

# Climate Change and Sustainability

## Newsletter



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.



## **Runnymede Junior Rangers: A Conservation Journey**

Over the past six months, the Runnymede Junior Rangers project has provided an incredible opportunity for young people to connect with nature, learn valuable conservation skills, and make a tangible impact on their local environment. Led by the National Trust and funded by Runnymede Borough Council, the program has been a resounding success, with 18 young people aged 13 to 18 taking part.

With nearly 100% attendance each month, the enthusiasm and dedication of the participants have been truly inspiring. The Rangers got hands-on with a variety of conservation tasks, including coppicing, pond clearance, and cutting back invasive species like laurel. One of the most exciting outcomes of the project has been the impact on the young participants. Many have expressed an interest in pursuing careers in conservation, a testament to how engaging and meaningful the experience has been for them.

As we look to the future, we are hopeful that further funding will allow us to continue this fantastic initiative with a new group of young people. The success of the Junior Rangers program has shown just how valuable hands-on environmental education can be, not only for the local landscape but also for the future of conservation.



## Environmental heroes celebrated at Civic Awards

Over 45 local people and organisations who have made outstanding contributions to the community, sports and fitness, and the arts have been celebrated at the annual Runnymede Civic Awards.

The winner in the Environment & Sustainability category was Richard Emmett. Richard volunteers as a leader and mentor at the Gardening and Bee Keeping Clubs at The Hub in Englefield Green. His passion for beekeeping has inspired and educated countless families, children, and community members.

Congratulations to Richard on this award and also to the highly commended nominees; Chandos Road Toad Patrol and Runnymede Junior Rangers. Thank you so much to you all for everything you do to create a healthy and happy environment in the borough.



[See the full list of Award Winners](#)

[Visit the Hub website](#)

## Reduce your impact this Food Waste Action Week

Did you know, 4.7 million tonnes of edible food is thrown away by UK households every year? And the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP)'s

research tells us that if all apples, bananas and potatoes were sold loose, we could save 60,000 tonnes of food waste annually.

That's why this **Food Waste Action Week** we're encouraging residents to:

- Buy loose, seasonal produce – Many supermarkets offer fruits, vegetables, and baked goods without packaging, helping you buy only what you need.
- Plan meals before shopping – An average family of four could save £83 a month by reducing the amount of food they waste. Make a list and stick to it to avoid buying more than necessary.
- Remember, every cook needs a caddy – If you do have food to throw away, remember to use your food waste caddy. This is then used to generate electricity, heat and transport fuel.

There are lots of tools and resources out there, from leftover recipes and food portion calculators, to community fridges and seasonal eating guides, to help you with doing this, which can be discovered at the links below.

[Food waste collection](#)

[Good Food habits](#)

[Eating seasonally](#)

## **Free Home Energy Advice talks for community groups across Surrey**

Join the more than 30 local community groups across Surrey that have enjoyed a 'Save Energy and Money' talk, helping residents to lower their energy bills, improve thermal comfort at home, and reduce their environmental impact. Energy Champions from the Home Energy Advice Team (HEAT) Plus programme are available to give a short talk (20 - 30mins) to your group, giving practical and impartial advice on saving energy at home and support that may be available. All community groups can take advantage of these opportunities, not just those that are environmentally-focused. To find out more about this opportunity and to book a talk, please contact Mel at the Surrey Climate Commission below.

## 'Our Beautiful Borough' photography competition returns to Runnymede

We think that Runnymede is beautiful. From canals to caterpillars, daisies to deer, and owls to oak trees, there is so much nature to enjoy in our borough, and we want you to help us celebrate this. As a lead-in to [Great Big Green Week 2025](#), the 'Our Beautiful Borough' Photography Competition is returning to Runnymede. We are asking you to send us your very best nature and wildlife photos taken anywhere in the borough of Runnymede.

The competition will open for submissions on **Monday 7 April 2025** and close on **Sunday 1 June 2025**. During this time, you can enter by sending a maximum of three photographs, along with your name, age, photo location and a short description to [climatechange@runnymede.gov.uk](mailto:climatechange@runnymede.gov.uk). For full terms and conditions on the competition, visit our website [here](#).

Need some inspiration? See below the winners and highly commended entries from 2024 below:



## **Calling all sustainable businesses in Runnymede!**

Applications are now open for the 2025 Business Runnymede awards, which includes a sustainability category. The sustainability award seeks to showcase the efforts of businesses that have shown significant initiative in moving towards a greener and more sustainable future.

To enter, you will need to provide up to 500 words describing your business vision for becoming more sustainable, explaining the steps which you have taken to reduce the carbon footprint of your business, and providing details of the impact that your sustainable actions have had on your business or the wider community.

## **Runnymede school gets funding for sensory garden**

The Grange Community Infant School in New Haw has been awarded £1,000 as part of the Surrey Environment Partnership's Rethink Waste scheme. The school plans to use the funds to create a sensory garden, enhancing outdoor learning and providing a calming space for pupils.

The Rethink Waste scheme, delivered by Surrey Environment Partnership (SEP) in collaboration with Greenredeem, encourages residents to take part in waste-reduction activities through quizzes, videos, and pledges offering them tips and tools to help them cut down on waste. By completing these activities, participants earn points that can be donated to local schools and charities.

Currently, over 12,000 households in Surrey have joined the scheme, completing more than 190,000 activities and making over 18,000 donations to charities and schools. Since the initiative's launch, Surrey schools have collectively received £18,500 to invest in environmental improvements. Follow the links below to find out more about this funding and to sign up to the Rethink Waste app.

[Read more about this story](#)

[Download the Rethink Waste app](#)



## Great Big Green Week outreach training

Are you organising an event for Great Big Green Week this year, but would like to know how you can reach out to more people in your community to get involved in planning events? Sign up for the Climate Coalition's online workshop which offers guidance on how to effectively reach out to new people. This session will take place on Zoom, on Wednesday 26th March, 6-7:30pm, and anyone is welcome to attend. To sign up, click below

**THE GREAT  
BIG GREEN  
WEEK** 



and head to our Great Big Green Week pages to let us know what you have planned.

[Sign up for the workshop](#)

[Runnymede Great Big Green Week](#)

## Funding available for infrastructure delivery

We are inviting bids for funding from the Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for any organisation involved in the delivery of infrastructure to meet the needs of growth across the borough. This funding could be suitable for a wide range of projects, many of which align with climate action and environmental protection. The 2025 bidding round will be open from **18 March to 20 May 2025**. To find out more about this funding and how to apply, visit our webpages.

[Learn more and apply](#)

[See how much funding is available](#)

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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