

Designing a Net Zero Reading

Discussion Pack

Please submit your responses
by 31st August 2024

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Welcome

It's time to revise Reading's priorities for the next phase of our journey to a net-zero and climate-change-resilient town.

What's working well and what isn't? What should we do more of and who needs what to make that happen? Where are the gaps? How can we intervene in systems for positive effects?

The **Reading Climate Emergency Strategy 2025-30** will guide the continued delivery of Reading's response to the climate emergency. It will build on all the work that has been done to date with the addition of new insights, partnerships, opportunities and pathways to success.

Reading Climate Change Partnership (RCCP), the steering group of ReadingCAN, is working with Dialogue Matters to make this process as effective and inclusive as possible. A deliberative group will meet three times during this year to share knowledge, consider inputs from the wider community, and prioritise actions.

We need the **stories**, **expertise** and **ideas** of as many people as possible. People who live, work and study in Reading are invited to contribute to this engagement process throughout 2024. This **Designing a Net Zero Reading Discussion Pack** is one of many opportunities to get involved.

About



- This Discussion Pack contains practical, easy guidance and tools.
- It is designed for use by communities, groups, organisations or businesses.
- It will help you think about Reading's path to achieving net zero – what is already going well, what else you would like to see happen, how is your group playing its part.
- You will share notes from your discussion with Dialogue Matters. What you share will be summarised alongside other responses to help shape Reading's climate action priorities.
- The aim is that this Discussion Pack will help you, your group and Reading as a whole.

Getting started



Think of people you would like to have this conversation with. It could be with a group/club, colleagues, friends, or family. We suggest around 3 – 7 people works well.



Plan a **place** and **time** that would work. The conversation is designed to take up to 1.5 hours but could be much quicker. Invite others by email, Whatsapp, or post ([see an example invite](#)).



Think about refreshments - some refreshments help everyone relax - tea, coffee, biscuits, fruit, whatever works for you and your group!



Use a laptop or phone to type notes during your meeting or handwrite notes. Afterwards, you can submit your notes via an [online form](#) or post your notes to Dialogue Matters.

Kind conversations guidance

A photograph of two men sitting on a bench outdoors. The man on the right is older, with grey hair and a beard, wearing an orange and black soccer jersey and holding a white soccer ball. He is smiling broadly. The man on the left is younger, with short hair, also wearing an orange and black soccer jersey, and is looking towards the older man. The background is a blurred green field.

At the beginning of your meeting,
read these out and invite agreement:

- ✓ We will be friendly, open, curious, considerate and respectful of each other's perspectives.
- ✓ We want a productive and rewarding experience.
- ✓ We will welcome different perspectives.
- ✓ We want everyone to feel it is fine to share their view – but no one has to!
- ✓ We will listen to each other generously and actively.
- ✓ We appreciate that we might see things differently and have different beliefs and opinions – that is fine. If needed, we agree to disagree with respect.
- ✓ We will endeavour to stay on track and refocus if we need to.

Tips for the host

1

Ask the group:
“Has anyone who has not spoken yet got something to add?”

2

If something goes off track, make a note of it and invite people to refocus on the current question

3

If there is any risk of things getting heated, remind people of the guidance. Ask if people want to take a break, re-read and re-commit to the guidance or draw the discussion to a close.

Tools for your meeting

1. Discussion questions
2. Our Story



- **Decide to use one or both of these tools**
- **Pick a person in your group to take notes during your meeting**
- **Type or handwrite notes**
- **Note down the main points and ideas as you follow the discussion questions or talk about your story**

1. Discussion questions

Chat about these questions in order. Give about 10 minutes to each question. Invite people to speak up as and when they have a thought to share.

1. Imagine it's 2030 and Reading has achieved net zero or is well on the way. What things please you most?
2. What do you think is working well now, in 2024, to help Reading achieve net zero?
3. What more would you like to see happen?
4. How is your group/organisation playing its part?
5. What tools, information, resources, or changes would help you to be even more effective?



2. Our Story

- Stories are a great way to inspire and encourage others to take action to tackle climate change. Hearing a story from a group you could relate to helps inspire the idea “If they can do it, so can we!”
- Tell us a story about something your group, community or organisation has been doing to tackle climate change.

Want to be creative? These pointers will help you write your story:

- Who is/are the main character/s?
- What challenge were they trying to overcome?
- Who was there to give support or advice?
- What barriers did they come up against and how did they overcome them?
- What ultimately got them on the path to success?
- What lesson/s are they going to share with others?

If this seems familiar, it is loosely based on ‘A Heroes Journey’ format – seen in most stories and movies!



Share

- Once you've met and spent time with your group or organisation, please remember to share what you've created and found out



Share your responses with Dialogue Matters.
Type (or copy paste) your notes into this [online form](#)



Alternatively, post your notes to:
Dialogue Matters, The Old Harness Room,
Penstock Hall Farm, Canterbury Road,
Brabourne, Kent, TN25 5LL

Please submit your contributions
by 31st August 2024



Scan the QR code to access
the form on your phone!

Share with others



Share with others in your group or community



Share with others in your wider organisation or business

Keep in touch



To receive communications relating to Reading's Year of Climate Engagement (e.g. surveys, discussion packs, prompts and opportunities to comment on the outputs of the deliberative group workshops):

Please sign up to the [Reading Climate Engagement List](#).

This email list will also be used to share the *Draft Report on the Year of Climate Engagement* and the final *Reading Climate Emergency Strategy for 2025 – 2030*.

Example invitation



Reading Climate Action Network (RCAN) has launched the ‘Designing a Net Zero Reading’ Discussion Pack so that communities, groups, clubs, organisations or businesses can help shape Reading’s next Climate Emergency Strategy for 2025 - 2030.

I will be hosting a conversation using this Discussion Pack and would love you to be part of it.

Date:

Time :

Location:

RSVP to: [name/email/number] by [date]