

13th SECA Steering Group
Zoom Meeting
11th February 2021

Present:	Tony Whitbread (Chair)	Sussex Wildlife Trust, Your Better Nature
	Gonzalo Alvarez	UN Association, Climate and Oceans
	Geoff Barnard	Greening Steyning, SECA newsletter/website
	Sally Barnard	Greening Steyning, SECA coordinator
	Tom Broughton	Chichester XR
	Sherry Clark	Transition Hastings, Emerging Futures
	Carrie Cort	Sussex Green Living, Horsham Repair/Climate Café etc
	Viviane Doussy	Your Better Nature, UN Association Climate and Oceans
	Wilf Hardy	Yateley Climate Action Network
	Eleanor Hill	Alton Climate Action Network
	Alison Marshall	Transition Horsham
	Gemma Mcfarlane	Seaford Environmental Alliance
	Jay Mercer	Kinder Living (Horsham)
	Karen Park	Horsham Eco Churches, No Incinerator For Horsham
	Sally Pavey	Campaign Against Gatwick Noise and Emissions
	Brenda Pollack	Friends of the Earth, South East region
	Ben Sansom	Ardingly Climate Action
	Liz Thorns	Horsham XR, Transition Horsham

Apologies: Pauline Cory, Juliet Merrifield, Pat Smith, Paul Hannam, Kia Trainor , Anne Davies

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

2. Local elections 6th May 2021

The elections have been confirmed for May 6th. Sally B and Liz have got together to start planning for this. They asked for input on whether to go ahead with the SECA pledge card or to point SECA members to the Friends of the Earth election materials, or both. Does the SECA pledge card add value?

We looked at the latest draft of the SECA pledge card (see attached). It has been designed to be specific about what we are asking of councils. We want them to align with at least the UK COP target (68% by 2030), and apply it to the whole council area. It uses an ABCD of

pledges. Some councils are doing well with some of the pledges, but few are doing well with all. Sally had shown the proposed pledge card to two council climate officers and they gave feedback that the pledges were reasonable and realistic and that they represented a pretty good test to give to candidates.

Brenda demonstrated the FoE website

<https://climate.friendsoftheearth.uk/elections/are-council-elections-important> . It has a lot of useful guidance about meeting with candidates, organising hustings and using social media. It also has a pledge (not yet finalised) which is a lot more general, in the hope of getting the majority of candidates to sign up to it. They have a system for recording pledges which is useful.

Sally also showed a 'traffic light' list of the councils with elections, suggesting that we try to target those that are lagging particularly behind. Once this is done a bit more carefully it can be shared.

There is FoE training on elections/campaigning on 16/22/24/25 Feb.

Discussion comments:

A lot of voting will be done by postal votes, and the deadline for this **April 18th**. So we only have 2 months to influence candidates before then. We need to get moving. We need to approach party agents to check who is the Environment lead for each party and target them. FoE may be able to accommodate the SECA pledge system in their recording system. We could use a 'type form' to extract data online about who has pledged.

Decision: to go ahead and use the SECA pledge card. It is more specific and does 'add value' for groups who want to hold their councils to more specific pledges. We can also point groups to the FoE additional material/pledge so that they can use that if it suits them better.

ACTION:

SALLY and LIZ will take this forward and liaise with BRENDA re FoE. Other volunteers would be really welcome, especially to help liaise with groups in each county. Please contact Sally via southeastclimatealliance@gmail.com

GEOFF will add tick boxes to the pledge card so candidates could choose to select say 3 out of 4 of the pledges. Also put these plans, the SECA pledge and the FoE links in the next newsletter so groups are aware of it. Also put FoE training sessions in newsletter.

3. Heading toward COP26

SECA groups may be thinking of holding community events this year as we approach COP 26. A key SECA member group in the COP activities this year will be the UN Association Climate and Oceans. They are running a 'From Paris to COP26' national campaign to encourage councils, groups, businesses and individuals to sign up to play their part in the

UK carbon commitments. (UNAC&O are also planning one or more high level events in Scotland)

Viviane proposed that she could take on a facilitation role to gather information about what SECA groups and others are planning around the South East , create a spread sheet and supply information monthly to the SECA newsletter on this.

Discussion/ideas on COP related community activities:

We could think about a SECA pledge card for businesses. Groups could approach their local Chamber of Commerce or the Federation of Small Businesses. Big businesses are 'getting it' now, but small businesses may need a lot more help. There is a 'Race to Zero' sign up for big business pledges, but it needs to be more local for small businesses.

We need to raise public awareness of COP 26 and what its all about.

Seaford Environmental Alliance suggests a 'twinning' concept where a local group links up with another group in a country directly affected by climate change and 'tells their story' to their own UK town.

We need to create a focus on Climate Justice.

There could be a SECA pledge card for individuals which local groups could use.

Carrie is promoting a 'Year of Green Action' through Sussex Green Living. They have a mobile roadshow and links with creative arts and are happy to link up with community events cort@sussexgreenliving.co.uk.

We could have 'Glasgow Fringe' event/s in November in the South East alongside the COP. There is a website already <https://climatefringe.org/> which may be useful.

There is a 'mock COP' game which groups could use to help raise awareness.

ACTION:

VIVIANE will liaise with GEOFF over a dedicated SECA email for COP 26 activities and a section in the next newsletter to point people toward this.

Meantime please use viv.doussy@outlook.com

4. June 2021 SECA gathering

Alison, Jay, Viv and Tony have been thinking about this.

The date is planned for **Saturday 19th June.**

10am to 1pm : online gathering in the morning,.

Afternoon/evening: if allowed, we would like to have an outdoor social gathering for anyone who can make it and have a bit of a celebration. Nicola has kindly invited us to use her camping field at Dyke Farm near Horsham.

The morning online would focus on the UK carbon commitments for COP and how we can influence councils and communities to 'up their game' to achieve the area-wide step changes needed to meet these.

Ideally there would be discussion groups based on counties in the morning – Kent, Hampshire, Surrey, East and West Sussex. So we would like to encourage as many

SECA member groups as possible to join in, especially from outside West Sussex which is already heavily represented.

ACTION:

ALISON, VIVIANE, JAY and TONY will continue to plan the online session. **They would like a volunteer from each county to liaise with groups and maybe also facilitate their own county discussion session. ALL** to consider and let Alison know if you might be prepared to do this (via southeastclimatealliance@gmail.com)
NICOLA and CARRIE will plan the afternoon/evening.

5. Gatwick 2nd runway

Sally Pavey reiterated the importance of opposing the 2nd runway application at Gatwick with the huge environmental implications both of carbon and noxious emissions (see last steering meeting notes). CAGNE needs to rally help and support from environmental groups . They would welcome SECAs help in signposting to CAGNE and circulating information. There will be a talk in February about Green Jobs in the Gatwick area.

Discussion notes: All of us agreed about the significance. Agreed that SECA could help CAGNE where we can with publicity through our SECA network. There will be particular moments when this is most useful eg in the lead up to the consultation later this year

ACTION: SALLY P and ANNE to send a list of 'asks' to SECA c/o Sally B plus the details of Feb talk

6. **Rampion 2 Consultation** There is an initial consultation on the second phase of the Rampion wind farm off the Sussex coast . It closes officially on 12th Feb, but Rampion are leaving it open for comments after this. It is set out as a virtual village hall and is well designed. Brenda recommends that as many community groups as possible add their comments, particularly about the onshore section of cabling route which needs to be managed very sensitively where it goes over the Downs. (Rampion did well last time with this).

Geoff says he has found the engagement manager very approachable, Chris Tomlinson. He is keen to talk to groups.

Greening Steyning has a Green Drinks on 29th June online, which he will publicise to SECA as well. Its about the Rampion wind farm and also the Crown Estate who own the seabed.

ACTION: ALL can look and comment on the consultation <https://rampion2.com/>
GEOFF to add Green Drinks to SECA newsletter.

7. **AOB** Sally pointed out a report called '**Local Authorities and the 6th Carbon Budget**', an independent report for the Climate Change Committee from Dec 2020.
<https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/local-authorities-and-the-sixth-carbon-budget/>

The CCC recognises that the UK can only achieve its carbon budget goals if national govt, regional agencies and local authorities 'work seamlessly together'- which they patently aren't at the moment! This gives recommendations for both Govt and LAs. The summary is very clear and I wish everyone would get on with implementing it!

Tony mentioned the recent Dasgupta report '**The Economics of Biodiversity**' commissioned by the Treasury. Again a report that we can only hope has attention paid to it.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/the-economics-of-biodiversity-the-dasgupta-review>

ACTION: GEOFF to put in newsletter and add to Resources section of SECA website.
We could have a slot in each SECA meeting /newsletter to share useful resources etc.

9. Date of next SECA Steering Group meeting: 11th March 2021 at 7pm