

Council Activity

Solar Together

Installations for the latest round of Solar Together have now closed and an end project report has been provided with details and data around installs and other aspects of the scheme. The price achieved for the average 14-panel system within this scheme is 34% cheaper than the typical market price for an equivalent system. Installations will see an overall reduction of 78,971 Kg of CO₂ in North Herts and an estimated 10,435,214 Kg of CO₂ reduction over 25 years across Hertfordshire. 104 households in North Herts have had solar pv installed with a total of 514 in Hertfordshire. [Solar Together | North Herts Council \(north-herts.gov.uk\)](https://north-herts.gov.uk)

Climate Hive Engagements

The [Climate Hive](#) now has 386 subscribers and we continue to update users with the latest climate activity and awareness initiatives such as LNRS engagement, World Rivers Day, upcoming environmental films and open surveys.

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

The newly-formed Hertfordshire Nature Recovery Partnership ([HNRP](#)) has launched an engagement project to influence the County's first-ever Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). A series of LNRS Engagement Events were held across the county throughout July for people to engage and learn more. This included an event at Hitchin Town Hall. The events proved successful, with good attendance and engagement. Two webinars were also held in August for further engagement. Over 300 stakeholders have been engaged so far and feedback has been positive towards the ongoing work.

Solar for Business

The pilot scheme is progressing and project oversight meetings are ongoing. [Solar for Business](#)

Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme

The additional capital and revenue for the decarbonisation project of the Council's three leisure centres was approved at Full Council on 11th July. Report available [here](#). The project continues to progress through the detailed design stage.

Cabinet Panel for the Environment

Meeting held on the 17th July set out the current climate work ongoing at the council with a background to key partners and projects. The next meeting will be held on the 9th October and will cover the topic of the Sustainability Supplementary Planning Document and an update on the national government plans. More information and previous meetings can be found [here](#).

HCCSP Retrofit Guide

The Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership (HCCSP) has launched its retrofit guide for Hertfordshire. The guide provides advice on how to make your home warmer and cheaper to run on the types of improvements and energy efficiency measures carried out on different archetypes across the county. Available at [Building Retrofit \(hccsp.org.uk\)](#)

Local Events

Environmental films

The Broadway Cinema, Letchworth are hosting a number of environmental documentary type films from now until the end of 2024.

3 remaining films showing:

- Six Inches of Soil (PG) -
Sunday 13 October 17:45 & Thursday 17th October 20:15
- Fashion Reimagined (12A) -
Sunday 10 November 17:45 & Thursday 14th November 20:15
- Dear Future Children (15) -
Sunday 8 December 18:00 & Thursday 12th December 20:15

For more information <https://www.broadway-leitchworth.com/cinema/environmental-films/>.

For queries or comments, please contact the Policy & Strategy Team at environmentpanel@north-herts.gov.uk

Headlines

Hybrid Car sales allowed until 2035

The UK government has confirmed that sales of some new hybrid cars will be allowed until 2035. However, there are plans to reinstate the 2030

Sustainability Tips

Plastic Free & Sustainable Products

Disposable nappies, incontinence products and period products all create a lot of waste, so switching to reusables make sense, for your wallet and the planet!

There are lots of options to choose from when it comes to reusable products, and Hertfordshire Residents can apply for a 15% discount on a selected range of nappy, incontinence and period products, catering for the whole family.

For more information and to apply for discounts:

[Herts Sustainable Periods](#)
[Herts Confident Contenance](#)
[Herts Reusable Nappies](#)



HEAT Energy App

The HEAT Herts Energy Advice Tool, an energy saving app continues to be available for residents to download and use. The app is designed to take residents through their home and fill in a survey to identify how they can reduce their energy usage in order to save money on bills and help the environment.

The app is available for both Android and iOS users:

[Download the HEAT app for Apple devices](#)

[Download the HEAT app for Android devices](#)



ban on new cars that run solely on petrol or diesel. The final decision on which hybrid cars will be allowed will be made after consultations with carmakers and other stakeholders. [New hybrid car sales allowed until 2035 in UK, government confirms | Automotive industry | The Guardian](#)

Heavy rain and flooding

Thunderstorms and heavy rainfall in a short amount of time from Saturday 22nd September and following days has led to flash flooding in areas across Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire. Central Europe also experienced devastating floods which have been exacerbated by climate change. For more information on severe weather and flooding head to [Severe weather | North Herts Council](#).

More people traveling by bus in Hertfordshire

Hertfordshire's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) has resulted in an 18% increase year on year of residents ditching the car and travelling by bus since 2022. £29.7million Department for Transport fund has led to significant improvements across Hertfordshire's local bus network. It has reduced the cost of travel by bus in the county. Also don't forget about the uber-style on demand bus service HertsLynx, operating in North Herts and Dacorum.

Have your say!

Letchworth Nature and Wellbeing Survey

The Letchworth Heritage Foundation have put together a survey to help them understand the importance of nature for the wellbeing of people in Letchworth. There is growing evidence for a link between connecting to nature, wellbeing, and care for the environment. Take the [survey](#) now!

Hertfordshire air quality survey

Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) have launched a survey as part of their review of their existing [Air Quality Strategy](#). Take the survey before the **20th October** to have your say!