



The Reading Sustainability Centre

Working to install a hydro-electric system
& build an eco-information centre.

Welcome

Welcome to our July Newsletter!

Help us install the Hydro!

Most community energy schemes are run by volunteers and the team behind Reading Hydro are no exception. We have a range of backgrounds and experience. There are many aspects to the project needing a variety of activities from the technical & managerial to engagement with the local community and other stakeholders. If you have skills, knowledge or interests that you'd like to use to support this project, we'd be very happy to hear from you - please do get in touch by emailing

ReadingSustainabilityCentre@gmail.com

Learn more about hydro schemes

If you're interested in learning more about community hydro schemes and what's involved, you'll find some great resources on the Whitby Esk Energy website. A mentoring programme shaped by members of the Community Hydro Forum has created four online eLearning modules that set out the various aspects of a successful scheme. The modules take the form of presentations with audio, and highlight experience gained from the Whitby Esk Energy project amongst others. This resource, developed with funding from the Cabinet Office Centre for Social Action, covers the following:

- * Have you got a Project?
- * Licenses to Operate
- * Contracts and Finance
- * Building, Commissioning and Operating

And links to the modules above can be found at on the [Whitby Esk Energy site](#)

Progress on installing the hydro

We are at the stage of obtaining permissions, producing our financial model, designing a natural fish pass and developing our community share offer document (assistance welcome on this last item)

One of our new volunteers Sarah, has been working hard on our financial model. She is a relative newcomer to the Reading Hydro project and has a background in the water & power industries. She was very pleased to hear of the plans and says that she loves the green spaces and rivers in Reading, and enjoys walking in the parks by Caversham weir.

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Events around in Reading

We have attended or been involved in the following events to raise awareness of Reading Hydro:

- Beanpole day
- Talked at a [Reading Climate Action Network](#) event in June,
- Likely to take part in the town meal and
- Hope to be at Caversham festival

Funding

Hot off the press! - We have just been awarded another grant, £1500, towards the Hydro Project by the [Naturesave Trust](#),



We are continuing to work on our Urban Community Energy Fund grant which cover various surveys, application fees and stakeholder / community / public engagement, this is progressing steadily.

Our Future Meetings

- Our next steering group meeting is on **29th July**.
- Following our visit to the turbines in operation at Mapledurham Mill, we are planning an open public meeting on **23rd September in RBC offices, at 7:00pm**

Other events

An ecology seminar exploring a range of views on green issues" by Chris Rhodes and Peter Harper scheduled to be held at [Braziers Park](#) on July 15th.



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