

# Sustainability Newsletter

ISSUE 1

April 2018

## Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of St Albans City and District Council's Sustainability Newsletter. We will be bringing you updates on local initiatives and inspiring you to make positive choices to reduce your impacts.

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## It's Sustainable St Albans Week!



This week is Sustainable St Albans Week 2018. Until Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April, groups and organisations all over the District will be holding events to encourage and promote sustainability. With over 100 events taking place, from woodland walks to bread-making, there is plenty for you and your family to get involved in.

Sustainable St Albans Week is led by a group of local people who aim to show that each of us individually can make a difference.

On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April, the week will culminate in the Know How Festival, 10am-4pm at Fleetville

School. This day-long fun, family-friendly event will feature dozens of workshops to share skills and knowledge, music, short films and local food. Come along and get the know-how on things like cycling safely, home energy efficiency, fixing things and cooking and growing food.

To find out more about Sustainable St Albans, download a brochure or get involved, visit the website at [sustainablestalbens.org](http://sustainablestalbens.org).

Paper event guides are available from outlets across the District, including the Visitor Information Centre.



**St Albans**  
City & District Council



# Incredible Edibles

Would you like to get involved with food growing but don't have enough time or the skills to manage your own allotment?

Incredible Edibles St Albans is a new community growing initiative in the City Centre which aims to bring people together to grow food, share skills and improve the local environment.

Every few weeks people will come together to manage the garden but you are also welcome to look after the garden at any time and pick a little something to take home when the crops are ready.

Upcoming Civic Centre  
Come and Grow dates are:

**Sunday May 13th, 1-4pm**

**Sunday June 10th, 1-4pm**

**Sunday July 8th, 1-4pm**

**Sunday August 12th, 1-4pm**

More information is available here:

[www.foodsmilesstalbans.org.uk/p/blog-page\\_3.html](http://www.foodsmilesstalbans.org.uk/p/blog-page_3.html)



# Refill St Albans

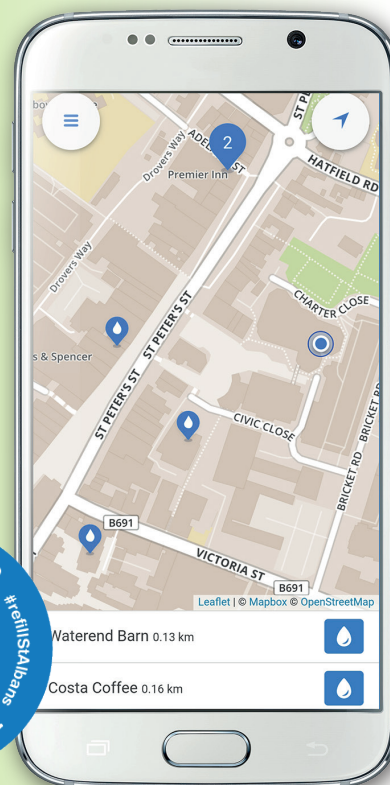
[Refill St Albans](#) is a local initiative that aims to make St Albans a more sustainable City. It is encouraging residents and visitors to refill water bottles for free at a network of registered businesses, in order to reduce the number of disposable bottles used and cut unnecessary plastic waste.

The scheme is a 'City to Sea Initiative' which originally started in Bristol and has since spread to other areas of England.

The Refill St Albans Partnership is made up of the District Council, Affinity Water, Plastic Free St Albans and the Business Improvement District.

We have been busy getting local businesses involved and on board. There are currently 45 places in St Albans where you can fill up on water for free. By the end of the year the Partnership will be installing two free water refill points in St Albans City Centre and Verulamium Park.

If you would like to see which businesses have committed to offering free refills, download the [Refill App](#) to your smartphone and look out for the logo in shop windows. If businesses want to get on board all they need to do is register themselves on the [Refill App](#).



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# Plastic Free St Albans



**PLASTIC FREE  
ST ALBANS**

Plastic Free St Albans is a new local group encouraging local businesses to reduce their impact by reviewing how they use single-use plastics.

You can support this campaign by:

- ✓ refusing unnecessary disposables such as straws, stirrers and condiments,
- ✓ remembering to take your reusable items with you (e.g. bag, cup, bottle and cutlery),

- ✓ not using products with microbeads in them,
- ✓ encouraging local businesses to commit.

Further information is on the Plastic Free St Albans website: [plasticfreestalbans.org.uk](http://plasticfreestalbans.org.uk)

At the Council we are supporting the campaign by removing plastic cups from the water fountains in our offices and using reusable bottles.

## Did you know?



### It's easier than ever to recycle food waste

We are making it as easy as possible for you to recycle your food waste. We collect food waste every week and you can now use all sorts of different bags to line your caddy.

It's now fine to use paper, biodegradable or plastic bags to wrap your food waste. Just please don't use black bags as we can't see these when we remove them from the food waste.

### Minimum energy efficiency standards April 2018

Minimum energy efficiency standards come into force from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 which say that all properties rented need to be EPC E or above.

If you rent out a property you may need to take action to ensure you raise the energy efficiency to appropriate levels.

To find out more visit to Government web page [here](#).

### Picturing the history of climate change

Ever wondered whether humans really are causing climate change?

We love [this clear and simple infographic](#) produced by xkcd.com showing the history of our climate in one diagram.

### Save energy by unplugging unused chargers

A typical household wastes £50-£80 per year on chargers that are left in sockets but not charging anything.

Remove chargers from plug sockets when they are not in use to save money and reduce unnecessary emissions.

You could use your savings to purchase some LED light bulbs. Each LED light bulb you replace in your home can save you up to £10 per year in energy costs.





# Hertfordshire Warmer Homes

## Help for people to stay warm at home

Rising energy costs and energy inefficient homes mean that for some residents, the cost of fuel is disproportionately high. For some residents, this might mean the difference between heat or food.

The Herts Warmer Homes scheme aims to help people who are vulnerable to the cold. This may be because they live in a cold home and are on a low income or are young/old or disabled, or have a medical condition which is aggravated by the cold.

Eligible residents can receive things like free or subsidised home insulation, boiler repairs,

heating replacements and energy switching or bill advice.

Often the people who need help the most do not see themselves as vulnerable so don't sign up for these schemes. If you know of anyone who might have difficulty staying warm and safe in their home please offer to refer them to the scheme. The funding only available for a few months more so even if the temperature has warmed now, they could still get help in time for next winter!

Call Herts Help, asking for Herts Warmer Homes, on 0300 123 4044 or email [info@hertshelp.net](mailto:info@hertshelp.net)



**Keep your family warm this winter with free or discounted home energy improvements.**

To check eligibility call **0300 123 4044**  
(local rate) or email [info@hertshelp.net](mailto:info@hertshelp.net)

**HertsHelp** 



**Hertfordshire Warmer Homes**

In partnership with the ten district & borough councils of Hertfordshire and Hertfordshire County Council

## Say NO to junk mail

Isn't it annoying when you do your best to cut down your waste and yet every day a pile of paper is put through the letter-box?

There are a range of things you can do to remove yourself from mailing lists and reduce the amount of paper put through your door.

We've put together a guide to help you tackle Junk Mail [here](#).

This also includes a sign which you can download and print to put on your door.



## Sustainability Newsletter

This newsletter is brought to you by the Sustainability Team at St Albans City and District Council. For inquiries or comments, please contact [sustainability@stalbans.gov.uk](mailto:sustainability@stalbans.gov.uk).



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