebook, instagram, linkedin
- ask for a triple A or energy consulting for your home
- anything else that you can think of - we'd love to hear from you.

**Email: [kit@saveenergy.coop](mailto:kit@saveenergy.coop) or Telephone: 01628 947077**

**<https://saveenergy.coop/>**

Why help us?

- community owned, not for profit, with social justice at heart
- we address climate breakdown through carbon reduction
- we support the most vulnerable in our community
- we can help everyone to enjoy warmer homes, lower bills and reduce their carbon emissions
- together we can deliver a faster, fairer transition to carbon reduction.