



ALEO SE is kindly sponsored by:



MINUTES OF THE FORUM WINTER MEETING

7th February, 2020, Bracknell Forest (Council Chamber)

Attendance	Apologies
Amanda Martin (Chair) (Dover)	Lara Beattie (Woking)
Angela Eason (Secretariat)Act on Energy	Hilary Smith (Rushmoor)
Evangeline Haggarty (West Berks) (Treasurer)	Tracey Haskins (Woking)
Hazel Hill (Bracknell Forest)	Helen Miller (Maidstone)
Jackie Williams (Oxford)	Dan Goodchild (Brighton & Hove)
Jeremy Lock (Radbot – speaker)	Jane Goodall (Lewes-Eastbourne)
Joanne Williams(Runnymede)	Cati Schiller (Southampton)
Justin Bailey (Wealden)	Gill Daniel (Horsham)
Marie Jones (SGN – sponsor)	Deborah Vincent (Test Valley)
Nina Heigham (Aran Services)	Delma Bryant (Waverley)
Rachel Jones (Secretariat) CEO Act on Energy	Beatrice Hubert Price (Easthants)
Louise Trenchard (Hastings)	Helen Cooper (Arun)
Mark Rachwal (Spelthorne)	Louise Lyons (Hart)
James Thorpe (RBWM)	Matthew Bird (Mid Sussex)
Olivia Hassam (BEIS)	Anttonia Lindup (Portsmouth)
Mairead Rooney (Surrey)	Jane Devlin (Easthants)
Adrian Wright (Happy Energy – Sponsor)	Emma Pagett (Arun)
Deborah Vincent (Test Valley) (remote connection)	Lucy Hicks (TMBC)

1. Welcome and introductions

Amanda Martin, ALEO SE Chair welcomed members, speakers and colleagues. Some members had tried to dial in but not everyone was successful. Chair said if at all possible it would be good to attend in person. Louise Trenchard was proposed by Hazel Hill and seconded by Justin Bailey and was welcomed onto the Executive group.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Actions from previous meeting: AM updates from Carbon Trust Network
Bristol received funding for sustainable procurement policies and planning to share this with local authorities shortly.

3. National and regional updates

Meeting times and dates:

Following the survey it was agreed that it would be good to change the days to accommodate part time workers and meeting dates would be Tuesday, Thursday or Fridays as these were the preferred dates on the survey. Rooms were an issue as was location. Noted SE is a large area and meetings should take place in various locations to ensure equal access

Action

- **All members to let AE/AM know if they have any suitable rooms for SE ALEO meetings (All)**

Climate Emergency:

The Chair asked if all authorities could send information as to whether they had declared an Climate Emergency and the date of declaration to AE – these would be collated for next meeting

Actions:

- **All members to let AE know Climate Emergency date (All)**
- **AE to place LA's and dates on website (AE)**

4. Update from National ALEO meeting:

- **Future Homes Standard Consultation:** The deadline was extended until today. Oxford City Council (JW) and Bracknell Forest (HH) Hill had responded in their own right. Reported that there was a need to protect vulnerable residents at the same time as addressing decarbonization of heat. In Northern Ireland gas mains being extended out to rural areas.
- **NICE guidelines on Indoor Air Quality** due to be published next month – focus on tobacco sources and damp and mould.
- **ALEO continuing to pursue charitable status** – this will enable ALEO to apply direct to Redress fund and National Lottery on behalf of member authorities.
- Gary Braybrooke from the Energy Efficiency Association addressed the National Exec and offered funding **ALEO regional events** – discussion ensued and sponsors and members said it would be a good idea.
- Laura Le Thien (BEIS) attended part of ALEO exec to gather thoughts/views on **Beyond ECO**. BEIS looked into levels of delivery of ECO – 270 authorities participate in, yet 30% of delivery carried out by just 5 local authorities.
- **Simple Energy advice website** was discussed and whether Authorities could have rights to edit to ensure up to date funding streams available. Discussion about how long it could take

Action:

Olivia Hassam to pass direct number for changes to Simple Energy Advice on to Angela/Amanda for circulation with minutes. Please use email for Tan initially: tan.strehler-weston@beis.gov.uk

5. Update from Sponsor: Marie Jones, SGN – see slides

Questions:

Q. Could molecules of hydrogen escape pipes and if so would they need changing?

A. Molecules are smaller and could escape but in process of upgrading networks. Hydrogen rises at 50m per minute which is quicker than gas and therefore escapes more quickly.

Comment: Noted that if gas consumption reduced this would require more pylons. Noted that energy usage of gas rises dramatically at different times of day.

Please speak to Marie if you need funding or further support: Marie.Jones@sgn.co.uk

Email for Joss Clark for Council's needing support with Climate Emergency: Joss.Clarke@SGN.co.uk

6. Update from Sponsor: Adrian Wright, Happy Energy – see slides

Trialing hydrogen boiler, Five year contract with GLA, holistic survey approach.

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

7. Nina Heigham, Aran Services

Verbal update received from group – Aran now has Retrofit co-ordinators who are focusing on mid sector client. Working with Colchester and first time central heating work with Cadent. Working towards PAS 235. Noted the increase of private landlords requesting information on exemption certificates
Discussion about exemption for private landlords

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

8. Olivia Haslam, BEIS Fuel Poverty Strategy – see slides

A detailed presentation from Olivia was received setting out

- Consultation on proposals to update the fuel poverty strategy
- Manifesto commitments on homes
- Next steps on the Strategy

And the next steps:

- Budget – March 11th
- Government response – Spring
- 2020 Fuel Poverty Statistics – Spring
- Updated fuel poverty strategy – Summer

BEIS looking to publish response very shortly (perhaps March) alongside White Paper. Money to be confirmed in March budget.

Hoping to have consultation on next steps Warm Home discount – end March 2020

BEYOND ECO – will consult at end of year/beginning 2021 – looking at single measures – will be more information at end of March.

More details around HUG (Home Upgrade Grant) in the strategy

Dual measure: those people in crisis who may not benefit mentally from whole house measures e.g. 90 year old with internal wall insulation. Looking at distress situation separately

Beyond 2025 might not want to fund gas boilers – this is a live question. Forum asked if there would be funding for hydrogen ready boilers

Home Upgrade Grant – targeted off grid homes, provide heat pump and get home to band C. Average energy saving: seven hundred pounds.

Comments from forum:

- Local authorities have the expertise in their area about the properties in the area
- Scotland has an advantage that they have a telephone service and follow through service. They also offer a 'handholding service' for when people are having installation work.
- Anything partially funded on fuel poor is not good.
- BEIS needs to ensure Energy advice as part of any funding.
- Could scheme be run on a Scottish model
- How do we balance everything for fuel poor and climate change?
- If every boiler that went in was hydrogen ready that would work.
- Cooling functionality in heat pumps – recognize future need for low cost cooling provision (particularly in inner city). Has this been considered?

Questions:

Q: How is the money going to be distributed?

A: Not fully clear as yet. Likely that certain amount of funding would be distributed via Local Energy Hub with a criteria of outcomes required from the money. It would be left up to LEH as to how it was distributed. BEIS would want LEH to have sufficient resources to administer the programme in Year 1. Year 2 – 5 would be looking to recruit a National Scheme Manager.

Q: What are LEP's doing as they appear to be working at a high level. There are 67 local authorities in SE?

A: Need to invite John Taylor

Q: Could funding be used alongside ECO to top up funding?

A: Idea with HUG is that there would be enough money to do everything.

Q. Would counties with a large rural footprint get larger funding?

A: There are five energy hubs and no decision has been made on how funding will be split. Everything will have to have an evidence base. Possibility of being equally split.

Q. Will LEPs be directly delivering?

A. No, don't think so. What expect in practice – first years funding some existing schemes would be given more funding or expanded. Not expecting HUGs to be set up for a single year. SELEP (South East Local Energy Partnership) is a conduit

Q:What will ECO look like post 2022 ?

A: Expecting it to be similar, less about single measures but more about getting it to Band C.

The **social carbonization fund is 3.8 bn** over 10 years. The intention is to tie up with upgrade plans with LA and housing associations. Main focus is insulation. The intention is to tie in with upgrade plans with LA and housing associations.

Q: Will it include external insulation?

A: it would be expected to include external wall insulation.

Q: would it replace non suitable insulation?

A: This is being considered –strong possibility that **remedial work might be considered**. Trust Mark will need to be in place for providers.

Action : Invite John Taylor from GSEEH (AE)

9. Jeremy Lock, Vestemi– Radbot – see slides

Introduced the Radbot which measures temperature, humidity and light – works by measuring temperature, humidity and light and therefore builds up pattern when not in room. It does not work when behind radiators or curtains. It has a booster switch and has a built in frost thermostat. It has a 10 year life, 2 year battery life using conventional domestic batteries. Recommended not to install in every room - don't put in bathrooms or downstairs WC – suitable for Living rooms, dining rooms and kitchen. Takes five minutes to install – important to use correct adaptor. Cost £50 per unit with discounts for bulk. If got poor existing system Radbot is not going to cure this.

Q: How closely matched the occupancy in trials been done?

A: It has 'time buckets' i.e. no concept of time. Builds up a pattern of what you are doing over 7 – 10 day period. Risk probability model.

Q: Does it work manually if batteries run out?

A: Yes, works as a manual TRV. Can test by pushing a button and it flashes.

Q: how many would recommend in a house?

A: Best to try it out.

Q. Where can you purchase?

A: Can buy online or direct.

All questions should be directed to: Jeremy Lock, Vestemi: Jeremy.lock@vestemi.com>

10. Rachel Jones presented 'Wychavon Intelligently Green' – see slides

Evangeline said currently putting targets in contracts with council providers.

11. Any other business:

- Congratulations to Amanda Martin on receiving Heat Heroes Award.
- Forum member would be interested in hearing experiences of working with Assignment Rights company
- Hazel – successful in getting £55,000 public health money to be spent before end of March – will also be getting better care funding.
- Kent CC doing Ichoosr Solar PV Collective scheme – twelve authorities