

ALEO SE is kindly sponsored by:



MINUTES OF THE FORUM MEETING

14th May, 2020 (online meeting)

Attendance	
Adrian Wright (Happy Energy – sponsor)	Kirsten Firth (Brighton & Hove)
Amanda Martin (Dover) - Chair	Louise Hyde (Portsmouth)
Angela Eason (SE Secretariat)	Louise Quinn (Chiltern)
Claire Stark (Crawley)	Lucy Martins (Basingstoke)
Dan Goodchild (Brighton & Hove)	M Rachwal (Spelthorne)
Deborah Vincent (Test Valley)	Magdalene Taborska Crowther
Emma Pagett (Arun)	Marie Jones (SGN – sponsor)
Evangeline Haggarty (West Berks)	Mark Rachwal (Spelthorne)
Fiona Berry (Wealden)	Mark Saich (Dover)
Gary Clarke (Ashford)	Matthew Johnston (Wokingham)
Georgina Wisby (Wokingham)	Miles Davidson (Brighton)
Giles Gooding (Eastleigh)	Nigel Bucklow (Maidstone)
Gill Daniel (Horsham)	Nina Heigham (Aran Services) - sponsor
Hazel Hill (Bracknell Forest)	P Robinson (Oxford)
Helen Miller (Maidstone)	Paul Kemp (GSEEH)
James Thorpe (RBWM)	Paul Tobin (Swale)
Jane Devlin (East Hants)	Rachel Jones (SE Secretariat)
Janet Hill (Swale)	S Mirza (Elmbridge)
Joanne Williams (Runnymede)	Sam Thomas (Cherwell)
John Taylor (GSEEH)	Louise Trenchard (Hastings) - Treasurer
Julie Wilkins (Wealden)	Samantha Hutchinson (Guildford)
Justin Bailey (Wealden) – Vice Chair	Sandra Woodfall (Dartford)
	Verena Boxall (Runnymede)

Apologies	
Beatrice Hubert Price (East Hants)	Linda Hibbs (TMBC)
Carolyn McKenzie (Kent)	Lousie Lyons (Hart.)
D Haynes (Oxford)	Paul Hasley (Surrey)
Delma Bryant (Waverley)	Pennie Brown (East Hants)
Graham Smith (Bracknell Forest)	Sue Berry (Rushmoor)
Hilary Smith (Rushmoor)	T Day (Chichester)
Kate Richardson	Tracy Haskins (Woking)
Lara Beattie (Woking)	

1. Welcome and minutes of the last meeting

Amanda Martin, ALEO SE Chair welcomed members, speakers and colleagues. The minutes of the last meeting (07.02.2020) were agreed as a true record.

Matters arising:

There was a small response to the questionnaire regarding climate emergency debate and this was superseded by the joint ALEO/BEIS survey where 79% of the 45 respondents had issued a climate emergency.

The link to a summary of this survey can be found at:

[https://aleo.org.uk/downloads/root/regions/uk/documents/ALEO_BEIS_survey_summary_\(final\).pdf](https://aleo.org.uk/downloads/root/regions/uk/documents/ALEO_BEIS_survey_summary_(final).pdf)

2. ALEO SE AGM

2.1 Election of Committee Members

Hazel Hill proposed that the current members should continue in office. Louise Trenchard has agreed to be treasurer.

Verena Boxall seconded the proposal.

Membership of ALEO SE Executive for 2020/2021:

Amanda Martin (Chair)

Louise Trenchard (Treasurer)

Justin Bailey (Vice Chair)

Thank you to the Executive Committee for their continued commitment.

Evangeline is on maternity leave and there is a vacancy on the Executive Committee. **Please contact Angela (Angela@actonenergy.org.uk) if you wish to be part of the Executive**

2.2 Treasurers report and bank account

The Treasurer reported that there was currently £2758.81 in the bank account. When current invoices have been paid including Secretariat invoice and catering for February meeting this would leave £508.81 in the account.

2.3 Membership and sponsorship

Aran and Happy Energy confirmed that they would be able to sponsor ALEO SE for the financial year 2020/2021. SGN are willing to do so and are awaiting confirmation and sign off. Thanks were offered by the Chair to the sponsors for their continued contributions.

3. Updates from the Chair

- The publication of the Home Upgrade grant (HUG) policy and the Fuel Poverty Strategy has been delayed due to the COVID 19 pandemic.
- It was reported at the ALEO East meeting (BEIS) that the FPS would be published later this year. There is an acceptance that High Income/Low Cost is tricky to calculate and they are looking to simplify this. The FPS is aiming to link net climate change ambitions with fuel poor considerations.
- ALEO National has applied for Charity status which will enable it to apply for Redress funding.
- The National Conference is planned for 8th July, 2020. A keynote speech will be made by Lord Deben.
- A joint survey was conducted with BEIS and ALEO. Details can be found on the website at: aleo.org.uk

4. Updates from our sponsors

4.1 SGN – see presentation

SGN presented how they are currently planning to work under COVID 19 restrictions and said they were continuing with installations during lockdown.

Q. Can SGN work outside their area?

A. Unfortunately not as need to make best use of limited resources.

For further information please contact: Marie.Jones@sgn.co.uk

4.2. Happy Energy – see presentation

A presentation was given on PAS 2035 detailing the roles and requirements set out in the guidance. There was also information on the unintended consequences of the application of PAS 2035.

Q. When talking of Conservation areas is this any conservation area?

A. Yes

Comment: It is important when retrofitting an old building to ensure there is adequate ventilation to prevent rot.

Q. When installing a small measure such as loft insulation will there be a requirement to use a RICS surveyor?

A. The surveyor can always be a normal Retrofit Assessor (DEA with some extra training), with the exception of listed buildings or those in a conservation area, here the Retrofit Assessor also needs to have a qualification called the Level 3 Award in Energy Efficiency and Retrofit of Traditional Buildings.

In most cases the Retrofit Coordinator or Retrofit Installer (PAS2020:2019 certified installer) can also be the Retrofit Designer. However, in certain circumstances, the Retrofit Designer needs to have additional qualifications as below.

- the Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists (CIAT);
- the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB);
- the Conservation Accreditation Register for Engineers (CARE);
- the Register of Architects Accredited in Building Conservation (AABC);
- the Royal Institute of British Architects (which incorporates the Royal Society of Architects in Wales and the Royal Society of Ulster Architects (RIBA, RSAW, RSUA);
- the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS); • the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS).

The survey needs to be carried out to RICS level 3 standards, so this is not an actual RICS surveyor, but just following the standards on page 6 of this document <https://www.rics.org/globalassets/rics-website/media/upholding-professional-standards/sector-standards/building-surveying/surveys-of-residential-property-3rd-edition-reissue-rics.pdf>:

The PAS 2035 will come into force in May 2021

Comment: It will be interesting to see how the industry changes to respond to PAS 2035 with specific reference to warranties and guarantees

For further information please contact: adrian@happyenergy.co.uk

4.3 Nina Heigham, Aran Services

Nina told the group that Aran are working towards PAS 2035. They are currently continuing to undertake work in NHS settings conducting technical surveys and insulation works. An update was given as to how work was continuing despite the lockdown.

For further information please contact: Nina.Heigham@aranservices.co.uk

John Taylor & Paul Kemp (GSEEH)

John informed the meeting that no fiscal event announcing HUG funding had been held. It is reported that there will be 10 million rather than the 150 million expected.

GSEEH are hoping to deliver a pilot scheme this financial year based on responses to email. At the moment only high-level detail (e.g. stage of project, scale and location) is required. The direction of travel is with off

gas communities. There is a clean heat grant for Renewable Heat Incentives (RHI) with up to 4K upfront grant for this type of work.

Q. Is there funding to assist lighting upgrades to community-based projects such as day centres?

A: Not at the moment but please return email with details

Q. Does it include Local Authority buildings?

A: Yes, please send in details

Q. Can funding be used for community groups e.g. cubs etc.?

A: The Rural Community Energy Fund is still running but acknowledge there are still gaps for urban groups

The Greater South East Energy Hub is scoping the potential for local energy projects to support post Covid-19 economic recovery and clean growth.

They would like to know if you have any energy projects that could be accelerated, scaled up or replicated, or new project ideas that could be realised, if development funding was made available. Development funding would take projects through feasibility to investment readiness.

GSEEH will feedback the findings to BEIS to inform discussions regarding the role of local energy in post Covid-19 economic recovery.

At this stage they require high level detail, including (if known):

- Project type & location
- Current stage
- Scale (e.g. value/MW)
- Estimated development funding required to take project to investment readiness

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like to discuss further or to share your project information info@energyhub.org.uk

Comment: see Lord Deben's letter: <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/letter-building-a-resilient-recovery-from-the-covid-19-crisis-to-prime-minister-boris-johnson/>

Action: AE to circulate email, Lo CASE information, Power Partners fund and link to rural community energy funds

Rural funding: <https://www.energyhub.org.uk/rural-community-energy-fund/how-to-apply/>

Power Partners: <https://www.cse.org.uk/projects/view/1356>

LoCASE: <https://locase.co.uk/about/>

Other useful links shared by members at the meeting:

Switched on Portsmouth: <https://switchedonportsmouth.co.uk/>

Future of gas: <https://www.sgn.co.uk/about-us/future-of-gas>

Covid 19 crisis fund: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OHI2jE8kw4YobQAg9lJuz8Jb4spO4gt6/view>

Funding for vulnerable people: <https://energyredress.org.uk/announcements/ofgem-make-ps13-million-available-charities-support-vulnerable-energy-consumers>

Example of ecoflex top ups in Devon from BCF on page 15. Now been increased to £2k. <https://democracy.middevon.gov.uk/documents/s10852/Annex%201%20Devon%20Wide%20Housing%20Assistance%20Policy%20Jan%202018.pdf>

More about the RRO <https://wwwFOUNDATIONS.UK.com/dfg-adaptations/the-regulatory-reform-order/>

5 & 6 Round table discussion and Any other business

Comment: 21,000 energy efficiency measures need to be installed every week to meet the Carbon target
Portsmouth City Council provided written update to discussions points prior to meeting. To enable capture of Members updates it was agreed that a form would be sent to all ALEO members to complete to answer the questions:

1. How is your local authority planning to normalize activities post COVID 19
2. What do you consider will be the after-effects from COVID 19 from a fuel poverty perspective?

Action: AE to circulate form and ALL to complete by 28th May, 2020

A discussion was held about DFG funding and how this was used and if DFG can be used for funding energy physical interventions for non-disabled households. There was a difference between LA's with some using discretionary payments in line with ECO LA Flex criteria as households vulnerable to cold. Some LA's used Better Care Funding to provide grants for boiler replacements

Action: AE to include this question on the form.

Agreed that households are using more energy during lockdown and this alongside loss of income and redundancies will lead to fuel debt in the coming months and it should be recognized that fuel poverty will increase significantly.

Discussion about who is providing fuel vouchers during lockdown – some LA's have provided fuel vouchers in conjunction with Citizens Advice. Noted that these ran out quite quickly. EST have secured redress funding from Round 7 of Redress funding which is separate to other grant funding.

Action: AE to include on forms

Note RHI consultation ends 19th May, 2020

Note Heat Networks Building a Market Framework consultation ends 26th May, 2020

6. Date of next meeting:

Agreed to hold a meeting in October, 2020 – face to face meeting if possible and public transport available safely

7. Close of meeting

The Chair was commended for running an excellent online meeting.