

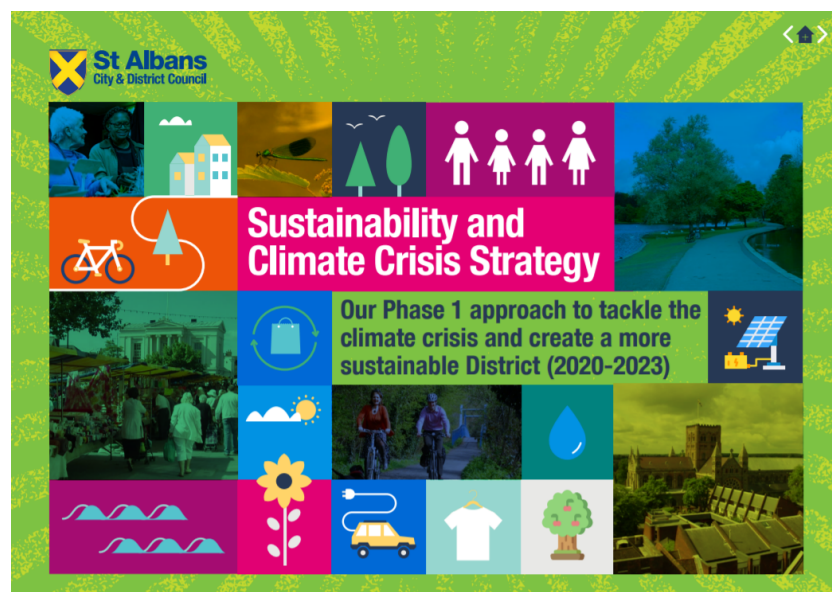
# Sustainability Newsletter

Issue 8: November 2020

## In this issue:

- Sustainability and Climate Crisis Strategy
- St Albans Solar Streets
- Let's Get #Waterfit
- Green Homes Grant
- St Albans Warmer Homes
- Grant Awarded for More Local Trees

## Our Sustainability and Climate Crisis Strategy is Published



Just over a year ago St Albans District Councillors unanimously voted to declare a climate emergency, committing to becoming carbon neutral across the Council's own operations as well as the District by 2030. Since then the Council has been working hard to explore what we can do to move us towards those goals.

While carbon emissions from energy and transport are a key focus for us given the climate crisis, we think that it is equally important to protect all aspects of the environment including biodiversity, reducing pollution and waste and improving access to sustainable transport and food. (continued on next page)

# COUNCIL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CRISIS PLAN IS PUBLISHED

(Continued from front page...)

While we are limited in our powers to affect things like domestic properties, transport and nature, we *can* still play an important role as community leader and facilitator. We also can make a difference by getting our own house in order and tackling our own buildings, vehicle fleet, purchases, social housing and the services we are responsible for such as waste collection, parks, cemeteries and events.

Our new Sustainability and Climate Crisis Strategy sets out our plan of action to begin the process of reducing our environmental impact and emissions over the next 3 years. This is the first phase in the process and the plan will be reviewed every 2 years.

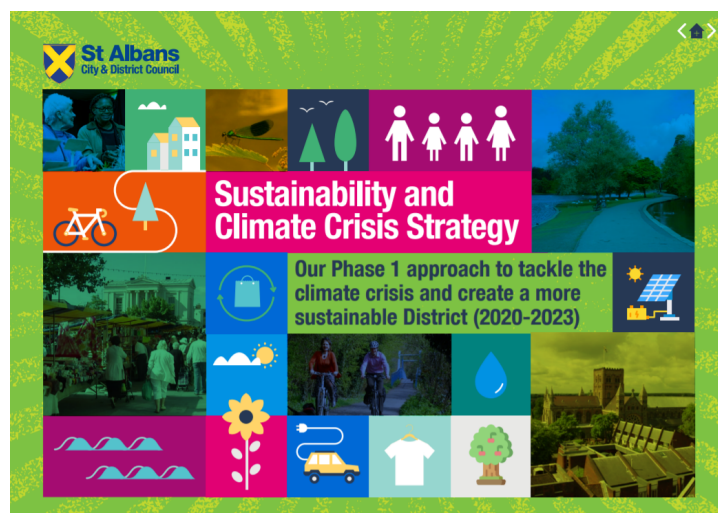
In order to get to net zero by 2030 we will need to reduce community-wide emissions by 47,000 tonnes every year. Just to put this into context, this is equivalent to putting solar panels on 31,333 homes annually or building 20 solar farms every year!

While some reductions will take place nationally through the decarbonisation of our energy supply, we won't be able to make a difference on the scale we need to unless we all work together. We invite businesses, organisations, schools, groups and residents to develop their own plans to reduce their environmental impact and use of fossil fuels.

Please send a link to your plan to [sustainability@stalbans.gov.uk](mailto:sustainability@stalbans.gov.uk) and we will list you as a community participant on our Sustainability Strategy webpage.

We have already started work on many of these actions. Our buildings are being audited so that we can understand what needs to be done to improve their energy efficiency. We've switched our electricity supply to one that is sourced from renewable energy. We are exploring how we can increase the number of electric vehicle charging points and are actively working with the County Council and other Districts to tackle the big issues of transport, nature and water.

We will keep you updated with our progress over the year on the webpage below.



**To view the strategy please visit:**  
**[www.stalbans.gov.uk/](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/sustainability-and-climate-crisis-strategy)**  
**sustainability-and-climate-crisis-**  
**strategy**

# ST ALBANS SOLAR STREETS

**We've joined up with solar panel installer IDDEA, to introduce the St Albans Solar Streets scheme across the District. The aim is to get more solar panels installed on local homes and businesses so that we can generate more clean energy and reduce the District's carbon emissions.**

Through economies of scale achieved by installing panels en masse, IDDEA is able to provide discounted solar panels to home-owners, offering savings of around 20% for an average sized system. Typical households can obtain solar panels for £4,000 for a 4 kwh system, which is around £800 less than average prices.

A typical system like this will save around 1.5 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.

By installing solar panels through this scheme you will also be contributing to

clean energy in the District. For every installation, a community donation from the company of £50-£100 will be added to a Community Energy Fund. This will be used to fund other renewable energy projects in the community. This could be something like solar panels on the roof of a community centre, reducing carbon emissions and saving money that can be spent on other important things locally.

If multiple houses on a street all install Solar PV, even larger contributions to that pot are made.

**To find out more please visit:**

**[solarstreets.co.uk/stalbans](http://solarstreets.co.uk/stalbans)**. The website provides videos about the scheme including costs and benefits. If you like you can join a monthly online meeting to ask questions. Or if you are keen to go ahead, simply book your free survey.





# LET'S GET #WATERFIT

**Across St Albans District, we use around 150 litres of water PER PERSON per day. On average this is 10 litres more than the average Brit.**

Affinity Water is challenging local people to save 10 litres of water each a day by installing a free water saving kit. This kit is personalised to your household's exact water usage. Simply sign up to the campaign at [www.getwaterfit.co.uk](http://www.getwaterfit.co.uk).

If we all played our part to reduce our water consumption by 10 litres per day, there would be 1 MILLION litres of water left in the environment for nature. You'll also be protecting local rivers like the River Ver, which are affected by water table levels, and reducing local carbon emissions. That's because using less water means less energy is needed to store, clean and pump it to your house.

The River Ver is our very own natural wonder, an incredibly rare chalk stream supporting a rich variety of habitats and wildlife. Affinity Water is taking important steps to reduce the amount of water that it takes from our ground water sources, that feed into chalk streams like the Ver – but it can't do it without our help.

The campaign is also raising funds for six local charities. When you sign up to support the scheme you can have a say on where the funds are spent. The more you save, the more Affinity will donate.

To promote the campaign, local artist Zoe from Herts Chalk Walk, will be creating temporary artwork around the District promoting the mammals, birds, insects and fish that live around the Ver. You can view these on [www.facebook.com/AffinityWater](https://www.facebook.com/AffinityWater).

In case you're wondering, 10 litres of water equates to roughly 2 mins of the tap on full.

Here are some useful tips to save water:

- Fill the kettle with just enough water,
- Use only the small dual-flush button,
- Completely fill dishwashers and washing machines before using,
- Turn off the tap when you brush your teeth or soap your hands,
- Don't leave the tap running while you wash up,
- Wash clothes when necessary rather than after every use.

Sign up at [www.getwaterfit.co.uk](http://www.getwaterfit.co.uk) to get your water saving kit and information on what you can do to save 10 litres.





# GREEN HOMES GRANT - £5,000 FOR HOME ENERGY IMPROVEMENTS

The Government has launched the Green Homes Grant to improve the efficiency of England's homes, reduce carbon emissions, help transition to low carbon heating and boost the green economy.

Homeowners and landlords can now access vouchers up to the value of £5,000 for home energy efficiency improvements such as insulation, low carbon heating, heating controls and glazing.

Those on an income or disability based benefit may be entitled to vouchers up to £10,000 that cover the full cost of the works.

In order to qualify for this support you need to install one or more primary measures. You can then get the same value of funding towards secondary measures.

The primary measure/s need to be installed before you can apply for funding for the secondary measure.

**All works need to be completed by 31st March 2021 and with installers already getting booked up it's important you don't hang around and miss the opportunity.**

## Primary Measures:

- Insulation: Solid wall, loft, cavity wall, pitched roof, room in roof and park home
- Low-carbon heating: air-source, ground-source and hybrid heat pumps, solar thermal systems and biomass boilers. Home should be adequately insulated before these measures are installed).

## Secondary Measures:

- Draught-proofing.
- Double or triple glazing (to replace single glazing)
- Secondary glazing (for single glazing)
- Energy efficient doors (to replace solid or single glazed doors installed before 2002).
- Hot water tank thermostats and insulation, smart-heating controls, zone controls, delayed-start thermostats and thermostatic radiator valves.

## How to apply

1. [Check your eligibility](#)
2. Check what home energy improvements may be suitable for your home using the [Simple Energy Advice website](#)
3. Get quotes from certified installers listed on the above website and apply for the voucher. You can use more than one installer to install different measures.
4. Once you have received the voucher you can commence the installation.
5. After works are completed, redeem your voucher.



## St Albans Warmer Homes Scheme

We have set up a new scheme called St Albans Warmer Homes in partnership with YES Energy Ltd, to help people stay warm in their homes this winter.

The scheme provides fully- or part-funded boilers, boiler repairs and loft, cavity and under-floor insulation to those who are identified to be vulnerable and at risk from the cold.

Eligibility is assessed by looking at income, health, vulnerability to the cold and current energy efficiency of the home.

If you are on a lower income, have a condition that makes you vulnerable to the cold, young children or disability, you may be entitled to help.

Often the people who need help the most do not put themselves forward for help so we urge people to look

out for neighbours, friends, relatives and contacts who could benefit and might not know about the scheme.

**To find out more, contact Yes Energy Solutions on 01422 880100 or [projects@yesenergy.com](mailto:projects@yesenergy.com)**



## Grant awarded for more local trees

A grant of £1,700 to help finance the planting of 1,500 trees has been awarded by the Forestry Commission through the Urban Tree Challenge Fund.

The Council will also be contributing to these trees consisting of oak, hornbeam, hazel and birch. These will be sited in open spaces at Holyrood Crescent, St

Albans and Tallents Crescent, Harpenden. Plantings will take place between November and next March,

This newsletter contains information about living more sustainably and is brought to you by the Sustainability Team at St Albans City and District Council. The information provided is not an endorsement of any of the products, sources of information or organisations mentioned.

For inquiries or comments, please contact [sustainability@stalbens.gov.uk](mailto:sustainability@stalbens.gov.uk).