

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, environmental grants, Clean Air Night, and open surveys.

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Work continues on Hertfordshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). The first draft of the strategy is complete and is currently being shared with district councils. The web platform user testing is ongoing. More information can be found at [HNRP Get Involved](#).

Cabinet Panel for the Environment

The last meeting was held on the 22nd January. The topic for discussion was adaptation and flooding. Officers also provided an update on the new Climate Change Adaptation risk on the corporate risk management system. The most recent and previous meetings can be viewed [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 have taken place and the basis of the strategy has been formed. Further work continues to develop joint initiatives.

Solar Together

The third round of the bulk-buy scheme is now open. Homeowners and small businesses can register for the scheme for free and with no obligation. The deadline for registration is **4th April**. More info at [Solar Together | North Herts Council](#)

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

DESNZ Clean Power Action Plan

Following the publication of the Clean Power 2030 Report, DESNZ have announced their [Clean Power Action Plan](#). It aims to provide affordable and secure energy supply, grow new energy industries, and decrease greenhouse gas emissions.

Skip the Straw Day

28th of February (fourth Friday of the month) is skip the Straw Day. This day is dedicated to avoiding the use of single-use plastic straws and raising awareness about plastic in the ocean. [Learn more about the campaign at Ocean Conservancy](#).

Global Risks Report

The 2025 edition of the [Global Risks Report from the World Economic Forum](#) has been [published](#). For the second year running, extreme weather events and ecosystem collapse are among the global risks that experts are most concerned about. Pollution has climbed four places to the 6th risk, representing a growing concern.

Funding

EcoFlex

The Council has now launched its EcoFlex (Energy Company Obligation) scheme to help members of the public access retrofitting measures to make their homes more comfortable. More information can be found on the website alongside eligibility criteria: [Energy efficiency schemes and advice | North Herts Council](#)

Grow Wild Community Programme

A [Grow Wild Community Programme](#) is available to community and voluntary groups that aim to bring local people together to transform urban spaces by sowing and growing UK native wildflowers. Grants of up to £2000 will be available. Applications close on the **13th of February 2025 at 3pm**.

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](#)



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.](#)

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.](#)

Have your say - surveys still open!

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](#)