

Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon – from May 2006 onwards

Climate Friendly Bradford was launched in May 2006 under the auspices of the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust in response to the increasing evidence of climate change and with the aim that we could do something about it at a local level.

Regular monthly meetings started at the Quaker Meeting House in 2007 and an Eco Trade Fair was held in St Margarets Hall. Three groups were set up to focus on particular areas of concern: energy and energy conservation, waste & recycling, and transport. Biodiversity group was started in the winter of 2007/2008, and during the following winter local people and children from local schools joined in the planting of 1000 trees in Barton Farm Country Park. 2009 saw the launch of the Carbon Neutral 2050 Declaration.

The Sustainable Food and Drink group started in 2012 and the Swift group in 2014. In 2017 the waste and recycling group was reformed as Zero Waste, their focus has not been on recycling but on reducing plastic and waste.

In 2011 Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon became a **Community Interest Company**. It carried out the British Gas Green Streets project, under which solar pv panels were installed on Christchurch Primary School; insulation was put in Fitzmaurice and Holt Primary Schools and 3 community buildings - the Lambert Rooms, Holt and United Reform Church. 100 homes were fitted with energy efficient measures. In 2012 through the government's Leaf project, a large programme of thermal imaging of post-war housing stock in Bradford on Avon was undertaken, and people were encouraged to share their solutions to making their homes more energy efficient. Energy assessments of houses and energy audits of community buildings were organised; and the Quaker Meeting House installed solid wall insulation in the kitchen and small room area, which provided an exemplar of this type of insulation. In 2013-14 through the Solar Schools programme, CFBoA CIC together with Fitzmaurice primary school raised money to install solar pv on the main school building.

Carrying out large projects and Becoming a community organisation again

We had become a CIC to facilitate large projects that would need significant cash inputs / grants. However as time went on it was decided that those wanting to carry out large projects should set up a separate organisation to do this. During these years we also found that our projects could be funded by applying for grants, such as the BWCE (Bath and West Community Energy) support for our Refill project.

Thus to be a company was not necessary for Climate Friendly to accomplish its aims. After much discussion with the coordinators of the Action Groups and at an EGM (Emergency General Meeting), it was decided to wind up the CIC (completed in March 2019), and become a community association called Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon.

A General Meeting to establish us as an unincorporated association with a constitution was called for Monday 19th March 2018 at the Quaker Meeting House, BA15 1JU. 33 membership forms and first annual fee were received on the night (not all were present for the rest of the meeting). 23 members voted to elect the officers and agree the Constitution.

Chair and Treasurer from 2018

Rachel Berger was elected as our Chair in 2018, and Klaus Huber our Treasurer. At our AGM on 20th March 2023 they both stood down. Vicky Stone was elected as our new Chair and Graham Findley was elected as Treasurer.