

Environment Agenda update – October 2020

Registrations for Solar Together Suffolk still open – BUT HURRY! – deadline for new registrations 6th October

If you are interested in saving money on your energy bills, generating your own supply of electricity, and helping the environment by reducing your carbon emissions - register today. Registration is free and no-obligation. The more people who register by the deadline of **6th October 2020**, the better the price that can be secured through this collective purchase scheme and the more clean energy will be generated by Suffolk residents. With solar panels, it is estimated the average household will reduce its annual carbon emissions by nearly one tonne each year - the equivalent of driving 3,500 miles in an average car!

For detailed information about likely costs, the amount of energy you can expect to generate, and lots more go to <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/solar-together-suffolk>. A freephone helpline is also available to answer questions—call 0800 048 8402.

Applications for Green Homes Grants are now open

These are means tested grants to improve efficiency of your homes and reduce your carbon footprint .

Details from <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-the-green-homes-grant-scheme>

Consultation on changes to the Highway Code to benefit Non-Motorised Road Users – still open but deadline of 27th October is approaching

The government is seeking views on proposed changes to the Highway Code to improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and equestrians, including the introduction of a proposed new hierarchy of road users reflecting their relative vulnerability. The consultation can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/review-of-the-highway-code-to-improve-road-safety-for-cyclists-pedestrians-and-horse-riders>

Deadline for responses is **27th October 2020**.

Suffolk Action Week 5th-11th October

Suffolk Action Week is a new volunteer recruitment campaign coordinated by Community Action Suffolk to highlight the valuable contribution volunteers make in the county as well as the many opportunities available and the benefits of volunteering. As part of Suffolk Action Week, the Greenprint Forum is once again teaming up with Rubbish Walks to deliver a training session for Plastic Action Champion volunteers, at 7pm on Thursday 8th October – which will be held online via Zoom. In addition, for anyone who is interested in the idea of Plastic Action Champions, but just wants to find out a bit more before they commit, we are holding a short “taster” session to give a quick overview of the programme, also via Zoom, at 7pm on Monday 5th October. If you'd like to tune in to either session please register by emailing me on greenissues@eastssuffolk.gov.uk

East Suffolk Community Partnership Annual Forum 2020 – 2nd-6th November

This 5 day virtual forum is an exciting opportunity for participants to be brought up to speed on Community Partnership priorities, share their knowledge and expertise, and work together to help find solutions. The virtual Forum will have some great speakers, including Dominic Campbell from FutureGov (back by popular demand following his session at the 2019 ESP Forum), Cormac Russell (world renowned expert on Asset Based Community Development) and Kim Leadbetter from the Jo Cox Foundation. Delegates can book their places for one or more sessions here: <https://www.eelga.gov.uk/events/> but need to complete a separate booking for each session that they wish to attend – there are 11 in total. All events, as you would expect, are virtual.

Pre-lockdown green bin collections set to return to normal in East Suffolk

If you subscribe to ESC's green waste collection service, as of the week commencing 28th September the green bins will once again be emptied on the same day as the dry recycling bins. Full press release:

<https://www.eastssuffolk.gov.uk/news/pre-lockdown-green-collections-set-to-restart/>

Remember home composting is of course the most environmentally sustainable way of dealing with your garden waste and some kitchen waste – subsidised composting systems are available via for Suffolk residents

wanting to get into the composting habit: <https://www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk/reduce-your-waste/home-composting>

Help your community become 'plastic clever'

Those interested in volunteering are being asked to step forward to help their local community take a smart approach to plastic waste as part of Suffolk Action Week.

Suffolk Action Week is organised by Community Action Suffolk and will take place virtually between 5 – 11 October with a packed programme to give people the opportunity to learn more about volunteering in their local area.

As part of the programme, East Suffolk Greenprint Forum will be hosting two online sessions to introduce its Plastic Action Champion scheme, which is aimed at encouraging more people to learn about their environmental impact, take actions to reduce their plastic waste and spread the word on environmental issues.

Those interested in learning more about the scheme are invited to attend an online introduction session followed by an online training session for new and existing Champions.

Cllr James Mallinder, East Suffolk cabinet member for the Environment, said:

“Becoming a Plastic Action Champion is ideal for those who want to take further positive action and help others within their community to become ‘plastic clever’ through advice and education and shed light on local issues, such as littering.

“Looking at how it affects both us and the environment, it has never been more important to help local communities tackle these issues. For example, litter never stays in the place it was dropped. It migrates through rivers and streams to eventually create additional pollution along the coast. It then enters our seas where it damages marine life and breaks down into smaller pieces which can then enter our food chain.

“Small changes make a big difference over time, and following the Council’s climate emergency declaration last this, the Plastic Action Champion scheme is really helping to make a positive difference in our communities and the lives of residents.”

The role of a Champion includes volunteering in their local community for a minimum of 20 hours annually. The role is fully flexible and how Champions use those 20 hours is up to them. Examples can include reaching out to local community groups and businesses, blogging about relevant topics, and organising litter picks and surveys.

Those interested are invited to book a place at one of the following sessions provided by the Greenprint Forum and Jason Alexander from Rubbish Walks:

- Monday 5 October 7pm – 7.30pm: introduction to the Plastic Action Champions scheme
- Thursday 8 October 7pm – 8.30pm: training session for new and existing Champions

Booking is essential so make sure you register your place by emailing greenissues@eastsuffolk.gov.uk.

The scheme is part of the Greenprint Forum’s ongoing Plastic Action campaign which is part funded by the former East Suffolk Partnership and the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Sustainable Development Fund.

The East Suffolk Greenprint Forum is a voluntary network open to all and facilitated by the Council. It aspires to improve the quality of life in the district while reducing the impact on the environment.

For more information about the Greenprint Forum, go to www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/east-suffolk-greenprint-forum/.

For more information about Suffolk Action Week, go to www.communityactionsuffolk.org.uk/volunteering/suffolk-action-week-2020/.