

# 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, Instagram and LinkedIn for daily updates.



## Council approves switch to an HVO-fueled fleet



At the Environment and Sustainability Committee on 7 March 2024, Runnymede Councillors unanimously backed a transition from diesel to hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) to fuel the Council's fleet of almost 80 vehicles. HVO is a biofuel derived from waste fats and cooking oils which could cut emissions from the Council's fleet of refuse trucks, minibuses, vans, street sweepers, and more

by up to 90%. Runnymede is the first Council in Surrey to make the switch to HVO, with the move demonstrating the Council's commitment to climate change action and protection of our environment.

[Read More](#)

[View Committee Minutes](#)

## Join New Haw Litter Pickers on an upcoming pick



New Haw litter pickers started in January 2023 and is continuously expanding with new volunteers. They organise community litter picks approximately every six weeks, usually managing to cover around a quarter of New Haw at a time with many teams doing different routes.

They are always looking for more volunteers to join them. They provide all equipment including litter pickers, waste bags, and bag hoops. If you would like to join them in keeping New Haw clean, and reaping the other benefits of joining their friendly community group, click below to follow the group on social media, find out more about upcoming events, and contact them to express interest.

Their next Community litter pick is **Sunday 21 April** with a choice of time slot 10am start or 2pm start. They are also holding a quiz night at New Haw Community Centre on Saturday 27 April to raise funds.

[Find Out More](#)

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](mailto:climatechange@runnymede.gov.uk).

## Are you eligible for a free home energy survey?

Zero Carbon Guildford are expanding their in-person free energy advice and thermal imaging surveys for eligible Surrey residents to reduce energy bills and cut emissions. The Home Energy Advice Taskforce (HEAT) provides these services through local Energy Champions who are able to offer free remedial measures where suitable, and signpost to other relevant information sources ensuring your property stays warm in winter and cool in summer.



[Read More](#)

[Check Your Eligibility](#)

## Great Big Green Week is returning to Runnymede

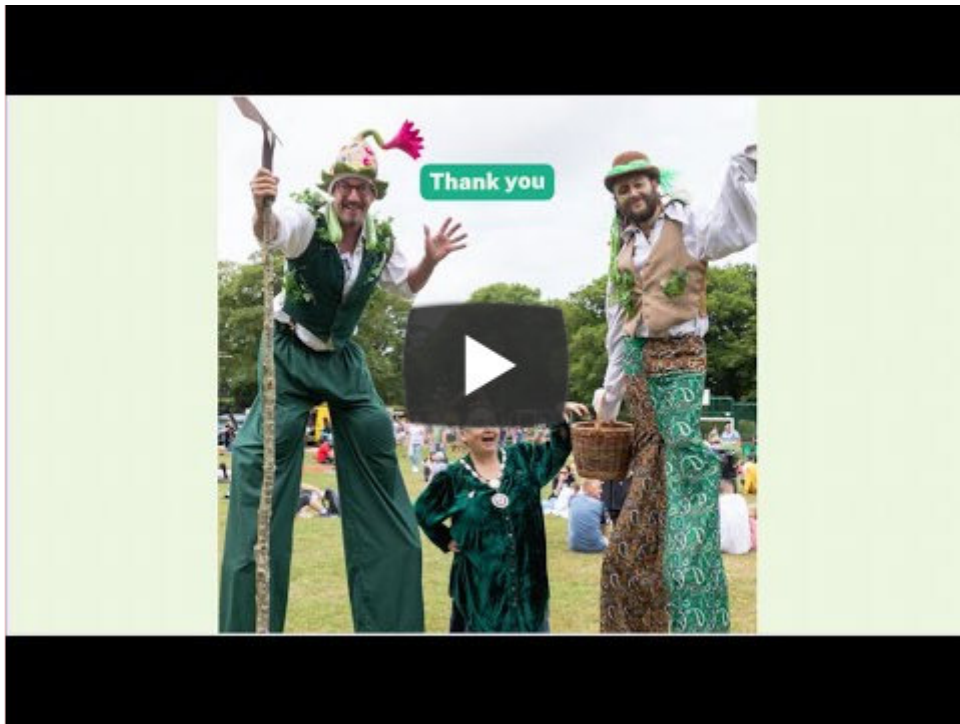
Great Big Green Week is the UK's biggest ever celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature. Since 2021, thousands of people across the country have come together to showcase sustainability initiatives and organise events which promote a healthier environment.

Great Big Green Week is returning to Runnymede in 2024 from **8 to 16 June 2024**. We are working with local groups across the borough to plan an exciting schedule of events that everyone can get involved with, so save the dates in your diary! Keep an eye on the Council's Great Big Green Week pages as we will be updating these with the latest events. See the video below for some highlights from Great Big Green Week 2023 produced by the Climate Coalition.

Keen to run your own event and put the 'Great' into Great Big Green Week? Head to our 'Organise a Great Big Green Week Event' page for more information. Be sure to let us know what you are planning and how we can support you.

[Learn More](#)

[Visit the Council's Pages](#)



## Electric Vehicle Strategy approved at Full Council

Transitioning to Electric Vehicles (EV) is a key component of decarbonising transport which significantly contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. At a Full Council meeting on 7 December 2023, Runnymede Borough Council adopted its EV Strategy. The Strategy sets out the Council's approach to support the transition from petrol and diesel vehicles to EV, with seven key action points to 2026 included.



[Read the EV Strategy](#)

[See Full Council Minutes](#)

## New Climate-related funding streams available

We have consistently updated our 'Climate Change and Sustainability Grants' page with available funding routes that support organisations and individuals to protect the environment. These funds cover a range of topics, including tree planting, improving green spaces, home energy efficiency, and electric vehicles. There are also links to other funding sites to ensure you can find a suitable option that supports your sustainability ambitions.



## River Thames Scheme completes statutory consultation

The River Thames Scheme (RTS) carried out its statutory consultation from 22 January to 4 March 2024. This comprised 11 in-person events held in venues across the scheme area, plus five online events with the RTS team speaking to residents, landowners, business owners and others about latest designs and requesting feedback.

More than 2,700 people were spoken to, with specialists and technical experts on hand to answer any questions raised. The feedback is now being carefully considered by landscape architects, civil engineers, environmental scientists, water modelling experts and others working on the scheme. The feedback will help to produce a consultation report which will be submitted as part of the RTS Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

[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](mailto:climatechange@runnymede.gov.uk).

[Find your Councillor](#)

[Latest news](#)

[Upcoming meetings](#)

Not interested any longer? [Unsubscribe](#).

Copyright © {2024} Runnymede Borough Council

Civic Centre, Station Road, Addlestone, KT15 2AH | 01932 838383