**Wiltshire Climate Alliance**

**Energy Group meeting held on Zoom on Tuesday October 20th 2020**

**Present; Adam Walton (chair), Sue Reed, Maggie Paul, Christian Lange, Bill Jarvis, Catherine Allinson, Nick Murry, Julian Jones, Shirley M, Peter Capener, Adrian Temple-Brown, Margaret Green, Richard Ecclestone, Jane Laurie, James Gladding**

1. Adam welcomed everyone to the meeting
2. Zero Chippenham Solar PV preferred supplier scheme: Nick Murry, Chair: how it works, how other groups could get involved. There was discussion on how other groups could use this idea – including those in south Wilts who are out of the Chippenham area and would need to find their own installers. Also, the use of different installers for other technologies such as batteries and heat pumps if necessary. Action AW to set up a section in another meeting to discuss this. It was suggested that WCA could have a reputable installer list on the website. Other groups are invited to send details of installers they have used.
3. Bath and West Community Energy – Peter Capener, CEO: how BWCE works, current projects, engaging with local environmental groups, support from local and national government, community fund overview. This led to a discussion on how community energy groups can help the energy transition that is happening. Pressurising Wilts Council, Community Area Boards, local network providers (stakeholder conversations), Ofgem directly and MPs are some options. There was interest in the “Roof Spotters Guide” that is on BWCE website.
4. Green Homes Grant Scheme. It seems that there is a shortage of registered 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. Action Julian Jones to send details of Will Houghton from Bristol Energy Coop’s presentation for the next meeting. It was suggested that writing to MPs to let Government know that the grant was in demand to encourage an extension of the scheme.
5. Engagement with Wiltshire Council’s climate change agenda: update from Bill/Christian. The Wilts Council Climate Change Task Group report can be found on WCAs website. This has been sent to the Environmental Select Committee and will be responded to next month. Bill and Christian will let us know when this happens and WCA will respond and report back at the next Energy Group meeting. We are waiting for a date for the Wiltshire Local Plan to begin it’s consultation.
6. Ideas for developing the Energy Topic Group: Christian asked members to send him any interesting information for the energy section of the website. Suggested topics are BWCE on Solar Preferred Buyer Scheme, Green Homes Grant Scheme, Wind generation in Wiltshire. Action – Christian to ask Arianne Crampton for a speaker from Wilts Council to discuss the planning framework for wind and renewables in general as well as the local Plan. Also suggested was a speaker from Community Energy England on how to set up a community energy group and how to support existing groups and something about the CHEESE Project CIC in Bristol.
7. Next meeting to be Tuesday 17th November at 7pm.