

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.



Become a Community Environment Champion

As part of our ongoing commitment to support and work with our communities to create a borough where everyone can take part in environmental action, we are launching the Runnymede Community Environment Champions Network. The network will bring together passionate eco-heroes from across the borough to promote more environmentally conscious communities, expand and improve knowledge transfer between groups, support the resilience and adaptive capacity of communities, and scale up positive impact.

We define an Environment Champion as “A passionate change maker with the ability to drive local environmental action, inspire others as a positive environmental ambassador, and connect with peers to create a healthy and sustainable local environment”. We know that there are many people across our borough that match this definition, and we would love to regularly bring together those people to connect with one another and generate positive change.

To apply to become a Runnymede Environment Champion, simply fill out the short Microsoft Form at the link below giving us a few details about yourself and why you want to become part of the network

[Find out more](#)

[Apply to become a Champion](#)



Runnymede best council in Surrey for climate action

Runnymede has ranked among the top 30 district and borough councils in Great Britain and first in Surrey for climate action. Climate Emergency UK has released its 2025 Council Climate Action Scorecards, assessing councils across the country on the actions they've taken towards achieving net zero.

Overall we scored 44 per cent compared to the district and borough councils' average of 35 per cent, and we know there will always be more that we can do. However, we're proud to say our strongest areas included collaboration and engagement, which improved 48 points from the last rankings in 2023, waste reduction and food, biodiversity, buildings and heating, and planning and land use.



[Read more](#)

[View the full rankings table](#)

Great Big Green Week returned to Runnymede

Great Big Green Week is the UK's biggest ever celebration of community action to protect the planet which took place from the 7 to 15 June 2025. Across Runnymede, there were loads of activities taking place hosted by a range of organisations, from litter picks to plant swaps, and removing invasive species to accessing community fridges that 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.



Identifying and securing environmental grants survey

Are you part of a local group in Runnymede that has been looking for or has experience in securing environmental grants to improve your sustainability?

If so, we would love to hear from you. We have launched a short survey to better understand how groups currently search for environmentally-related grants, past successes and barriers to applications, and potential areas of action that could make the pursuit of grants more manageable. This will help us to understand where the pain points in current processes exist and any solutions that we may be able to support that improve the opportunity for groups to access funding.

[Respond to the survey](#)

[Discover environmental grants](#)

Junior Rangers Project open for sign-ups

Are you aged between 13-18 and love the outdoors? Do you know a teenager who wants to learn new skills and make a real difference to the environment?

The Runnymede Junior Ranger Project is a hands-on, outdoor programme designed to inspire and empower young people to care for and protect their local green spaces. The scheme is returning for a second phase following huge success with the first cohort, and those involved can expect to get involved in loads of practical conservation activities, from pond clearing and deadwood fencing, to tree planting and habitat creation.

It's completely free to join and sessions run one Sunday a month from September 2025 led by Council staff. So, if you go to school or live in Runnymede and enjoy working outdoors, this is the group for you!

[Learn more about Junior Rangers](#)

[Sign up now](#)



Council supports Climate and Nature Bill

Runnymede councillors across the political spectrum have voiced their support for the Climate and Nature Bill which is currently passing through the legislative process in the Houses of Parliament. If the Climate and Nature Bill, which is the forerunner to an Act of Parliament, is made law, it would require the United Kingdom to achieve climate and nature targets.

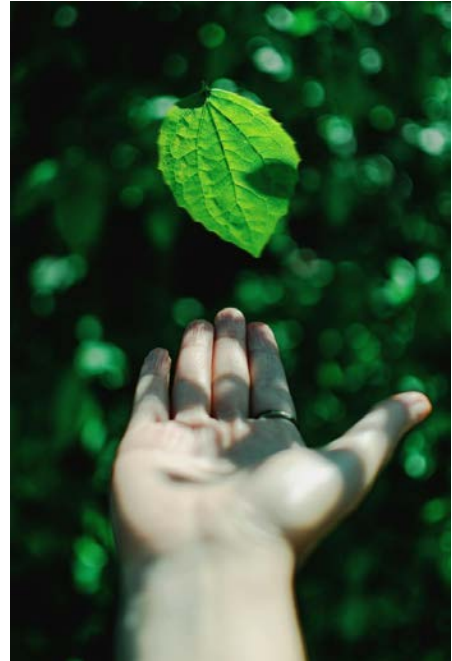
A resolution raised by Cllr Don Whyte, Chair of the Council's Environment and Sustainability Committee in support of the Bill was approved at February's Full Council meeting. As a result we have made our position public and written to the borough's two MPs and the Zero Hour Campaign, making clear our support.

[Read more about our support for the Bill](#)

Help shape Surrey's Greener Futures Delivery Plan

Surrey County Council need your help to design their next five-year delivery plan to tackle climate change and restore nature in a fair way, whilst providing key co-benefits across healthcare, the local economy, and support for communities. A workshop is being run for residents in North West Surrey on July 8 from 10:00 at Chertsey Hall.

Surrey want to ensure that the views from a wide cross-section of residents are captured, so now is your chance to contribute your views and have your say on how to shape a fair delivery plan that balances priorities, whilst ensuring a thriving future for the county.



[Sign up for the workshop](#)

[Read the 2021-2025 Delivery Plan](#)

Join New Haw Litter Pickers for their Big Pick



New Haw Litter Pickers will be running their next Big Community Litter Pick on Sunday 6 July. The group plan to try and get as many volunteers as possible so they can cover the whole of New Haw in one day. The last big community pick had 160 volunteers and they are looking to go even bigger this time!

New Haw litter pickers started in January 2023 and is continuously expanding with new volunteers. They organise community litter picks around New Haw and provide all equipment including litter pickers, waste bags, and bag hoops for volunteers.

[Join the New Haw Litter Pickers](#)

[Find other environmental groups](#)

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

Together for Surrey Sustainable Living Hub launched

Surrey County Council and the University of Surrey's Institute for Sustainability have launched Together for Surrey, a new website designed to inspire individuals, communities and businesses to make meaningful changes that will help them save money, improve their health, enhance wellbeing and protect our countryside for generations to come. The Together for Surrey platform offers sustainable tips and information in one central place and signposts to further support in ten key

areas including energy, garden/biodiversity, home, transport, waste, and wellbeing.

Users can create a 'To Do List' which brings together their favourite tips and insights available on the platform in a single, convenient place. This can then be saved by the user and shared with others to amplify the potential impact of the site. Community partners are encouraged to generate content, ensuring the platform stays relevant to the local area and up to date with the latest local news, events, and opportunities across the county to benefit all.

Visit the Together for Surrey Sustainable Living Hub Website

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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