**Wiltshire Climate Alliance**

**Energy Group meeting held on Zoom on Tuesday November 17th 2020**

**Present; Adam Walton (chair), Sue Reed, Maggie Paul, Christian Lange, Bill Jarvis, Catherine Allinson, Nick Murry, Julian Jones, Shirley M, Adrian Temple-Brown, Margaret Green, Jane Laurie, James Gladding, Hayley Howard, Andrew Nicolson, Alan Maryon-Davis, Maureen Lawrence, Margaret Paul, Charles Luther**

1. Adam welcomed everyone to the meeting
2. **Solar PV preferred supplier scheme**: Other groups have run similar schemes or are linked to the Zero Chippenham one. It was agreed that the best way to expand this across Wiltshire was to make the Zero Chippenham scheme available to any WCA member group. Action Nick Murry: information on how the ZC works, case studies, standard sign up form, etc to be shared on the WCA website. Also, to write an email to all local groups to see who is interested. Climate Friendly Bradford also runs a scheme. Action Jane Laurie; to find details for website.
3. **Community Energy Groups:** Alan Maryon-Davis and Maggie Paul of Nadder Community Energy explained how NCE was set up and what projects they were working on. There was lots of interest in the electric car club scheme. Bristol Energy Co-op was discussed, which is a group of smaller community energy groups. Several groups have started projects with the help of RCEF grants (Rural Community Energy Fund) for feasibility studies. WCA can be a good place to share ideas and expertise. Discussion moved onto grid connection and demand management issues. Action: James Gladding offered to ask SSE to speak to the group on their plans and strategy for the next few years, particularly support for community energy and demand mangement. Several webinars were mentioned and will be put on the website. Demand Management was the discussed with sub station data being used to monitor usage at different times and places, such as the Solar Streets Project. Action: Jane Laurie to share the report on this. Any other information on this will also be on the website. Action: AW consider future agenda item on EV car clubs including NCE pilot and experience from Bristol (share with WCA Transport Group).
4. **Green Homes Grant Scheme**. Julian Jones showed a presentation explaining the different funding pots for Councils, public buildings, homeowners, and low-income homeowners. There is a shortage of accredited installers for this and the ones who are doing it are swamped. The group discussed how to promote the scheme. BWCE will be running webinars on this at the end of November and other groups may do the same. Any events can be advertised on the WCA website. It was agreed that WCA would encourage MPs and Wiltshire Council to back an extension of the scheme and to overcome current constraints. There is a WCA writers group waiting for subjects to write articles and press releases on. Action: to compose a thoughtful critique of the green homes Grant Scheme to use with MPs and other influencers. It was also noted that the Catholic Church have announced an intention to be carbon neutral by 2030 and other community groups can be encouraged to carry out a Green Audit to highlight energy efficiency measures as well as renewable alternatives in their buildings. WCA are trying to arrange a meeting with all Wiltshire MPs as well as representatives of Wiltshire Council to lobby for action on things like this. Action: Hayley Howard offered to write a piece on energy saving vs heat pumps.
5. **Feedback from Wiltshire Council.** Christian Lange and Bill Jarvis explained how the Climate Task Group was waiting for a response to their recommendations from cabinet. This is looking like it will happen in the new year now. WCA have set up a youth group which was attended by 25 young people who are full of ideas and enthusiasm.
6. There was a short discussion on the idea of electric vehicles being used as portable batteries and the technology for this. All information shared on this will be on the website. Another short discussion was on the difficulties of hydro schemes; permissions being the most difficult area. Some links and information was shared on the question of a baseline carbon count for the county and sources and sinks of carbon.
7. Next meeting Wednesday 16 December by Zoom.

**List of subjects raised as possible subjects to discuss in future.**

Electric car clubs/EV generally (Transport group not focussing on this so could invite)

Demand Management

Wiltshire Climate Task Group

Bristol Energy Network

Smart meters

River expert - hydro