

Council Activity

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. The first draft of the web platform is completed and user testing begins in the new year. More information can be found at [HNRP Get Involved](#).

Cabinet Panel for the Environment

The next meeting is due to be held on the 22nd January. The topic for discussion is adaptation and flooding. Officers will also provide an update on the new Climate Change Adaptation risk on the corporate risk management system. More information and previous meetings can be found [here](#).

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 are taking place over a twelve-week period to develop the Retrofit Strategy for Hertfordshire.

Solar Together

Year-end figures for the second cohort of Solar together total at 1,665 Solar PV installations across Hertfordshire.

PSDS Application

An application has been submitted to Phase 4 of the UK Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) for a grant towards decarbonising Hitchin Town Hall and North Herts Museum, District Council Office and the learner pool at North Herts Leisure Centre. More info [here](#).

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

Headlines

National Planning Policy Framework

The [National Planning Policy Framework](#) has been revised and published, it sets out government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.

MET Office and Air Quality

The MET Office have written an article on [how air quality in the UK is changing](#), underlining how progress has been made in reducing UK air pollution.

1/4 of properties at risk of flooding by 2050

The Environment Agency has provided an updated figure that around [8 million properties](#) in England could be at risk from flooding by 2050. London is at greatest risk from surface flooding, with the East of England second on the list. Take a look at the MET Office's [Climate Data Portal](#) to explore the Climate of North Herts and what risks we may face.

Clean Air Night

Clean Air Night is on Wednesday 22nd January. Take a look at [CleanAirNight](#) for more information.

Funding

Hertfordshire Environmental Improvement Grant

Hertfordshire County Council are on the lookout for projects to support with their Environmental Improvement Grant, with up to £3,000 in funding available for people or groups who are hoping to improve nature on their land and 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. For more information on the criteria and how to apply, head to [Green Grants 2024](#).

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 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 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](#)



Veganuary

Make an impact on your carbon footprint by reducing your dairy and meat intake this month with Veganuary. [Veganuary 2025 | Home | The Go Vegan 31 Day Challenge](#)

Have your say!

Property Flood Resilience Survey

Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) is keen 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 new Economic Strategy for the county 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](#)

Sustainable Tips for the New Year!

Looking for a new year's resolution? Try implementing some sustainable practices into your daily routine and help save the planet!

- Start recycling one more item
- Try being vegan and reducing your carbon footprint from dairy and meat intake
- Rescue more usable food and save it going to landfill

For more tips, head over to the [Climate Hive](#) on how you can be more sustainable in the New Year!

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.](#)