

Freshford & Limpley Stoke Home Energy Group (FLHEG)

Annual Review 2022

Freshford Parish Council declared a climate and ecological emergency in summer 2019. From this, a Community Forum was held on 28 January 2021 where reduction in home energy usage was raised as one of the key initiatives that should be undertaken. FLHEG was subsequently started in autumn 2021.

Our aim is to assist both parishes in carrying out home energy improving measures by advising what measures might be most appropriate to consider for a particular property.

A survey covering both parishes was carried out to find out which home energy issues the residents were interested in. The survey was completed by 90 residents and 24 signed up at the time for a free Home Energy survey, with a further 25 requests since. This is one of the group's core activities, delivering a personal survey using a thermal imaging camera along with advice about possible improvements, ranging from simple draft excluders to renewable energy installations and air source heat pumps. The householder is then emailed a written report with the results of the energy survey. To date we have carried out 30 of these, and in many cases it has led to action to improve energy efficiency and sustainability.

So far, FLHEG has organised two talks in the village hall, one on Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHP) and another on Photovoltaic Solar Panels, with more planned on Insulation and Retrofitting. These have been very popular and well-attended. We are also grateful for a grant from FLiSCA for our series of talks.

For those inspired to take further action, we maintain lists of [trusted and recommended local suppliers and installers](#) on the [FLHEG page](#) of the Freshford PC website.

One of our main goals is to get local people talking to each other and sharing their knowledge and experiences. In September 2022 we organised an Open Homes event, where three Freshford homeowners who have had insulation, renewables installations and ASHP installations invited local people to come and see their work and ask questions. Again this was very popular, with over 30 people attending to get practical ideas and swap experiences for their own houses. Another Open Homes event is being planned for 2023.

We have also run a radiator reflector foil installation project, where a foil panel is suspended behind a radiator. This simple installation can save users energy and money and we have

provided the service free or at cost. To date we have installed radiator foil in 27 homes for a total of 201 radiators. Now we have acquired a new jumbo roll of foil courtesy of a generous parish councils grant, so more installations are planned.

We have been active in the community in other ways, for example advising the Galleries shop in Freshford on how they can improve their efficiency in energy use in these challenging times.

We also liaise with other groups, who have a similar project or may be wanting to start one, for example in Wellow and Winsley, as well as Transition Bath.

We maintain a mailing list of local residents who have signed up for information to whom we send out energy saving tips and advice. If you'd like to be put on our list, you can email us at flhegroup@gmail.com. And we are always on the lookout for people who are keen to help and possibly even join our group! As the climate emergency gathers pace, we believe we need to take practical action on the local level and work with others to help make efficient, low-carbon, money-saving energy use a reality.