Surrey Energy Partnership secretariat: Quarterly Report

September 2023

# Overview

Surrey Energy Partnership was set up in 2019 by the University of Surrey (Cat Reeby). Surrey Climate Commission took on the secretariat service for the Surrey Energy Partnership in February 2023, with funding from the University of Surrey. This report outlines the activities of the secretariat from 30th June – 30th September 2023.

Jacquetta Fewster provides the day-to-day secretariat service provided by Surrey Climate Commission, in close liaison with Cat Reeby (the chair).

# Highlights from SEP

* Following the Steering Group meeting in March, SCC invited SEP / Surrey Climate Commission to be a partner in their **Local Energy Advice Demonstrator** (Housing retrofit programme) bid. SCC’s bid was successful and we have been working closely with SCC to develop the LEAD programme. This will engage SEP members with the demonstrator.
* SEP supported the Surrey Climate Commission event – **What’s Stopping Us Stopping Climate Change** – see info here: [What’s the change we need to take action for the planet? | South East Climate Alliance (seclimatealliance.uk)](https://seclimatealliance.uk/whats-the-change-we-need-to-take-action-for-the-planet/). The Institute for Sustainability at the University was a key partner, and the Commission and IfS are developing plans to follow the event up with a workshop in the new year.

# Secretariat key deliverables

1. SEP Steering Committee: arrange, facilitate and minute at least 2 meetings per year.
   1. First meeting held and notes circulated (March 2023).
   2. The next Steering group is being set up, and will take place on 25th October 2023. At that meeting we will agree the content of the next event – focus on Housing energy retrofit (and links to LEAD).
2. Forum: arrange, facilitate and minute at least 2 meetings / events per year.
   1. SEP’s first event this year was a workshop on Housing Retrofit for Net Zero, held on 16th May. It brought together a range of energy advice providers and professionals.
   2. What’s Stopping Us Stopping Climate Change: SEP supported this event which was organised by Surrey Climate Commission, and held on 28th Sept at Leatherhead Theatre. This major event had speakers: Lord Deben, Nathalie Bennett and Ed Straw. Many members of SEP attended.
   3. The next planned event is likely to be on Home Energy Retrofit, with a presentation by Dr Tom Roberts on his research project ‘the Leaky Pipeline of home improvements’. Date – TBC.
3. Membership: maintain and grow (by 10%) the SEP membership.

Membership has grown slightly in Q3 from 166 members in June to 170 members in September. Since the start of 2023 the membership has grown by 18%, exceeding the KPI for a 10% increase over the year.

1. Communicate information: circulate an e-bulletin to members at least six times per year.

SEP e-newsletters has been sent out in Feb, May and July. In addition there have been a further 6 communications sent to all members, including: information on SCC’s solar together scheme (June) and promotion of the What’s Stopping Us event (Sept).

The Surrey Energy Partnership page on the Climate Commission website can be found at: [Surrey Energy Partnership | Surrey Climate Commission](https://www.surreyclimate.org.uk/surrey-energy-partnership).

1. Action: encourage and support 1 – 2 sustainable energy projects per year. Note these will link closely to the core activities of the Surrey Climate Commission.

Two focus areas were agreed by the Steering Group in March: Housing Retrofit for net zero, and Renewables.

1. Work on the Housing Retrofit activity is progressing well. Following the last Steering Group meeting, SEP & Surrey Climate Commission were invited to be partners in SCC’s bid for a Local Energy Advice Demonstrator (LEAD). SCC has been successful in this bid and Surrey Climate Commission (incorporating SEP) has started work to develop co-creation focus groups for the Demonstrator. SEP members were involved with the Housing Retrofit workshop (May) and it is planned that the next SEP event will focus on Housing Retrofit and LEAD, with a presentation by Dr Tom Roberts.
2. Discussions on Renewables for Surrey are taking place at the end of October with Martin Wiles (Head of Sustainability, UoS), Paul Kemp (GSENZ), the RSCH and SCC.

# Planned activities for Q4 (Oct - Dec)

* Next e-bulletin will be drafted and circulated – to go out late Oct.
* The next Steering Group meeting is taking place on 25th October 2023.
* Renewables meeting scheduled for 27th October.
* Final SEP event for this period is being planned – focus on Housing Energy Retrofit, with Dr Tom Roberts. Date – TBC.
* December 2023 – end of the secretariat contract with UoS.

# Attachments:

* SEP July e-newsletter

C Reeby

October 2023