

Coventry's Climate Change Board Meeting – 26 April 2022

Board members present		Observers and stakeholders
Margot James (MJ) – Chair, WMG Cllr Jim O'Boyle (JOB) - Vice -Chair, Coventry City Council Ed Green (EG) - Warwickshire Wildlife Trust Russ Hall (RH) - WMG Tony Evans (TE) - Sarginsons Mike Lewis (ML) - EON Mandy Bygrave (MB) – CDA Martin Sutherland (MS) - City of Culture Ian Marshall (IM) - Coventry University Daryl Darkin (DD) - West Midlands Fire Service	Chris Ennew (CE) - University of Warwick (Virtual) Louise Woollen (LW) - West Midlands Police (Virtual) Lizzie Frost (LF) - Severn Trent Water (Virtual) Sophie Mason (SM) - Coventry Building Society (Virtual)	Claire Wheatley (CW), WMG Colin Knight (CK) - Coventry City Council Darren O'Shaughnessy (DOS) – Coventry City Council Andy Williams (AW) - Coventry City Council Annie Truong (AT) - Coventry City Council Bret Willers (BW) - Coventry City Council Hopi Sen (HS) – WMG (Virtual)
Apologies		
Audrey O'Connor, Mariama Ceesay, Chris Lovatt, Louise Bennett, Martin Reeves, Clive Robinson, Matthew Rhodes, Sarah Windrum, Neil Griffiths		Anna Livesey, Matt Dillow

Notes

AGENDA ITEM 1

Welcome and updates - Margot James, WMG

MJ welcomed Claire Wheatley (WMG) and Mandy Bygrave (CDA). Thanks, and recognition was given to EON and Mike Lewis for co-chairing the Low emission development pathway group with Chris Lovatt.

It was announced that Geraldine Tsakirakis has decided not to take the Equitable pathway chair role. MJ expressed appreciation on letting us know so swiftly and sought recommendations from the Board members.

AGENDA ITEM 2

Low emission (LE) development pathway working group update – Mike Lewis, EON

ML provided an update on the LE working group. Since the last board meeting, the group has met once and are investigating three key areas;

1. Residential sector

This priority will focus on how to marshal resources for the **ECO4 obligations**. This is the 4th tranche of the energy company obligation set out by the energy regulator Ofgem. ECO4 targets consumers who satisfy a certain criterion such as vulnerability, benefits, and housing standards. Consumers could be offered **free energy efficiency measures** such as home insulation, loft insulation, solid wall insulation, cavity wall insulation, heat pumps, or energy efficient boilers. EON and CCC have an agreement to identify people in Coventry and engage in joint marketing to support consumers (not necessarily EON customers). Kick off meetings begin in May. Once mobilized and successful, there is a potential to extend this to the three cities challenge.

2. SME sector

This activity will focus on helping business decarbonise. The scope is still to be fully defined. Sarginsons and WMG has formed a subgroup to understand the tools available and cost-effective routes to market. A follow up meeting is planned with EON's Blackburn Meadows

(biomass/district heating powerplant) which hosts a pilot for short term frequency demand response (electrolyser and battery) to the grid.

3. General opportunities

Further opportunities were discussed (but not fully formed) which included:

- Energy transformation partner procurement process support for the CCC
- Decarbonisation of public buildings, district heating, wind farms, solar etc
- Supporting behaviour change
- Electrification of transport – opportunities in the city such as solar/wind
- Skydome Arena case study - Matching heating and cooling. A pilot in Germany with learnings that could be applied in the UK
- District heating and cooling opportunities in the wider city

Low emission development pathway discussion

TE confirmed an additional four meeting planned for Sarginsons and echoed the ambition to reduce their carbon footprint even further, working with the supply chain in particular.

MJ enquired about measuring progress. TE said Sarginsons had good data from the Green Business programme already but suggested re-baselining carbon emissions to measure this activity effectively. RH noted that WMG has provided Sarginsons an energy audit (along with 9 others) which demonstrates how cost effective it can be to decarbonise where there is heat intensive processes. TE agreed the net present value has become more worthwhile due to rising energy costs. MJ urged the need to circulate this information as quickly as possible, JOB agreed that action should be taken forward and PR out as an early win for the CCB to keep up the momentum and keep building on the successes from the group.

ML concluded that EON are lobbying the Government to double the ECO funding to c.£2 billion as a means to support the public further. Unfortunately, it wasn't included as part of the recent Energy Security Strategy however there are other opportunities coming up which MJ agreed we would endeavour to support.

AGENDA ITEM 3

Circular economy (CE) development pathway working group update – Russ Hall, WMG

RH provided an update on the pathway group. Since the last board meeting one pathway working group meeting has been held. RH described circular economy process. The CE can seem to be intangible; people often don't consider the amount of energy that has gone into manufacturing goods, the current economy is in a linear state where things are thrown away. We need to reuse things over again to lock in emissions and spread them out over time to reduce our impact. People may see car fumes as emissions but don't consider the carbon in steel doors for example. The areas of focus for the group will be as follows;

1. Education

- University programme to target future engineers and scientists. Building in circular economy information, re-use, and recycling into degree courses with Warwick and Coventry University

2. Waste reduction

- Development of further re-use centres
- Re-education about the value of new/re-use goods

Generally, re-use centres are found near tips, these are often run by charities which either upcycle or sell on items. We need to move away from the term 'Second Hand' as it's not perceived as new.

Metal almost never comes to the end of its useful shelf life and therefore should have the same value as 'new'

3. **Closed loop recycling – Metals**

RH described the UK process of scrap metal, which is collected, sent to larger scrap companies then exported to the likes of Egypt/Turkey/Bangladesh. It's melted down and sold back to the UK. When steel is exported, we don't see the CO2 associated with the transportation and processing. Countries repurposing the steel may not be environmentally responsible. For example, in Turkey taxes are voluntary, and they don't have landfill taxes so the environmental costs of what is not recycled and disposed of is not accounted for. Our aim is to recycle our valuable metal directly in the UK. RH noted that a number of larger steel organisations are interested. He suggested there is a large opportunity with approx. 2m tonnes of iron in the WM due to the inefficiencies in manufacturing processes. This would be a fantastic first for Coventry and given our industry in the area a great opportunity.

– **Pilot for closed loop recycling of metal**

This project supports UK manufacturing and we'll be able to track how the metal is recycled and reused. The aim is to work with scrap metal collectors to change the way they collect and sort metal. Collect metal directly from SME/manufactures in Coventry. Take metal to sort at a collection centre. Use British metal manufactures to collect the sorted steel to be used directly in the UK.

– **Industrial symbiosis**

This looks at what waste products we have and finding new markets. Further investigation is required into this.

4. **Communication**

Communication and positioning around circular economy are key. We need to make it tangible and measurable.

- Measure baseline and set targets to communicate to the public
- Develop school community projects to help build understanding and reduced environmental anxiety.

Circular Economy development pathway discussion

MJ supported moving the Close loop recycling forward to a pilot project. RH commented that this is in line with DEFRA thinking. JOB requested an outline of a pilot project which Russ described the requirements including:

- Access to SMEs – WMG, LEP, Chamber, Council etc
- Collection centre facilities, and sorting process for grades of steel – Council MRF?
- Links to steel companies to collect the metal (rather than being taken to a port) – RH has these links
- Coordination and messaging with the scrap metal collectors to outline the benefits and change processes
- Mapping of the new supply chain processes
- Partners - Bringing on board a willing partner for the pilot
- Data – cost benefits analysis, value, and carbon analysis (WMG)

AW suggested involving Tom White Waste as they are looking at something similar in soil & construction waste which may support the methodology. RH stressed we need to move away from calling it 'waste' as this is our raw material of the future.

JOB raised the challenge of bringing steel companies on board. WMG partners with Tartar and RH is also well connected in the industry. Initial conversations with Owen Bailey at Celsa Steel could be developed further. The project would need to be quality and well sorted metals for this to work (not as per current process which is mixed with dirt as they sell on cost per tonne)

ML queried legislation and the financial model challenges. RH offered a potential solution to the business model which would offer money more for a higher grade of metal, ensuring the scrap metal collectors make more money up front.

Legislation would be changed in 2026 which would support not exporting to countries without a carbon tax. This pilot would be ahead of the curve and in line with a paper written for DEFRA which was well received. MJ agreed there is a role for government as we wouldn't have the change in pace in transport if it wasn't for the ban on ICE vehicles in 2030.

MB offered support for linking into schools. CDA are currently supporting schemes to recycle computers, general recycling of goods and supporting changing of attitudes.

MS mentioned they also work with schools. c.600 children are involved in a fashion project using manufacturers waste. There has been some great messaging about junk couture and would be happy to connect. Circular is a key strand for CoC moving forward.

MJ concluded that this will be a substantial win if we can pull together a pilot with the support of WMG and members. JOB stressed the need for actions and ownership following on from this proposal.

AGENDA ITEM 4

Nature based (NB) development pathway working group update - Ed Green

EG provided an update on the nature based pathway working group. A meeting was held before easter, and a separate meeting held with CE. The group was mindful of the comments made at the route map presentation, in that there is not enough space for tree planting in Coventry to meet the reduction targets. They stressed that actions need to be immediate and large scale. The activity needs to go beyond BAU. It would be expensive but are aware of funding being spent elsewhere; and it would need to be re-focused. Potential areas of action include;

1. **City river corridors**

Currently there's a lot of work on the river Sherbourne. EG recommended a focus on the River Sowe. We can clear the footpath that runs along it as well as improve and enhance the river. There is good potential for social value from better access. Unfortunately, there's not much we can do on water quality as it's catchment wide and extends beyond the boundaries.

2. **Repurposing land**

This is a rewilding project of low-grade agriculture land that cannot be used to produce food. It could be repurposed, and given back to nature for a more natural habitat

3. **Trans boundary working**

Looking beyond the city boundaries for opportunities to enhance biodiversity such as adopting the uplands outside of the city that are in need of peat restoration.

Nature based development pathway discussion

MJ enquired about the river corridor programme and suggested involving the community for clear ups litter picking, improving sight lines etc. One of the CCB responsibilities is to engage with the public and this is a very visible project where people can get involved. EG agreed that is a great way for communities to come together to make improvement on their doorstep and go back and enjoy time and time again.

LW noted an interest in rewilding and pockets of land. This theme came out quite strongly from police engagement environmental strategy. They don't have much they can do on their own estate however there is an appetite in the workforce to understand opportunities. What projects could be developed on other public sector estates.

JOB highlighted the challenge of finance. The River Sherbourne Project is in jeopardy due to the amount of money that is sought from property owners who we are trying to secure land from. There is a potential to use community groups to lend support to get around these types of issues.

EG says the emergency should take precedence and that we need to demonstrate positive action and positive benefits to the community. JOB highlighted that the power that the local authority has through a legal framework which is not helpful for addressing emergencies in the necessary timeframe.

BW mentioned a further area of focus for schools and training. British Trust Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) now known as The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) used to be a large institution with employment funding from Central Government has declined over the years but is still in operation suggested using Biodiversity Net Gain and Section 106 funding from planning applications to revitalise this service in Coventry to train community volunteers from across the City.

Further funding will be available from the biodiversity net gain/environment bill. It states there needs to be 10% more biodiversity than there was at the beginning of the development. Previously we have suffered from short term periods of funding. The Bill now focuses on adequate levels of funding for 30-year timescale in order to grow into something more meaningful.

AGENDA ITEM 5

TOR for pathway groups

Members were comfortable with the TOR. MJ suggested adding some common terms of reference including:

- An approach to assessing the baseline before taking any action so the board can measure progress over time
- Clear goals and targets for each pathway and strategy/action plan to achieve the targets
- Consideration of pilot projects to demonstrate success and impact
- Freedom to co-opt other organisations – recommendation to board first
- Determine commitment of resources from individual member organisations
- If additional resources are required, please request this from the board members

JOB and MJ agreed that the Pathway chair should propose additional organisation to the Chair/vice chair prior to joining the pathway groups – this will ensure the board is focused on outcomes, and the action required.

The consolidation of the Board was seen as vitally important in the step towards being able to support public engagement in addressing sustainability and climate change issues. This would ensure there is a clear focus and help to drive our collective activity. It was also agreed that engagement should be part of all the pathways groups, not just the Equitable Person Centred Pathway Group although the latter will have a role in overseeing and supporting the process of meaningful quality engagement.

BW explained the Equitable Person Centred Pathway Group is much wider than public engagement; it also to be focused on addressing inequalities such as fuel poverty as a result of not being able to afford home insulation, afford increased fuel prices, differences in respiratory illness due to exposure

to air pollution and traffic levels etc in areas in which they live air quality, health, food poverty access to fresh affordable healthy food and how we can address these issues and so promote health and wellbeing enable child development and mental wellbeing by improving access to quality open spaces in deprived areas etc.

It was suggested that we approach the new director of Emmaus or propose a new list of recommendations for the Equitable Person Centred Pathway Group Chair for MJ/JOB to agree. MB offered her support with finding and recruiting an appropriate Chair for membership of the board.

BW mentioned that the Food network is looking for a bronze award status for the city. MJ noted there is potential cross over with low emissions pathway as the ECO work targets people in fuel poverty too. MB commented they have previously worked with Citizens' advice, provide energy efficiency training and advice for people in fuel poverty, and would be able to support BW with the recommendations for the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 6

Member focused presentation –

Coventry City Council (CCC) presented by Cllr Jim O'Boyle

JOB presented on areas of action from the city council. The presentation outlined the CCC milestones to net zero, the link from the board to the CCC and examples of projects that relate to the five pathways. JOB stressed how we need to share our resources and approach. None of us can reach net zero alone but can make a difference together.

Presentation discussion

IM asked when the Material recycling facility would be operational. JOB stated that the building works are underway, and AW confirmed it would be in September 2023. MJ enquired if we were able to put a re-use centre or metal recycling point near the MRF to support the Closed loop recycling pilot. JOB said that there wasn't any more space there however would take this away to consider other options.

RH mentioned that there are a number of re-use centres already set up. He gave an example of Edinburgh CC who also had a process of identifying items such as bikes before they hit the tip to be pulled out and upcycled. RH offer this contact (who now works for Greenpeace) to the City Council to meet with and share best practice.

AGENDA ITEM 7

Comms and engagement – Darren O'Shaughnessy, Coventry City Council

DOS introduced himself to the group. DOS offered comms support to the board. He suggested that it would be useful to have comms reps for all organisations to join the working group that he leads. Having contacts for each area will mean a smoother sign off process for case studies and PR to highlight actions from the board. MJ agreed that a comms group would be great to support the coordination of PR. She also requested regular updates to the board for any PR opportunities. TE invited DOS to attend the LE pathway meeting on the 10th of May.

AGENDA ITEM 8

AOB

- EG highlighted that the WWT trustees are recruiting a new chair of their council and requested all members to promote this rare opportunity with their networks.

- MJ has organised a series of briefings on latest reports from WMG which are critical to achieving net zero. The first focus will be on electrification of transport and autonomous vehicles on Tues June 14th. The offer is also extended out to others in member organisations who may also benefit from the briefing.
 - Further briefing will be held including Materials (July) and Circular (Sept/Oct)
 - CE suggest a briefing on behaviour change for Autumn which was agreed by MJ
- WMG won observer status for COP26, and this carries forward for the next 10 years. WMG are considering acting on a regional basis and suggested that city wide could be a good first step. MJ requested all to consider how the University could expand the footprint at COP to encompass the broader city
- BW highlighted a project with Warwick University which he has been promoting that builds upon Stanford University's famous 'D school' concept. The initiative is to promote creative thinking across the faculties and to bring together academics students and practitioners from across the various disciplines to think outside of the box and design new solutions. The University is initiating a 'cross faculty' challenge that will focus on addressing a practical sustainability issue. The aim is to bring faculties together to brainstorm solutions to sustainability issues such as developing practical approaches to increasing the level of active travel across the City. He reported that the University have asked the winning team of the challenge to give a presentation to members of the board (likely to be in early July possibly July 8th) This was welcomed by MJ and the Board.

ACTIONS

- AW to provide introduction/contact to RH for Tom White Waste
- CCC to investigate MRF or other facilities as a potential sorting/collection for metals
- RH to introduce the Greenpeace contact to CCC to discuss reuse centres and Edinburgh as an exemplar
- Set up a community clear up project on River Sowe, potential to use members - EG
- Set up workshop/meeting to share work and processes on rewilding – EG/BW
- Investigate funding from Net Gain / Environment Bill – BW
- Review Trust conservation volunteers via the skills agenda at WMG – MJ
- Collate a list of recommendations for the Equitable Pathway Chair – BW
- Update pathway working group TOR and recirculate - AT
- Provide comms leads to DOS to join the Comms working group - All
- DOS to attend LE Pathway meetings - DOS
- EG to send WWT information for AT to circulate to members – EG/AT
- WMG to send dates for the Research Briefing for AT to circulate to the group - CW
- Consideration of COP26 City/Regional presence – MJ
- BW to set up presentation from University of Warwick Creative Thinking Challenge - BW
- AT to set a new date CCB date for June - AT