

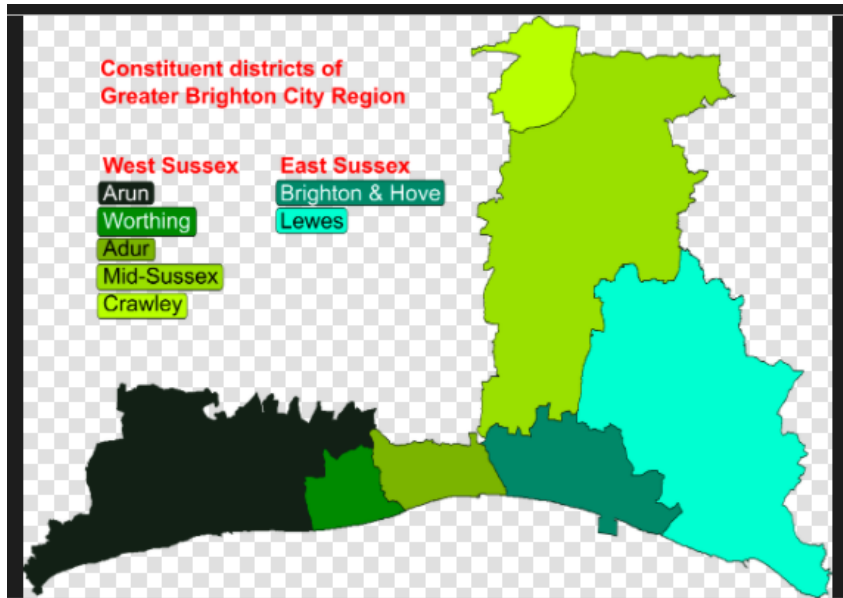
11<sup>th</sup> SECA Steering Group  
Zoom Meeting  
6<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Present:	Jay Mercer (chair)	Kinder Living (Horsham)
	Geoff Barnard	Greening Steyning, SECA newsletter/website
	Sally Barnard	Greening Steyning, SECA coordinator
	Tom Broughton	Chichester XR
	Carrie Cort	Sussex Green Living, Horsham Repair/Climate Café etc
	Anne Davies	CAGNE (Campaign Against Gatwick Noise and Emissions)
	Viv Doussy	Your Better Nature, Greening Steyning
	Paul Hannam	Your Better Nature, Greening Steyning
	Danny Lee	Petersfield Climate Action Network
	Alison Marshall	Transition Horsham
	Juliet Merrifield	HKD Transition (Hassocks), Central Sussex Climate Network
	Karen Park	St Marks Eco Church, No Incinerator 4 Horsham
	Ollie Pendered	Community Energy South, Gter Brighton Energy Group
	Brenda Pollack	Friends of the Earth, South East region
	Pat Smith	Climate Emergency Dorking, Mole Valley Forum, Surrey Climate Commission
	Paul Street	Climate Emergency Dorking, Mole Valley Forum
	Tony Whitbread	Chair of Sussex Wildlife Trust, Your Better Nature
Guests	Andrew Durling	Director, Eastbourne Eco Action Network
	Peter Desmond	Fairer World Lindfield, Central Sussex Climate Network
Apologies:	Pauline Cory	Transition Worthing
	Greg Ford	Petersfield XR, PeCAN
	Liz Thorns	

1. **Welcome** and introductions as above.

**2. Update on Greater Brighton City Region**

Ollie Pendered gave a summary of what's going on. The GBCR is an umbrella organisation bringing together Brighton and Hove, Lewes, Arun, Worthing, Adur, Crawley and Mid-Sussex council areas *"bringing in investment to kickstart regeneration projects; lobbying for improvements in infrastructure and transport; and selling the benefits of doing business in the area to a wider audience"* <https://greaterbrighton.com/> . This large grouping gives local authorities a chance to compete with the likes of Bristol and Greater Manchester and helps LEPs (Coast to Capital and SELEP) to bid for funds on their behalf.



Ollie is the independent chair of the GBCR Energy Group. This sits alongside the Water Group and between them they guide the energy and water strategy for the region. Here is a link which describes their approach

<https://greaterbrighton.com/water-and-energy-projects-unveiled-by-greater-brighton-to-ombate-climate-change-and-trigger-green-growth-recovery/>. They report to the Infrastructure Panel which is made up of the Chief Execs of all the councils. The Water and Energy Group is taking 10 Pledges to the Chief execs and asking them all to sign up to these:

1. Kelp (10 mile kelp forest off Brighton coast)
2. Water recycling project (Burgess Hill)
3. Zero emission fleets for LAs
4. EV recharging infrastructure
5. Rewilding to prevent water erosion
6. Water efficient homes
7. Energy efficient public buildings
8. Lobbying national govt for legislation on new builds
9. Innovation forum to stimulate partnerships with Unis etc
10. Low carbon heating (district heat networks, electrification of heating, reduction of oil heating)

They are looking at municipal bonds to raise more funds, and trying to make sure the council leaders recognise the importance of 'community wealth' to help bring these projects to fruition.

**Discussion:** We discussed what role SECA might play in relation to this. Can we help other councils to learn from this approach and grow the whole regions strength? Could we go to other councils eg Hants CC. WSCC, and point to what's happening in Greater Brighton? Is this the sort of vehicle/opportunity that other councils could use by grouping together?

Alongside this there was some confusion about another 'layer' of groupings for SECA members to get to grips with- parish, district, county councils, LEPs and now groupings like Greater Brighton.

Where are we best to target our efforts, given limited time and energy?

**ACTION:**

OLLIE to liaise with GEOFF about a blog for the SECA newsletter/website.

BRENDA suggested a SECA guide to where it is most productive to focus our lobbying efforts 5- no volunteer for this at present.

NB Ollie suggested a good move is to suggest Local Authority leaders sign up to UK100 <https://www.uk100.org/> an effective lobbying group and '*a network of highly ambitious local government leaders, who have pledged to secure the future for their communities by shifting to 100% clean energy by 2050*'.

### 3. Council/community engagement on climate action

**EXAMPLES:**

**Eastbourne Eco Action Network (EEAN):** Andrew Durling gave a summary. Eastbourne Borough Council (EBC) has ambitious targets to be a carbon neutral council and town by 2030. They realised they couldn't do this alone, but needed to work with the community. EEAN was set up as a Community Interest Company to work as a community partner with EBC. Andrew is one of 7 directors. Everybody in EEAN is a volunteer.

They have 8 working groups, each one self organises and has an EBC councillor, business reps and community groups on board.

The directors deal with the finance, communications etc and liaise with EBC, but they can be quite light touch with the work of the groups.

The carbon capture group, for example, has been very successful in crowd funding £30,000 to plant trees and hedges in council parks and got funding from the Urban Tree Challenge Fund (*round 2 is now closed*)

Here is the EEAN website and blog <https://ecoactioneb.co.uk/blog>

**ACTION:** GEOFF to liaise with ANDREW about a blog for the SECA newsletter/website

**Central Sussex Climate Network:** Peter Desmond summarised the progress with this network. It includes Fairer World Lindfield, HKD (Hassocks Keymer Ditchling) Transition, Scaynes Hill Sustainability Group, REPOWER Balcombe, Extinction Rebellion Mid Sussex, Sustainable Henfield 2030, Forest Row Energy, 2 Councillors from Burgess Hill Town Council and residents from Cuckfield and Barcombe. It was formed to urge Mid Sussex DC to move forward on climate, they felt that joining together would have more impact. They have focussed on influencing policy makers, had training on lobbying from FoE and Hope for the Future, and engaged with their MP Mims Davies and with MSDC. On 9th Sept they held a virtual meeting with 41 people from 10 Town and Parish Councils as well as Councillors and Sustainability Officer from MSDC. Also reps from CSCN members, Catholic

Diocese of Arundel and Brighton (young people), East Grinstead Town Action Group and Sussex Learning Trust (schools) *(see 'Common themes CSCN' attached)*. They plan to meet again with their MP Mims Davies, to support town and parish councils with their climate action plans and to hold MSDC to account for their sustainability strategy.

**East Hants District:** Danny Lee introduced us to Petersfield Climate Action Network (PeCAN). PeCAN is also a Community Interest Company. PeCAN are frustrated by the lack of engagement and climate plans in East Hants District Council. EHDC climate officer is shared with Havant. So PeCAN have produced an 'East Hants Residents Action Plan', based on a template produced by Paul Street for Mole Valley *(see 'Towards an E Hants RAP' attached)*. It looks at both direct and indirect consumption and analyses what individual households can do.

They have shared it with Alton CAN and HCAN (Hampshire CAN) and are deciding what to do with the document from this point.

NB Danny reports that Hampshire County Council and their officer Chitra Nadarajah are being proactive on the climate front.

**Discussion:** clusters of groups are forming around the SECA region, both to put pressure on councils and to facilitate the process of engaging with them. This can be done in formalised way eg by forming CICs, or in a lighter touch informal network. Both arrangements have pros and cons, but joining up seems useful. *(see 'Climate networks in the South East' attached)*

Brenda suggested that it would be useful to have recommendations from SECA on the top 5 lobbying advice documents. She suggested it might be easier to get action at town/parish level where councils are not so bogged down with statutory duties. FoE have resources in the FoE Green Recovery Plans on key briefings for parish councillors, also for MPs and activists.

**ACTION:** send interesting case studies/blogs on joint working between communities and councils for SECA to share ALL

- 4. Keeping up with council action plans** There is a SECA Climate Action Survey on the website <https://seclimatealliance.uk/resources-for-councils/>. This has some broad analysis of council action plans eg target dates, whether the target is for the council estate or whole area etc. It needs updating as more councils are publishing their plans. Sally Barnard and Alison Marshall are considering doing some more detailed analysis to compare the plans. They are not sure how useful this would be. It would take considerable time input. Also, what criteria would one use to analyse the plans? It needs some thought and ideally a volunteer from each county to help.

**Discussion:** Jay- we could use the UK Climate Assembly recommendations. This could be persuasive as it is a Govt backed endeavour and by its nature is representative of the views of the population . Brenda- SECA could liaise with FoE and Climate Emergency UK who are doing some analysis of climate action plans already, and consider using their criteria. Danny- its important to think who the audience is for the data, as we might present it differently for different recipients. He shared a simple visual that PeCAN had produced for EHants DC using data from the SECA survey (*see 'PeCAN 2x2 matrix' attached*) . Juliet- it would be good to include whether the council is doing a baseline measurement of emissions/performance targets. Pat – volunteered to help analyse Surreys action plans.

**ACTION-** SALLY and ALISON will consult with the SECA Council working group and decide whether and how to take it further. They will involve PAT also, and liaise with BRENDA over FoE/CEUK approach.

## **5. AOB**

**Horsham Green Living:** Carrie Cort is working with her Horsham partners to produce a sustainability roadshow (with an electric milk float!) which will tour Horsham District parishes at various pop up events in 2021.

They are also producing a template on how to use art for climate education.

**ACTION** Carrie to share the template with GEOFF for SECA website/newsletter