



Rushmoor Voluntary Sector Forum Notes: Greening our organisation

14th June 2023 at Civic Offices, Farnborough

Welcome and Introduction

Donna Bone welcomed everyone and gave apologies from:

Jim Storey	Fleet Pond Society
Simon Gornall	Community Grub Hub
Nikki Acott	Aldershot Garrison
Abby Roper	Vision 4 Youth
Martin Wood	RVS Trustee
Alison Cooper	RVS Trustee/Parity

Questions and answers from the presentations, plus any extra notes:

Ben McCallan CEO Zero Carbon Guildford

Understanding the carbon conversation

180 businesses across the Southeast were supported by LOCASE, (European Directive funds) between Spring 2016 until Spring 2023. About 180 businesses received the grant during the programme, and over 100 of these were in Surrey. <https://locase.co.uk/about/>

The energy costs saved up to 2022, through the LOCASE project, could conservatively be doubled against today's energy prices.

ZERO is launching a 'citizen science' water quality testing programme in Guildford, to monitor the quality of the river Wey and our surrounding waterways.

Question: 1.5 degrees goal is not achievable. How can we ramp it up?

Answer: Decarbonise - £15m from government given to Surrey is a start but will cost much more.

Debbie Whitcombe RVS Community Development Worker

Greening Our Organisation, the journey so far

Statement: 15th June is Clean Air Day where you can download a pledge.

RVS are tenants of RBC. We have a good relationship. We have talked about ways we can work collectively in our shared space. Small wins can influence others in the building.

Sophie Rogers, Climate Change Apprentice RBC

Climate Strategy update

Question: Scope 3 emission: paper – Should this sit in Scope 3 if the Council has direct control?

Answer: we have direct control of who we purchase from, but- it is still purchased from the supply chain when buying in. The Council doesn't emit directly from paper purchased therefore it sits within Scope 3.

Question: Does the carbon footprint include tree planting, green spaces, and parks?

Answer: The Carbon Footprint does not include offsetting; it only includes what we emit ourselves. The aim is to have to offset as little as possible by 2030. Offsetting would not be part of our calculation but will be looked at as we get closer to 2030.

Alex Hughes, CE Citizens Advice Rushmoor

Greening Our Organisation update

Statement – in general some people will be aware that servers where we store our data have a high carbon footprint.

A suggestion to reduce this carbon footprint is to not 'reply all' – only reply to an email if we need to; also have links in the email rather than attachments.

A short email sent from your phone is better than a long email from your laptop/computer.

How Bad Are Bananas

author Mike Berners-Lee

ISBN 9781788183811

Debbie recommended this book as a great read about how everything is measured by our carbon footprint.

Jules Crossley, Rushmoor Community in Bloom

Our Green Journey

It was suggested to Jules and RVS staff that we invite Ben from Zero Carbon Guildford to run the full workshop that they offer, in Rushmoor. This will be for RVS members and partner organisations.

Sarah Taylor, Sustainability Officer

Frimley ICS Sustainability Projects and Plans

No questions, just lots of discussion during the networking lunch.

[Summary](#)

Donna Bone summarised the event as positive and motivational, hopefully giving organisations some tools and confidence to take the first steps towards going green. We hope to continue the dialogue with further events and resources to support the Rushmoor voluntary sector.

[Date of next VSF](#)

Date of AGM & VSF: Wednesday 13th September 2023. The theme will be 'Equalities'.

Donna welcomed everyone to join us for the networking lunch.