

# Reading Friends of the Earth

## Newsletter Sept-Oct 2025



For more info our 'new' website is at: [www.readingfoe.co.uk](http://www.readingfoe.co.uk) \* ...

or Facebook [Reading Friends of the Earth | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ReadingFriendsOfTheEarth/) ...

or email [info@readingfoe.co.uk](mailto:info@readingfoe.co.uk) \*\* ... or 'phone 07503626167.

\* Our original web-page – which contains mostly 'historical' information but may also sometimes be up-dated - is now at <http://www.anjoro.plus.com/RFOE/>

\*\* Our former e-mail address [info@readingfoe.org.uk](mailto:info@readingfoe.org.uk) has been discontinued.

**General Meetings:** Reading FoE aim to meet every month - usually in person but occasionally on Zoom. Often in a pub or at RISC, 35-39 London Street (access to RISC from London Street is via a passage to the right of the shop-front). Most meetings at RISC will be 'hybrid' and we are investigating options for other venues - please request a Zoom link if you have not received one. Most meetings discuss plans and general topics - some have a particular focus or guest speakers.

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 7:30 pm - Castle Tap, Castle Street, <https://thecastletap.co.uk/>**

General meeting – discuss Reading Climate Emergency Plan public consultation (see below), make plans for future activities, and discuss any other topics. Hope to stream on Zoom but have not always been successful.

**October Meeting – Heat Pumps etc.** Hope to have an in-person/Zoom meeting with Ben Burfoot, Sustainability Manager RBC, to tell us about the Council's experience installing heat pumps and other energy-saving measures, and its future plans. Date and location not set yet.

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### Reading Climate Emergency Plan for 2025 to 2030

We submitted a group response to the final stakeholder review of this in July – see <https://readingfoe.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/reading-foe-climate-emergency-august-2025.pdf>. The 'final' version is now released for general public consultation until 3<sup>rd</sup> October. So we should now all respond individually, and maybe as a group as well. The questions are different from those to the stakeholder review.

Link to consultation page is <https://reading.govocal.com/en-GB/projects/climate-emergency-strategy> and that includes links to the Strategy and the Action Plan. To take the survey it is necessary to log in to the Reading BC 'govocal' site. A summary of the questions, any of which you may choose to answer, is at [https://www.gren.org.uk/resources/RCCP\\_Climate\\_Survey\\_Questions\\_2025.pdf](https://www.gren.org.uk/resources/RCCP_Climate_Survey_Questions_2025.pdf)

GREN have arranged a **public meeting in the Council Chamber at 5 pm on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September**, to include an introduction from Councillor Ennis. See below and more information should be posted on [www.gren.org.uk](http://www.gren.org.uk) soon.

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### **Future Events and Opportunities with Reading FoE, National FoE, and others:**

*Please e-mail us or post to Facebook if there are other events we should know about!*

### **Make Them Pay – 20<sup>th</sup> September in London.**

Friends of the Earth support the 'Make Them Pay' coalition which is arranging a mass rally with 'Make Polluters Pay' as one of its three objectives. <https://makethempay.org.uk/>

FoE e-mailed: "Join us in London on Saturday 20 September for the Make Them Pay demonstration, demanding big polluters like BP pay for the damage they've caused:

- We'll meet in central London, ready to march at 12pm.
- [Register your interest](#) in attending and receive details about what to expect.
- Can't make it to London? [Order](#) or [print](#) this leaflet to spread the word locally, or share info about the demonstration with your mailing list.

Let's show our collective power, demand climate action and make polluters pay."

### **Other National FoE invitations:**

- **COP30: Voices from the Frontlines**, Tuesday 16 September 7 - 8.30pm - with speakers from **Friends of the Earth Brazil**, and **Celine Lim from Save Rivers**, a Sarawak-based civil society organisation advocating for Indigenous Peoples. Book your place [here](#)

- To stay up to date - **join our new Whatsapp group**. To join the FOE local action group network Whatsapp community - where you can find the Planet Over Profit group - [please fill in this form](#)."

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### **News and Updates:**

#### ***Earley Green Fair – Saturday August 2<sup>nd</sup>:***

Dawn Percival (Berkshire Greenpeace) had arranged that Yuan Yang, the 'Earley and Woodley' (and parts of South Reading) MP, would meet Reading FoE and Greenpeace people via the Reading FoE stall at this event.

This meeting was primarily intended as a follow-up to the 9<sup>th</sup> July Climate Lobby (which she had been unable to attend) so that we could ask her to influence the government to take effective action.

The government is legally obliged to produce a new climate plan by the end of October and then there is COP30 in Brazil in November. Friends of the Earth's proposals in their 'Fairness Test Report' give some guidance.

Executive summary: <https://friendsoftheearth.uk/climate/executive-summary-fairness-test>

Web-page: <https://friendsoftheearth.uk/climate/fairness-test-mandate-bold-climate-policy>

Yuan Yang talked about climate and other issues, with about a dozen of us, in Greenpeace's gazebo (RFoE's was next door), for about half an hour. <https://www.facebook.com/yuanearleywoodley> She was supportive but commented that MPs respond to constituents' inputs. Her messages were: to get lots of constituents raising issues with MPs; to keep working to inform the public; and to counter hostile propaganda.



*Photo credit: Greenpeace.*

Thanks to Chris and Anne for help on our stall. Chris commented:

- I enjoyed speaking to local residents and giving out stickers to kids. Could do with some more Plastic Free ones - stickers not kids! *{and kids – editor}*
- Had several chats about Heat Pumps and was glad to give people info. sheets. People really TRUST FoE for clear, truthful info. and several people signed up for the mailing list.
- Clive Jones MP dropped by but I forgot to give him the 'No to Heathrow Expansion' leaflet. I am sure he knows it's a bad idea but this lays out key arguments quickly and memorably.

#### ***Emissions Based Charging – RBC Consultation.***

The proposed scheme would see motorists with higher polluting vehicles paying more for on-street parking and residents' parking permits. Incremental tariffs of 20% for petrol and 25% for diesel vehicles would apply to each parking pricing band, based on the vehicle's carbon dioxide emissions. Only vehicles which have emission levels of 151g/km (grams per kilometre) or above will be subject to additional charges.

It is not entirely clear whether this is mainly aimed at improving air quality or reducing CO2 emissions. It should be beneficial to both but there does not seem to be a detailed impact assessment, and vehicles do not emit much CO2 or other pollutants when they are parked. More information is in the minutes of the Traffic Management Sub-Committee from June 2025. <https://democracy.reading.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=16158>

Consultation closes on 12th September: The consultations can be found at: <https://reading.govocal.com/en-GB/projects/emissions-based-charging>

See <https://rgneighbours.net/statutory-consultation-for-the-introduction-of-emissions-based-charging-for-on-street-pay-and-display-parking/> and <https://media.reading.gov.uk/news/public-consultation-launched-into-emission-based-parking-charges>

### **Heat Risks in Reading:**

We sent an e-mail to key Councillors and RBC staff to draw attention to Friends of the Earth's analysis which concludes that much of the Borough is classified as 'High Heat and Enhanced Risk'. (See link <https://readingfoe.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/heat-risks-e-mail-to-rbc-august-2025.pdf>)

To see the local information in FoE's analysis open the map and click on ... <https://friendsoftheearth.uk/climate/do-you-live-extreme-heat-hotspot>

### **Friends of the Earth new Executive Director**

Asad Rehman is the new Executive Director of Friends of the Earth.

He e-mailed to say "I'll be responsible for leading the organisation in its fight for a better future for people and planet – and I couldn't be more proud to be stepping into this role. I'm moving here from the anti-poverty and social justice charity War on Want. But as some of you will know this isn't my first time at Friends of the Earth. I spent 11 years here as head of international campaigning and I can't wait to get stuck back in."

Chance to 'meet' Asad at a webinar on 25 September from 7 to 8.30pm, so [please register](#)

### **FoE Press Releases**

For latest national FoE news see their Press Releases <https://friendsoftheearth.uk/latest/press-releases>

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### **Other up-coming activities (not run by Reading FoE so check for changes):**

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September: "In Our Hands; our Climate Future"** a talk by Prof Chris Merchant (Professor in Ocean and Earth Observation at Reading University): 7.30 at St John & St Stephen's church (which is behind Reading college off Orts Rd (off London Rd in Newtown).

**Sunday 14 September 1100 - 1600 Reading Cycle Festival** Christchurch Meadows See website for details: <https://www.readingcyclefestival.co.uk/>

### **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September, Reading Climate Emergency Plan**

GREN Have arranged a public meeting in the Council Chamber at 5 pm – 6pm - see Page 1 above – for high level discussion of issues and options with Theme leads, Council representatives and others and to not any questions or alternative ideas. Time-limited so will not include detailed presentations on the strategy or Themes or Actions – will assume people have read them.

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September** at RISC at 7:30 **'Two Worlds'** - Global Justice meeting. From the HIV crisis to the outbreak of Ebola, big Pharma companies have put pursuit of profit above the lives of ordinary people for decades. 'TWO WORLDS' is a series of short films about the industry, seen through the eyes of people fighting to change it.

**Green Drinks** – usually on the first Tuesday of every month in the Castle Tap – see [Reading Green Drinks | Facebook](#)

**People Planet Pint:** an informal social meet up, primarily aimed at people involved in sustainability. Reading will now have its own PPP on the second Thursday of the month. Milk Bar, 8 Merchants Place, Reading RG1 1DT. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/reading-small99s-people-planet-pinttm-sustainability-meetup-tickets-923173094577>

**Kidical Mass Reading** – "Making space for the next generation, one bike ride at a time!" - are holding a number of rides for children in the coming months - see [www.kidicalmassreading.co.uk](http://www.kidicalmassreading.co.uk) or on Twitter @KidicalMassRead

**Reading Critical Mass** cycle ride. ... Rides on the last Friday of the month. Leave at 19:30 from the Civic Offices in Bridge Street. Leisurely ride for about an hour and a half finishing at pub. Not sure if still happening. Check before you go! <https://criticalmassreading.wordpress.com/> doesn't seem to be updated ???

**XR Reading** hold meetings and events – see <https://www.facebook.com/groups/XRRdg/>

**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 – see <https://www.readingbicyclekitchen.org/>

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### **Administrative matters:**

#### **Website Management:**

Paolo has created our new website using WordPress. He would welcome any help maintaining, improving and expanding it, and can share the credentials to access the account.

#### **Newsletter curating and contributions:**

It would be great to have more people contributing to our newsletter – perhaps changing format or contact – please get in touch.

#### **E-mail lists:**

We have three e-mail lists: newsletter; frequent e-mails; and our public [info@readingfoe.co.uk](mailto:info@readingfoe.co.uk) email address (currently goes to five people who help run the group). Please let us know if you would like to be on a different list or to get more involved.

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### **Useful Links and General Information:**

Friends of the Earth 'England, Wales and Northern Ireland' <https://friendsoftheearth.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>

Newbury Friends of the Earth – Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/755866711218545/>

Berkshire Greenpeace - [https://greenwire.greenpeace.org.uk/s/group/0F94H000000CHksSAG/greenpeace-berkshire?language=en\\_GB](https://greenwire.greenpeace.org.uk/s/group/0F94H000000CHksSAG/greenpeace-berkshire?language=en_GB)

#### **Reading FoE Officers etc.**

Our 2025 AGM on April 7<sup>th</sup> elected Enrico Petrucco to continue in the post of Co-ordinator and Paolo Turati to continue in the post of Treasurer.

#### **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.co.uk](mailto:info@readingfoe.co.uk) to request our GDPR Consent form. We have separate lists for people who only want to receive our newsletters (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 subscription/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. We aim to provide a regular free of charge newsletter to keep members up to date with the group's activities. We need funds to cover meeting room hire, zoom licence, website costs, and campaign expenses. Contributions of perhaps £10 a year would be greatly appreciated.

To contribute please:

- if you use PayPal go to <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/readingfoe>
- to pay by bank transfer request our bank account details by e-mail to [info@readingfoe.co.uk](mailto:info@readingfoe.co.uk)
- or pay cash or cheque at a meeting or event