**Climate Emergency Action Plan – Progress Update 7 – September to December 2021**

This document summarises progress against the priority actions within the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) since September 2021, as reported to the Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) in December 2021.

Background information about the CEAP can be found [here](https://www.woking.gov.uk/nature-and-sustainability/climate-change/climate-emergency-action-plan).

**New this Quarter**

## This section provides an overview of new activities recorded this quarter (September to December 2021). Further details are included in the table that follows on page 5.

## **The most significant event of this quarter was of course COP26. An overview of the event follows together with local promotional activity:**

**COP26: Climate conference 31 October – 12 November 2021**

Pre conference government announcements included:

* **Net Zero Strategy -** [www.gov.uk/government/publications/net-zero-strategy](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/net-zero-strategy)  **-** sets out policies and proposals for decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy to meet our net zero target by 2050
* **Government Response to the Climate Change Committee** – Progress report in reducing emissions 2021 report - [www.gov.uk/government/publications/committee-on-climate-changes-2021-progress-report-government-response](http://wbcsp16/sites/documentse/ClimateChangeSustainability/www.gov.uk/government/publications/committee-on-climate-changes-2021-progress-report-government-response)
* **Heat and Buildings Strategy** - [www.gov.uk/government/publications/heat-and-buildings-strategy](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/heat-and-buildings-strategy) - This strategy sets out how the UK will decarbonise our homes, and our commercial, industrial and public sector buildings, as part of setting a path to net zero by 2050.
* **Greening Finance – A Roadmap to Sustainable Investing** - [www.gov.uk/government/publications/greening-finance-a-roadmap-to-sustainable-investing](http://wbcsp16/sites/documentse/ClimateChangeSustainability/www.gov.uk/government/publications/greening-finance-a-roadmap-to-sustainable-investing)

**Key ambitions announced within these strategies include:**

* Decarbonised power supply (subject to security of supply) by 2035
* Accelerated deployment of renewable energy (wind, offshore wind and PV)
* 5GW of low carbon hydrogen production capacity by 2030
* Biomass Strategy – coming in 2022
* Phasing out new and replacement gas boilers by 2035
* Accelerating deployment of and incentivising heat pumps to make them as affordable as gas boilers.
* Investing a further £1.425 billion in the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, with the aim of reducing direct emissions from public sector buildings by 75% by 2037
* End to sales of new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2030. Plus a pledge to end sales of all new non zero emission vehicles by 2040 (i.e. motorbikes, HGVs, buses etc).
* £2 billion investment in cycle lanes and low traffic neighbourhoods with the aim of half of all town based journeys to be on foot or by bike by 2030.
* Greenhouse Gas Removal (GGR) through nature based (e.g. tree planting) and engineered solutions (e.g. carbon capture and sequestration).

**Key outputs from COP26 included:**

* Negotiators from nearly 200 countries signed the Glasgow Climate Pact.
* The Pact calls on countries to revisit and strengthen their climate pledges by the end of 2022, three years earlier than previously set out in the Paris Agreement.
* The global coal to clean power transition statement signed by 46 nations sees a “phasedown” of coal, transitioning away from unabated coal generation in either the 2030s for major economies or 2040s for others. It will also seek to stop new construction for any planned coal plants.
* More than 140 countries, comprising 90% of the world’s forest cover, pledged to halt and reverse deforestation by 2030. Signatories include the US, Brazil, Russia and China.
* The Global Methane Pledge aims to reduce human-caused methane emissions by 30% between 2020 and 2030. Over 100 countries have signed the pledge accounting for nearly half of the world’s methane emissions.
* A transport pledge seeks to accelerate the transition to 100% zero emission cars and vans by 2035 for leading markets and 2040 for other regions. However, the US, China and Japan did not sign on.
* COP26 President Alok Sharma noted that before the conference only about 30% of the global economy had net-zero emissions pledges. This is now close to 90%.

**Planet Woking COP26 communications:**

* A COP26 “explainer” about the conference, what it sought to achieve and how local action can make a difference - <https://planetwoking.co.uk/get-involved/cop26/>
* 26 for COP26 – a list of 26 ideas to inspire individuals to cut carbon and boost biodiversity - <https://planetwoking.co.uk/get-involved/26-for-cop26/>
* Social media posts to raise awareness of COP26 and signpost to the above articles.

**Local media coverage**

* BBC Surrey interviewed Cllr Davis on 25 October 2021 as part of the launch of the BBC’s “Pledge to Change” campaign that looks at how the public can make positive changes in their day to day lives that will benefit the environment.
* That’s TV interviewed Cllr Davis on 9 November 2021 following an article in the Surrey Advertiser which saw Woking top a list of green local authorities in Surrey. Further details are included in Appendix 2.

**Surrey COP26 Climate Summit – 28 October 2021**

## This event took place online and featured Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, Rt Hon Chris Grayling, Jonathan Lord MP and representatives from Surrey Wildlife Trust, Surrey County Council and Enterprise M3 LEP. The event featured talks on the importance of biodiversity; the move to sustainable travel; and a focus on local leadership in the fight against climate change.

## **Greener Transport Surrey – 10 November 2021**

## This transport-themed event took place in Farnham. Organised by Surrey County Council with funding from COP26 and the Greater South East Energy Hub, it showcased opportunities to reduce carbon emissions through transport and was live-streamed online via the [COP26 website](https://ukcop26.org/) and into the main conference in Glasgow.

## **Activity updates this quarter (September to December 2021)**

## Further details are included in the table that follows on page 5.

* Woking Borough Council’s Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions report for 2020/21 shows a reduction of 45% in emissions compared to 2018/19 (the baseline year). Note: the reporting period (1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021) coincides with national lockdowns. This item is covered in detail elsewhere on this meeting’s agenda.
* Surrey County Council’s Greener Futures Climate Change Delivery Plan (CCDP) was approved at a meeting of its Cabinet on 26 October 2021.
* The Green Jump Surrey project reached a major milestone in October 2021 having completed 500 energy efficiency installations.
* Surrey’s consortium bid under the BEIS Sustainable Warmth programme has been subject to delays due to contractual difficulties.
* Surrey County Council (SCC) is engaging with Community Energy South (CES) to establish a community energy network across Surrey. West Byfleet Community Energy Group has been suggested for inclusion at this scoping stage of the project.
* The Solar Together project has seen 11 solar PV and three battery retrofit installations so far in Woking borough.
* Eight electric bike charging stations have been installed at Dukes Court for use by tenants.
* SCC Highways’ GP Social Prescribing Pilot for Cycling Referrals has been shortlisted to the second stage of bidding.
* SCC Highways has submitted a “mini Holland” cycle route scheme application to the DfT linking the Town Centre to Goldsworth Park under the Government’s Tranche 3 Active Travel fund.
* WBC has submitted a second Expression of Interest to OZEV for funding towards the expansion of EV charging provision in the wider borough.
* The first on-street EV charging bays are now being installed in Church Street East.
* Climate Emergency UK is compiling a local authority league table on climate change action. WBC has submitted further evidence ahead of its publication in January 2022.
* Woking topped a list of green local authorities in Surrey in an article featured in the Surrey Advertiser.
* Planet Woking published articles and social media posts marking COP26.
* Climate change e-learning module to be trialled by Neighbourhood Services staff prior to wider staff/Councillor roll out around January 2022 pending
* The review of the Council’s Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) begins this autumn 2021.
* A bug hotel was installed by Serco in Woking Park on 27 October 2021.
* The Tree Council’s National Tree Week is taking place 27 November - 5 December 2021.
* The Environment Act became law on 9 November 2021.
* Woking Environment Action (WEAct) AGM took place on 18 November 2021.
* University of Surrey’s “Heat4All” decarbonisation research project will look at affordability of low carbon solutions in tackling fuel poverty.
* Zero Carbon Guildford opened on 20 November 2021.

**Climate Emergency Action Plan – Progress Update 7**

This document summarises progress against the priority actions within the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) since September 2021, as reported to the Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) in December 2021. **New activity within the quarter (September to December 2021) is shown in bold for ease of reference and bulleted in pages 1 - 4 of this update report.**

Background information about the CEAP can be found [here](https://www.woking.gov.uk/nature-and-sustainability/climate-change/climate-emergency-action-plan).

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| **Theme / Priority Action** | **Progress to December 2021** |
| **Council assets** |  |
| Adopt an emissions baseline for the Council’s estate and operations.  | **The Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions report for 2020/21 shows a reduction of 45% in emissions compared to 2018/19 (the baseline year).** This will be published online at [www.woking.gov.uk/nature-and-sustainability/sustainability-data](http://www.woking.gov.uk/nature-and-sustainability/sustainability-data)). As stated in the accompanying–briefing note, the reporting period (1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021) coincides with the beginning of national lockdowns brought about by the Covid 19 pandemic. During the majority of this time, many sites remained closed to officers and the public and a change in workstyle saw many staff working remotely. Business travel was also impacted with the majority of meetings moving online. As a result, energy consumption patterns across sites included in this report were significantly impacted. The purpose of the GHG report is to draw comparisons in consumption year-on-year and against the 2018/19 baseline. However, caution should be exercised due to the major unprecedented changes seen which are unlikely to be sustained as access to sites and workstyle patterns adjust to a new normal. The results of this reporting period will also impact on future reports which should see an increase in consumption patterns. Advice will be sought on the recommended way in which to deal with this reporting year’s anomalies going forward.The Council’s climate emergency declaration uses a definition that also includes all properties that are owned and leased out to other organisations. The Council owns over 550 such leased properties. As reported previously, due to the scale of the portfolio, determining the energy consumption and carbon footprint of these buildings needs to be conducted in a phased approach. **Officers in Green Infrastructure are liaising with Estates Management as to how a carbon footprint for the Council’s leased out property portfolio can be determined using floor space and proxy emissions data.** **Surrey County Council’s Greener Futures Climate Change Delivery Plan (CCDP) was approved at a meeting of its Cabinet on 26 October 2021. The Plan sets out its ambitions to reduce emissions and tackle the effects of climate change in line with its net-zero carbon targets for the period 2021-2025.** This follows consultation with Leaders, Portfolio Holders, Chief Executives and climate change officers across the districts and boroughs.WBCofficers will be working with SCC to develop and deliver against these countywide targets. A summary of the Plan is available online at [https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/documents/s82193/Annex 2a- Climate Change Delivery Plan Summary Report\_Cabinet Draft.pdf](https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/documents/s82193/Annex%202a-%20Climate%20Change%20Delivery%20Plan%20Summary%20Report_Cabinet%20Draft.pdf) |
| Collaborative work with ThamesWey to deliver on carbon reduction goals e.g. decarbonising the energy supply for all Council buildings and operations and eliminate emissions directly through the supply of renewable / sustainable power sources.  | **Phase 1A of the** [**Green Jump Surrey**](https://www.actionsurrey.org/now/news/2020/10/13/greenjumpsurrey) **project funded by BEIS and delivered by Action Surrey officially closed at the end of August 2021 with the final installations now completed. Phase 1B has been extended from 30 September 2021 to 31 March 2022. October 2021 saw the project reach a major milestone having completed 500 energy efficiency installations in total helping over 400 households. It was also the busiest month with a record 118 measures completed for 108 households.** Action Surrey gives a full report on this scheme elsewhere on this Working Group agenda. **Surrey’s consortium bid under the BEIS Sustainable Warmth programme** **has been subject to delays** with the delivery agent (Happy Energy Solutions Ltd) withdrawing from the contract. Discussions are taking place to determine a replacement delivery agent. Similar to the Green Jump Surrey project, the project aims to install energy efficiency improvements to low income households across the county, including Woking borough. Timeframes are constrained with delivery scheduled to be completed by March 2022.  |
| Improve the energy performance of Council owned and leased properties – initially through an appraisal of Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) and Display Energy Certificates (DECs). | Due to the scale of the property portfolio, Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) are being reviewed in a phased approach. EPC ratings for the first phase of the three largest buildings are: Dukes Court – C; Orion Gate - C and Export House – E. Albion House and Midas House will be reviewed next. Display Energy Certificates (DECs) for publicly accessible Council buildings are also being reviewed in a phased approach. A DEC considers a building’s energy performance operational rating based on its carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions for the last year. DECs for the Civic Offices (F) and Monument Way (D) were renewed in November 2020. Officers in Building Services are reviewing the accompanying advisory reports. The Leisure Centre, Pool in the Park and Sportsbox are due to be assessed by Freedom Leisure next. A procurement exercise for water supplies at WBC’s corporate properties is being undertaken. A Framework Agreement is currently being finalised in order to procure a single water supplier. This will help improve monitoring of water consumption across the corporate estate. The Framework Agreement is due to be finalised in winter 2021.  |
| Large scale renewable energy plan to be drafted, detailing how wind energy could be funded across the borough and how it could be complemented with solar energy. | Woking Borough Council’s Renewable Energy Plan was adopted by the Executive on 17 June 2021. Officers in Green Infrastructure continue to work with SCC to progress opportunities in furtherance of the Plan’s objectives. **SCC is engaging with Community Energy South (CES) on developing a “Community Energy Pathway Scheme” to establish a community energy network across Surrey. The objective is that Community Energy Groups will deliver local energy projects funded by and for the benefit of the local community.**  CES was set up in 2013 to support the network of community energy groups in the South East of England.  They act as a “catalyst and capacity building hub supporting Community Energy Groups to become resilient and to work effectively to support their communities”. As part of this they provide training, advice, project management and a best practice, skills sharing network to enable the development of community energy projects and ground level carbon reduction. CES currently supports 42 community energy groups across the South East. These groups own and operate community energy projects including over 100 community solar schools, 4 x 5MW field scale community owned solar farms as well as innovative heat and energy efficiency projects amongst others.  In 2018, CES teamed up with climate change charity Possible (formerly known as 10:10) to establish Riding Sunbeams – a project that connects solar renewable energy to the railways to aid its decarbonisation. Riding Sunbeams works closely with CES and community energy groups to further investigate powering Network Rail and they have a focus on the Wessex Route and Southern Routes that pass through Surrey. **SCC is currently putting together a database of potential community groups to inform the next stages of the proposal. Officers in Green Infrastructure contacted West Byfleet Community Energy Group for their inclusion at this scoping stage of the project, with which they agreed.** **The Surrey** [**Solar Together**](https://solartogether.co.uk/) **group-buying solar PV project launched in summer 2021. It is now closed to new applications and is in the installation phase of the project.** The scheme received 700 initial expressions of interest from Woking residents. It is noted however that not all customers who accept their offer will go ahead with an installation. Surveys may identify reasons why it is not safe or suitable for the customer to proceed; planning permission may be declined or the customer may choose not to go ahead with the installation. **Data from the latest project returns show that 142 Woking households accepted their PV installation offer. Of these, there have been 11 installations so far resulting in a total of 53 kW installed capacity, 148 panels installed, and 7,924 kg saved CO2 emissions. Two of these households also opted to install a PV battery. The scheme also enabled householders with PV already installed to apply for a retrofit battery installation. So far 12 Woking households accepted their offer, three of which have been installed resulting in a total installed battery capacity of 14 kWh.** To set this in a countywide context, there have been 1,489 offers accepted for PV with 201 installations completed; and 175 accepted offer for retrofit batteries with 38 installation completed.  |
| **Transport** |  |
| Avoid unnecessary travel to meetings where possible and develop a mandatory transport hierarchy as part of the Council’s Staff Transport Plan. | Following a recommendation from the Climate Change Working Group, on 17 June 2021 the Executive resolved that non-statutory meetings should continue, where practical, on a remote basis. This will help further reduce unnecessary travel to meetings and associated carbon emissions.  |
| Identify locations for the installation of electric bike charging points to further enable staff (and public) to select sustainable modes of transport and alternatives to the car, particularly for short journeys. | **Eight electric bike charging stations have been installed at Dukes Court for use by tenants.** WBC has requested that usage be monitored over the next three months.The feasibility of installing **e-bike and e-mobility scooter charging facilities** has been raised with SCC under their active travel plans and highlighted as a priority for the Climate Change Working Group. This was again flagged at the September meeting of the Woking Strategic Transport Project. **It was confirmed that e-bike facilities will be considered for West Byfleet Railway Station as part of cycle infrastructure and route improvements linking Woking Town Centre and West Byfleet.** **There may also be opportunities for incorporating e-bikes and infrastructure as part of the GP prescribing pilot** in Maybury / Sheerwater for which a funding application has been submitted to the Department for Transport – see update below. **GP Social Prescribing Pilot for Cycling Referrals** – As reported in the last update, SCC submitted a bid in August 2021 for a pilot project in Maybury and Sheerwater to complement the government’s Green Social Prescribing ‘test and learn’ programme which began in the Surrey Heartlands Health and Care Partnership in April 2021. This programme is designed to test ways in which connecting people with nature can improve mental wellbeing via activities such as walking, cycling and community gardening**. In October 2021, SCC was invited to submit further detail with the bid having been shortlisted to one of 38 applications selected to progress to the second stage of bidding. Funding will be awarded to 12 areas. Further updates will be given pending the result.**Officers are considering **the feasibility of introducing a pilot e-cargo bike scheme in Woking Town Centre**. E-cargo bikes can assist in zero emission ‘last mile’ deliveries cutting carbon and air pollution. A successful scheme has been established in Colchester. SCC has capital funding available through the Woking Strategic Transport Project. However, having liaised with colleagues at Colchester there are **concerns on the resource requirement for implementing a successful scheme. As the funding available does not cover resources a decision has been taken not to pursue this project at the current time.**  **The Greener Transport Surrey event** took place in Farnham on 10 November 2021 to mark COP26. Organised by Surrey County Council with funding the Greater South East Energy Hub and COP26, the event showcased opportunities to reduce carbon emissions through transport and was live-streamed online via the [COP26 website](https://ukcop26.org/) and into the main conference in Glasgow.**SCC Highways has submitted a “mini Holland” cycle route scheme application to the DfT linking the Town Centre to Goldsworth Park.** The application has been submitted as a bid under the Government’s Tranche 3 Active Travel fund and uses a route identified in our LCWIP. Further updates will be given pending the result. |
| Work with the Council’s car club provider to replace the existing petrol cars with electric vehicles.  | WBC continues to participate in the Surrey EV Strategy Forum. The aim of this forum is to work together to deliver a consistent strategy across the county to provide the necessary EV infrastructure for Surrey residents to help meet common climate targets and facilitate a shift to zero emission transport in line with the Government’s Road to Zero Strategy which bans the sale of petrol and diesel vehicles from 2030.**As reported previously, a funding application was submitted by officers in Green Infrastructure to the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) for the installation of over 70 electric vehicle charging points in the new Red Shoppers Car Park due to open in spring 2022.** **Results remain pending ministerial review.** **Meanwhile, a further Expression of Interest has been submitted for expanding EV charging provision in the wider borough, outside of the Town Centre.** Surrey County Council (SCC) is working in partnership with Woking Borough Council to deliver an **On-Street Electric Vehicle Charging Point (EVCP) project which will see the installation of on-street charging points across the borough.** **A total of 20 bays will be installed in a phased approach across identified sites in the Woking area.** SCC received funding for the project through the Enterprise M3 (EM3) Local Enterprise Partnership plus local authority match funding contributions including Woking Borough Council. This is a pilot project from which monitoring information will help with the standardisation and wider roll out of EVCPs across the county. The pilot will increase the number of public EVCPs across the borough and will in particular benefit those with an EV but no access to off-street charging at home. **The first points are being installed in Church Street East with further points to follow in Oriental Road, Montgomery Road and Maybury Road.** These have been subject to SCC’s Traffic Regulation Order consultation. Further details about the project are available at [www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/sustainable-driving/electric-vehicles/electric-vehicle-charging-point-pilot-scheme](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/sustainable-driving/electric-vehicles/electric-vehicle-charging-point-pilot-scheme)  |
| **Policy, leadership and behaviour changes** |  |
| Review Woking 2050 to incorporate the Council's pledge for carbon neutrality and climate emergency action plan.  | This has in part been addressed with the identification of priority actions as per this plan and the subsequent updates on these. Climate Emergency Action Plan updates are available on the Council’s website under the climate change pages – see [www.woking.gov.uk/nature-and-sustainability/climate-change/how-were-tackling-climate-change](http://www.woking.gov.uk/nature-and-sustainability/climate-change/how-were-tackling-climate-change). This action will be further progressed by officers in the coming months to reflect the adopted pledge and continued focus on accelerating action and timeframes.**Climate Emergency UK** is compiling a local authority league table on climate change action. Ahead of its publication in January 2022, Climate Emergency UK gave all local authorities a chance to review its initial assessment against 100+ criteria. Officers in Green Infrastructure have completed the review and submitted additional evidence detailing the Council’s activities in furtherance of its climate and ecological emergency declaration. Further information about the proposed league table is available at [www.climateemergency.uk/council-climate-league/](http://wbcsp16/sites/documentse/ClimateChangeSustainability/www.climateemergency.uk/council-climate-league)  |
| Develop an engaging staff communication programme to promote and raise awareness of what the Council is doing to address climate change across its estate and operations (and more broadly across the Borough). | **On 5 November 2021, Woking topped a list of green local authorities in Surrey in an article featured in the Surrey Advertiser. Seven environmental indicators were used to rank local authorities across the country on their green commitments. Woking was the highest ranked in Surrey and 89th on the national list. Energy efficiency of homes, waste recycling rates and renewable energy generation featured amongst the indicators. The article is available at** [www.getsurrey.co.uk/news/surrey-news/how-green-your-surrey-area-22037945](http://www.getsurrey.co.uk/news/surrey-news/how-green-your-surrey-area-22037945)**To mark COP26, Planet Woking released the following communications** * A COP26 “explainer” about the conference, what it seeks to achieve and how local action can make a difference - <https://planetwoking.co.uk/get-involved/cop26/>
* 26 for COP26 – a list of 26 ideas to inspire individuals to cut carbon and boost biodiversity - <https://planetwoking.co.uk/get-involved/26-for-cop26/>
* Social media posts to raise awareness of COP26 and signpost to the above articles.
* As reported in Appendix 1, Cllr Davis gave interviews to BBC Surrey and That’s TV.

**Climate change e-learning module** – in partnership with Learning Pool, SCC has developed an e-learning module on climate change for officers and Members across the county. The module covers topics such as the science behind climate change; how it is impacting Surrey, now and into the future; and what local authorities across the UK and locally can do to address climate change. Given the Council’s climate and ecological emergency declaration and our targets to reach carbon neutrality by 2030 across the corporate estate and by 2050 or before across the borough, **it has been agreed that this training will be trialled with Neighbourhood Services staff with a view to rolling out the module as part of the Council’s wider corporate training programme around January 2022 pending feedback from the trial.**  |
| Develop a staff and councillor communications campaign to promote and encourage positive behaviour changes that focus on messages around switching off equipment, avoiding single use plastics, etc.  | Communications to staff and councillors to promote and raise awareness of the pledge to become carbon neutral will be ongoing. This has in part been addressed with messages arising through projects as noted above.  |
| **Sustainable development** |  |
| Further develop planning guidance to reflect the Council’s climate and ecological emergency declaration. | **A scoping exercise of the Council’s current planning policies, how they align with its climate emergency declaration, what they cover and what gaps exist**, was completed by officers in Planning Policy and presented to both the Local Development Framework Working Group (LDFWG) and the Climate Change Working Group (23 September 2021 meeting). **The findings will inform the review of the Council’s Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which is due to be begin this autumn 2021. The review will take 9 - 12 months to complete, including a period of consultation with stakeholders, involving local community groups and developers. Members of both the LDFWG and Climate Change Working Group will be consulted at key stages of the SPD review.** |
| Work with Planning Policy service to update local guidance to reflect how development can be adapted to encourage the adoption of low or zero carbon technologies. Develop planning guidance for developers and homeowners regarding the installation of technologies such as ground and air source heat pumps etc. | The findings of the scoping exercise referenced above consider this action more fully.The Action Surrey website already provides advice to homeowners on a wide range of technologies / steps they can take – see [www.actionsurrey.org/improve/house](http://www.actionsurrey.org/improve/house). The Planet Woking website also features articles on what local residents can do to improve the sustainability of their homes including a case study by local resident Morgan who attended the first Planet Woking webinar and shared his advice on home energy efficiency – see <https://planetwoking.co.uk/get-involved/home-energy-efficiency/>.  |
| **Other news** |  |
|  | **Woking Park Bug Hotel –** on 27 October 2021 Serco, Woking Borough Council’s environmental maintenance contractors, installed a bug hotel in Woking Park with the help of Woking District Cub Scouts.**National Tree Week –** the national campaign organised by the Tree Council took place between 27 November 2021 to 5 December 2021. The event marks the start of the winter tree planting season; which is November to March each year.* **Woking Environment Action (WEAct) AGM –** took place on 18 November 2021 and included an update on the group’s activities, its ambitions for 2022, and opportunities for volunteers to get involved. The evening also featured a talk by Ben McCallan, Chair of Zero Carbon Guildford on how they are driving local community action. ZERO is a new community space set up to promote education and solutions for climate mitigation and adaptation and was opened on 20 November 2021. More information is available at [www.zerocarbonguildford.org/about](http://www.zerocarbonguildford.org/about)

**University of Surrey “Heat4All” decarbonisation research project - students** at the University’s Centre for Environment and Sustainability will be undertaking research on the affordability of low carbon solutions in tackling fuel poverty. The project will use Woking as a case study and apply its findings to the borough’s demographics. The outputs will be shared when available. The **Environment Act** became law on 9 November 2021. Key components include:* Long-term targets to improve air quality, biodiversity, water, and waste reduction and resource efficiency.
* A target on ambient PM2.5 concentrations, the most harmful pollutant to human health.
* A target to halt the decline of nature by 2030.

Further information about the Bill is available at [www.gov.uk/government/news/world-leading-environment-act-becomes-law](http://www.gov.uk/government/news/world-leading-environment-act-becomes-law)  |