

# 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.



## Great Big Green Week in Runnymede

Great Big Green Week is the UK's biggest ever celebration of community action to protect the planet which took place from the 8 to 16 June 2024. Across Runnymede, there were loads of activities taking place hosted by a range of organisations, from litter picks to kids' craft activities, and from learning more about bees to accessing community fridges to help tackle food waste.

Thank you so much to everyone who was involved in organising activities throughout the week or attended one of these events. We are aiming to gather the full details of everything that happened across the borough soon and create a highlights reel to show all the positive initiatives that took place across the week.

If you have not already seen it on our digital channels, the winners and highly commended entries in the 'Our Beautiful Borough' nature and wildlife photography competition have now been announced. Take a look at the below video to see these images, and the photographers will now be invited to a meet and greet with the Mayor before the photos are displayed at the Civic Centre.



## **Council adopts Runnymede Net Zero Carbon Toolkit**

At Corporate Management Committee on 21 March 2024, the Council adopted the Runnymede Net Zero Carbon Toolkit. The Toolkit has been designed to assist building professionals and homeowners in the planning, design and construction of both new build and retrofit housing projects.

Pulling together the latest guidance and best practice, the Toolkit provides a useful technical, go-to guide on what to consider in the very early stages of design; how to achieve fabric efficiency; what systems to include; where to go for expert advice; and what to consider once you've finished your housing project.

[Find out more](#)

## **Funded energy efficiency measures through ECO4 Flex**



The ECO4 Scheme, provides funding for the installation of appropriate energy efficiency measures for low income households who are most likely to experience fuel poverty, and those who are vulnerable to the effects of a cold home.

Runnymede Borough Council's ECO 4 Flex Statement of Intent publicises the Council's participation in ECO 4 Flex and sets out the criteria that the Council will use to identify eligible consumers via Flex. This ensures transparency and public accountability in relation to the eligibility criteria.

To find out more about the ECO4 Flex scheme and how to apply, visit the Council's dedicated webpage.

[Visit the Council ECO4 Flex page](#)

[Read our Statement of Intent](#)

## **Register for group-buying scheme Solar Together**

Are you interested in installing solar panels on your property and generating your own electricity? Do you want to benefit from reduced install costs through a group buying scheme?

Solar Together is returning for another phase in Surrey with registrations for the scheme now open. It is free to register for the scheme and there is no obligation to go ahead with installations. For most homes, solar panels are classed as permitted development, so planning



permission is not required, although you should always check.

[Register your interest](#)

## Have Your Say on the Energy SPD

The Council has published a draft Energy Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for public consultation. The Energy SPD provides additional guidance to ensure the energy-related planning policies of the Runnymede 2030 Local Plan are applied to the best of their effect in tackling the climate emergency, and in bringing about new development which mitigates and adapts to the impacts of climate change.

Visit the Council's consultation website to view the consultation documents and find out more information about how to submit comments. For more information, contact the Planning Policy Team by email at [planningpolicy@runnymede.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@runnymede.gov.uk). The consultation runs until **Wednesday 31 July 2024**, and we would welcome your feedback.

[View the Consultation pages](#)

## Climate change and sustainability website update

Our climate change and sustainability web pages have been redesigned to provide greater support to residents and groups, including schools and businesses, in acting on climate change and protecting the environment. This includes a section on understanding climate change and access to lots of resources which provide the tools to reduce emissions and improve sustainable practices.



[Discover the updated content](#)

## Climate and sustainability funding available



We have been consistently updating our 'Climate Change and Sustainability Grants' page with available funding routes that support organisations and individuals to protect the environment. The Heathrow Community Trust Environment and Sustainability grants scheme, offering up to £15,000 per year, has recently re-opened, and there is still the opportunity to access support for your business to transition to electric vans if you regularly drive diesel vehicles on the A3 in Guildford.



[Discover grants](#)

## RTS explains "downstream" measures

The River Thames Scheme (RTS) recently launched a 'Downstream Measures' campaign to explain how the flood alleviation scheme will provide a more effective route for floodwater to pass downstream. These downstream measures will work in tandem with the two new flood channel sections (in Runnymede and Spelthorne) to reduce flood risk for those who live or work in the scheme area.

For the RTS "downstream" refers to the area below the two flood channel sections. Proposals here include lowering the riverbed for around 1km between the downstream end of Desborough Cut and Walton Marina, and creating additional gates at Sunbury, Molesey and Teddington weirs.

[Find out more](#)

[Contact the RTS](#)



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).

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