

Climate Change and Sustainability Newsletter



Welcome to the Runnymede Climate Change and Sustainability e-newsletter. Each quarter, we will be sending you updates on environmental initiatives taking place within the Council and across the borough, alongside information and advice to help you live more sustainably.

For more Council content, please follow us on Facebook, X and LinkedIn for daily updates.



Runnymede declares a Climate Emergency

Councillors in Runnymede have voted to declare a climate emergency in the borough. The declaration, which was approved at Full Council on 7th December 2023, allows the Council to officially recognise the global state of the climate and the need to reduce human impacts on it, whilst bringing greater attention to local action. This decision follows several years of work already carried out to reduce the Council's operational emissions in response to climate change. These efforts will continue in 2024 and beyond to pursue the net zero targets set in the Council's Climate Change Strategy.

[Read More](#)

New Greenhouse Installed at The Hub Englefield Green



The Mayor of Runnymede recently attended the inauguration of a new greenhouse at The Hub Englefield Green funded by Royal Holloway University. The greenhouse will enable The Hub to grow more plants on site as part of their community garden and supports the activities of their Gardening Club. In addition to their Gardening Club, The Hub Englefield Green also host a regular Bee Keeping Club alongside several other activities and community events.

[Visit The Hub Website](#)

[Follow on Facebook](#)

If you are part of a local group focused on sustainability and the natural environment and would like to be featured in our newsletter, please get in touch at climatechange@runnymede.gov.uk.

Have Your Say: Draft Climate Change Action Plan

Over the last six months, we have collected views across local communities, businesses, and residents to understand how we can work together to tackle climate change and improve our local environment. This feedback has been combined with relevant evidence from internal and external sources to create the Council's draft Climate Change Action Plan. The Action Plan includes around 70 actions to reduce both Council and borough-wide greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the climate change that is already occurring, helping to deliver our Climate Change Strategy, and reach our net zero targets.

The draft Climate Change Action Plan is now open for consultation, which will close on Sunday 14th January 2024. To review the draft document and share your views, follow the link to our consultation pages.

[Review the Draft Action Plan](#)

Have Yourself a Very Sustainable Christmas

With the festive season upon us and the big day just around the corner, it is easy to get wrapped up in the Christmas excitement and push environmental considerations backstage.

However, the impact of our seasonal behaviour is substantial. According to Business Waste, the UK will throw away food equivalent to 42 million Christmas dishes, generate 125,000 tons of plastic, and throw away wrapping paper that, if laid flat, would wrap around the world nine times! This not only has a significant environmental impact, but is also bad for our pockets, with estimated spending across the UK of £700 million on unwanted gifts and £16 of £100 spent on food destined for the bin.

The positive news is that there are lots of resources available with hints and tips for having a more environmentally and financially sustainable Christmas while maintaining the joy of the festive period. From re-thinking your gifts and making your own decorations, to tackling festive waste, these top tips from the Woodland Trust and Surrey Environment Partnership have a host of ideas that allow you to have more sustainable, but equally joyful, festive season.

[Woodland Trust Top Tips](#)

[Surrey Environment Partnership](#)



Launch of New Climate-related Funding Page

We recently launched a new 'Climate Change and Sustainability Grants' page with information on funding available to organisations and individuals for climate-related initiatives. The page will be regularly updated with the latest opportunities and includes links to other funding sites, supporting you to find a suitable grant.



[Discover Grants](#)

The River Thames Scheme: Have Your Say in Shaping The Future

Working in partnership, the Environment Agency, Surrey County Council and local borough councils are delivering the River Thames Scheme. The scheme represents a new landscape-based approach to creating healthier, more resilient and more sustainable communities and is a project of national significance.

In early 2024 the River Thames Scheme will launch its Statutory Consultation which will allow residents and businesses to have their say. Updates will be shared on the River Thames Scheme website and social media channels.

Visit the River Thames Scheme Site



If you have any suggestions or comments related to all-things climate change and sustainability in Runnymede, get in touch with the Council's Climate Change Team at climatechange@runnymede.gov.uk.

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