

Climate Change and Sustainability Newsletter



Runnymede
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Welcome to the Runnymede Climate Change and Sustainability e-newsletter, and thank you for subscribing. 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.



Could you be a Stop Idol?



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We want to make an effective and lasting positive impact on Runnymede's air quality whilst helping to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions. To support this, we're encouraging drivers across Runnymede to 'Be a Stop Idol'.

As a Stop Idol, you can pledge to lead by example and turn off your vehicle's engine when stationary for more than 30 seconds. By doing this, you will avoid the negative, and entirely avoidable, consequences of idling, which include:

- Producing twice as much pollution compared to when turning the engine off,
- Adding to greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere, and
- Burning fuel while going nowhere, costing up to 3p per minute, or as much as £58 for 10 minutes per day over a six-month period.

Head to our website where you can sign the Stop Idol pledge and read more about some common idling myths.

[Sign the Stop Idol Pledge](#)

[Read more about idling myths](#)

Council attends St John's annual Eco Fayre

Thank you to the team at St John's Church Egham for hosting our climate change and sustainability team on Saturday 14 September 2024 as part of its annual Eco Fayre. We had some valuable conversations with a wide range of people and it was wonderful to see such a diversity of environmental groups in attendance and activities taking place, from the repair clinic to the really really free market and community fridge.

St John's Egham is part of the eco-churches network committed to zero waste, carbon zero and encouraging biodiversity within and beyond their site. The church engages in a variety of sustainability initiatives, including a community fridge every Saturday from 11am to 1pm, regular litter picks, frequent repair clinics and upcycling workshops.

[Find out more about St John's](#)

[Stay updated 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.

Join the Englefield Green Team this Saturday

The Englefield Green team will be planting autumn bulbs ready for next spring on Saturday 21 September from 10am on the green. The team have ordered the bulbs from a reputable supplier who are providing native bluebells, wild daffodils and fritillary bulbs. The bluebells are great pollinators, and the fritillary are native but rare which they're hoping to reintroduce.

There are a host of great reasons to get involved in this activity, from improving mental and physical wellbeing, to meeting new people, and restoring habitats to help wildlife thrive in your local area.

[Find out more about the Englefield Green team planting event](#)

Funded energy efficiency measures through ECO4 Flex



The ECO4 Scheme provides low income households, specifically homeowners or tenants, which are likely to experience fuel poverty and may suffer from the effects of having a cold home with funding to install energy efficiency measures.

To find out if you are eligible for this scheme or other available energy efficiency grants, please visit the Heat Surrey website or call them direct on 0800 024 8000 quoting 'Runnymede SS24'.

[Visit the Council ECO4 Flex page](#)

[Heat Surrey website](#)

Changes to the Council's pollution alert services

Air pollution levels within Runnymede are generally low, however very occasionally for around 20 days, pollution levels, normally in the summer months, are reached that may cause short term health problems for people with pre-existing respiratory problems.

If you are affected by air quality, for example through suffering from asthma, lung and cardiovascular disorders, you may want to sign up for the airTEXT service. This is a free text, call or email alert service for residents with respiratory problems to warn of increases in pollution levels capable of affecting health 24 hours in advance of elevated pollution events.

You can read more about airTEXT, and sign up to the service, using the links below. Please note that if you have previously signed up for pollution alerts through the airAlerts service, you will need to re-register with airTEXT.

[Learn more about airTEXT](#)

[Register for pollution alerts](#)

Are you eligible for a free home energy survey?

Zero Carbon Guildford offer free in-person energy advice and home energy 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. Visit its website to find out more, apply for a survey, or sign up to become a paid Energy Champion.



[Discover more about HEAT and if you are eligible for a free survey](#)

Delivering an EV chargepoint network across Surrey

Surrey County Council has formed a partnership with Connected Kerb to deliver an electric vehicle chargepoint network across Surrey by 2027. The scheme will give Surrey residents, especially those without off-street parking, the confidence to move to an electric vehicle and charging at locations that work best for residents. Connected Kerb will install a mix of chargepoints, depending on location, to suit all needs, from rapid chargers in areas of high demand, to slower lamp post chargepoints where alternatives are not feasible.

The partnership wants to work closely with residents and community landowners to identify opportunities on community land where chargepoints could be installed. This includes public and not-for-profit organisations, such as schools, community groups, churches, and more, where Connected Kerb would fully fund the infrastructure if there is 24/7 car park access in a suitable location, with the organisation qualifying for a share of the charging revenue once installed.

The proposed chargepoint locations are available to see online, and any feedback or questions about these proposals is being welcomed. Additionally, you can request for a chargepoint location to be added if there is not currently one proposed in your area, and public and not-for-profit organisations can register their interest in the scheme.

[Review proposed locations](#)

[Find existing EV chargepoints](#)



Walking trails help share RTS vision

The River Thames Scheme (RTS) has launched two walking trails near the Desborough Cut, between Weybridge and Walton-on-Thames. The Desborough Island Loop and the Broad Water Loop offer exciting opportunities for local people and visitors alike to explore the outdoors, observe local wildlife and learn about the varied history of the area.

More than just scenic walks, these trails are designed to educate visitors about the initiatives the RTS will be implementing in the area, such as habitat creation and new areas for wildlife conservation

[Discover the walking trails](#)

[Find out more about 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.

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