



Climate Change Centre Reading
 17 Newbury Close
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 Berkshire

To

Strategic Environment, Planning & Transport Committee 23-NOV-2016

With regards to Meeting 23 November 2016 at 6:30pm in the Council Chamber
 Civic Offices, Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU

Committee Administrator(s)

Peter Driver.

Dear Reading Borough Council

Yesterday, I attended the Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport meeting as a member of the public. Due to low numbers of public in attendance, three quarters in the meeting I enquired whether I could ask a question, but was told it was not allowed.

We have all to try our hardest to tackle and avoid the effects from our changing climate. Local government must embrace zero emissions and be updated with all new regulations which include concerning matters.

The question I wanted to raise was as follows:

“The Paris Agreement (PA) was formalised on the 18th December 2015. Furthermore it has entered into force on the 4th November 2016 and is now bound into Law of Treaty. The UK government ratified the agreement on the 18th November 2016, as it said it would do. I suppose 11 months later the RBC CO2 committees had good time to prepare for this change?”

This change makes yesterday’s meeting operational obligations different from all previous meetings.

We represent Climate Change Centre Reading and Ecopreneurs for the Climate in Reading who participated in the COP 22 in Marrakech on behalf of local climate community organisations, in this case Reading. We have a special interest in Items 10 and 11 below, addressing RBC and carbon emissions.

10.	ANNUAL CARBON FOOTPRINT REPORT, 2015/16 A report informing the Committee of continued reduction in the Council's emissions of carbon and greenhouse gases.	BOROUGHV
11.	READING CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY 2013-2020: PERFORMANCE REPORT TO MARCH 2016 A report on progress made towards the targets in Reading's Climate Change Strategy 2013-2020, which sets out a vision for Reading to be at the forefront of developing solutions to climate change and for low carbon living to be the norm.	BOROUGHV

The public attachments linked to yesterday's meeting arrangements were not in line with the global agenda for emission reductions, as there is no correlation between targets, levels and guidelines following the content of the Paris Agreement.

Where does it say - **Promote the full implementation of the 2016 Amendment to the Montreal Protocol?** It is not enough to make references to the pure **existence of the PA, the UK100 or other carbon schemes.**

The RBC sustainability group are not aligned with the content following the Paris Agreement. There is also lack in correlation with indicator targets set out in the strategy covering Global Goal 13 (SDG13) **Indicator: 9.4.1 - CO2 emission per unit of value added** (2013 0.17 M2 but not Location, Age Group or Sex type). The key message is **"100% regional renewable energy production as rapidly as possible"** (not Before 2050.)

<http://www.reading.gov.uk/article/9626/Strategic-Environment-Planning--Transport-Committee-23-NOV-2016>

Reading Climate change Partnership trajectory of being ahead of targets is not good news. To envision Reading's strategic aims contributing **to 'Develop Reading as a Green City with a sustainable environment..** .. is a falsification simply not city worthy!

The reason the board of "Reading Climate Change Strategy 2013-2016" has failed RBC is because they are not presenting a framework. The RBC need to incorporate the strategy and implement it, again A.S.A.P. Then the Reading Climate Change Partnership can have more of a community role.

ACTION

Not to consider and relay to the very content of the Paris Agreement to the ANNUAL CARBON FOOTPRINT REPORT, 2015/16 and the READING CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY 2013-2020: PERFORMANCE REPORT TO MARCH 2016 is a clear breach against local climate policy in the United Kingdom. Therefore, we call this meeting illegal and urge that it be repeated as soon as possible to be replaced with new documentation which is up to date and in accordance with the net zero global agenda. There should also be a strong focus on how to decarbonise the local economy rapidly.

We cannot accept the current weak progress on the traffic situation, the Mass Rapid Transit linked to air pollution and emissions, the delayed electrification of Reading railways and effortless climate change strategy with no ambition. It is lacking in substance such as inclusion, accessibility, outreach and urban climate innovation etc.

Now, I feel there is no real interest from the RBC in dealing with the biggest threat Earth has ever faced. I urge you to involve us and other non-state actors, to come up with sustainable CO2lutions (zero carbon solutions) e.g. a mono rail proposal and a car free city centre, a net zero showcase zone in central Reading.

The linkage between urban innovation and sustainability has never been stronger. Is Reading local government connected on a "glocal" level, y/n? What would happened if a superstorm hit Reading big or any another climatic event? A real evacuation should be preceded by skilled and realistic capacity building effectiveness drills!



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I regard Reading carbon situation as an appalling disaster. Reading is far from a being a sustainable place. Reading local leadership for the strategic environment, planning and transport, Reading's Climate Change Strategy board, Reading University and Reading 2050 Vision and more are in urgent need of mentoring from climate governance expertise.

WHY

For reasons, above, we are working on a parallel Urban Reading Strategy for climate, innovation and jobs. Firstly, it is an Ecological and Humane strategy reaching for Net Zero emissions by latest 2040 (UK is a developed nation).

Every international local government and organisation acknowledge we are in a planetary emergency with an urgent need to reach zero emissions A.S.A.P. The sooner the better! The only question is how, not if we are on target..

One final comment, I noticed that no one in the meeting mentioned or referred the outcome from the **Marrakesh vision from COP 22** conference, the UK ratification of the **UNFCCC Paris Agreement** nor of the **New Urban Agenda** that was adopted last month in October to guideline cities towards sustainable urban opportunities (development) in accordance with **the UN Global Goals** and the **Agenda 2030**. This is disappointing. These five deals are part of the main global treaties that no one can avoid to take part in.

We all exist in a time when humane values count for one matter only, future health and the survival of the planet.

If this is not taken seriously it may be subject to challenge.

References

The Paris Agreement

http://unfccc.int/files/essential_background/convention/application/pdf/english_paris_agreement.pdf

The New Urban Agenda

<https://www2.habitat3.org/file/537303/view/591155>

The Marrakech Vision

<http://www.thecvf.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/CVF-Vision-For-Adoption.pdf>

The Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being)

SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy)

SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)

SDG 13 (Climate Action)

<http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/?area=GBR>

Carl Emerson-Dam

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Feel free to ring me or email me any time.

Many thanks, Carl Emerson-Dam

Climate Change Centre Reading / Ecopreneurs for the Climate in Reading

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