

## Council Activity

### Executive Member Q&A!

Throughout the month of November, we ran a Q&A for the opportunity to ask the Executive Member for Waste Management and Recycling, Cllr Amy Allen, anything Waste and Recycling related. We received loads of great questions, head to the [Climate Hive](#) to see the answers!

### Climate Hive Engagements

The [Climate Hive](#) now has over 400 subscribers and we continue to update users with the latest climate activity and awareness initiatives such as LNRS engagement, green grants, Recycle Week, upcoming environmental films and open surveys.

### Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Work continues on Hertfordshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). Key stakeholders are helping develop specific strategic priorities for Hertfordshire's urban areas. These priorities aim to join up fragmented habitats, provide wildlife corridors, improve greenspaces, and help improve air quality. North Herts are currently assisting in providing information to help shape these urban priorities.

## Headlines

### COP29

The UN Climate Change Conference took place in Baku, Azerbaijan, 11<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> November themed this year 'In Solidarity for a Green World'. Key [takeaways](#) were:

- Climate finance for developing countries was tripled from a previous \$100bn to \$300bn a year
- General concerns over host countries in this and previous years having economies built on gas and oil.

### Tree Alert

[Forest Research's TreeAlert](#) is the online reporting tool for tree pests and diseases. It allows for quick reporting of any suspect trees that may be of concern in Britain. The tool now includes accessibility to data that has been recorded on the app for the last two years. Take a look and remember it to report a tree!

*For queries or comments, please contact the Policy & Strategy Team at [environmentpanel@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:environmentpanel@north-herts.gov.uk)*

### HCCSP LARA Pilot

The Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership (HCCSP) has been chosen to take part in the fully-funded programme of the Local Area Retrofit Accelerator ([LARA](#)). Workshops will take place over a 12-week period to develop the Retrofit Strategy.

### Hertfordshire Environmental Improvement Grant

Hertfordshire County Council are seeking projects to support with their Environmental Improvement Grant, with up to £3,000 in funding available for people or groups hoping to improve nature on their land or in their local communities. For further information on eligibility and to apply, head to [Environmental Improvement Grants](#).

### Green Grants for VCSE organisations

[Hertfordshire Community Foundation \(HCF\)](#) are offering grants of up to £1,000 for Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations to become more environmentally sustainable. Funds can be used on capital projects or items to improve energy efficiency and environmental sustainability on work premises. Details of the criteria and how to apply, head to [Green Grants 2024](#).

### Bus Service Funding

£11million of funding has been made available to Hertfordshire County Council for the Bus Service Improvement Plan following a recent announcement from the Department for Transport. The October edition of this briefing covered the success of previous funding. For more info: [Hertfordshire County Council | Extra Bus Service Improvement Plan investment](#)

## Local Events

### LGCHF Home Energy Workshop

[Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation](#) are looking for residents of Letchworth to nominate their home and participate in a hands-on workshop focused on retrofitting homes for better energy efficiency.

**Where:** Your home in Letchworth

**When:** January 2025

Email [response@letchworth.com](mailto:response@letchworth.com) for more information and to nominate your home.

## 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 Continence](#)  
[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 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](#)

### **Save the planet this Christmas! 🌱**

Some top tips to help you do your bit for the planet this Christmas:

- Use recyclable wrapping paper, look for FSC and do the scrunch test to see if you can recycle it!
- Send e-cards if you miss the last posting date
- Plan your meals carefully to avoid food waste; use [Your Christmas portion planner | Good Food](#)
- Deck the halls with natural materials
- Wear your most sustainable Christmas jumper - the one you already have! Or shop second hand at a charity shop!

Have a read of the full list over on the [Climate Hive!](#)

### **Environmental films**

The Broadway Cinema, Letchworth are hosting several environmental documentary films until the end of 2024. The remaining showings are: Dear Future Children (15) - December Sunday 8, 18:00 & Thursday 12th 20:15

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

### **Have your say!**

#### **Property Flood Resilience Survey**

Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) wants to hear from residents whose homes have flooded, or are at risk of flooding, to decide whether to reintroduce a grant scheme to fund flood defences for properties. [Complete the survey](#) to express your interest in the grant scheme.

#### **Economic Strategy survey**

[Hertfordshire Futures](#) is developing a County new Economic Strategy for the next 10 years and beyond. They want to hear from all stakeholders on building a more inclusive and sustainable economy. Take the [survey](#) and share your views now!

#### **Green Heat Coop survey**

[Green Heat Coop](#) are working on a guide for homeowners on how to make properties more energy and cost efficient in Royston and surrounding villages. Take the survey to help guide services and tailor resources!  
[Royston & Villages Household Survey 2024](#)

#### **Thermal Imaging Cameras**

Now the colder months are with us, find out more about thermal imaging and how you can loan a camera, save money on your energy bills and reduce your carbon emissions. Head to the North Herts Climate Hive. [Thermal Imaging Cameras.](#)