

Cleaner, Greener Spelthorne eNews



March 2025



Green Forum Rundown

On 3 February Talking Tree hosted another fantastic edition of the Green Forum. A wide range of speakers discussed much of the incredible and important work going on across the borough.

Key Highlights

- Maureen talking about the fantastic Stanwell community garden and her recycling handywork.
- The Surrey wildlife trust talking about citizen science opportunities for people to get hands-on with wide range of kit
- Colne Valley Regional Park talking about the value of Staines Moor and what we need to be doing to protect it.

The Forum has already kicked into action several interesting projects:

- A digital nature project with Dr Baradi from Runnymede Council
- Surrey Wildlife Trust is using Talking Tree as a hub to hold equipment for citizen science projects including bat detectors, soils sampling kits etc.



Net Zero Economy Growth

The latest report from CBI (Confederation of British Energy) Economics, commissioned by the Energy & Climate Intelligence Unit (ECIU), called "The Future is Green," shows how much the UK's net zero economy is contributing. Here are the key points:

Economic Growth: The net zero economy has grown by 10.1% since 2023. In 2024, there were 22,800 net zero businesses, adding £28.8 billion to the economy and supporting 273,000 full-time jobs.

Investment: In 2023, net zero businesses attracted £23 billion in funding, with £20.1 billion from foreign direct investment. London led the way with 32 FDI projects, creating 2,533 new jobs.

Job Quality: Net zero jobs are 40% more productive than the national average, with wages 15% higher than the UK norm. This sector not only creates more jobs but also better-quality ones.

Regional Impact: The net zero economy is booming across the UK, especially in the West Midlands, Yorkshire & the Humber, and South West England. Scotland's net zero economy alone adds £9.1 billion and supports 100,700 full-time jobs.

The report highlights how the net zero economy can drive sustainable growth across the UK.

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What is Infrared Heating?

Infrared heating uses infrared light to directly warm objects and people, similar to how the sun heats the Earth.

How It Works:

Infrared heaters emit infrared radiation, which is a type of electromagnetic wave. When these waves come into contact with objects or people, they are absorbed and converted into heat. This process is known as thermal radiation

Benefits:

- **Instant Heat:** Provides immediate warmth.
- **Energy Efficient:** Directly heats objects, reducing energy waste.
- **Quiet Operation:** No fans or moving parts.
- **Health Benefits:** Maintains humidity and oxygen levels, improving comfort.
- **Environmentally Friendly:** Low carbon footprint.

Infrared heating is an efficient, eco-friendly, and comfortable way to heat your space. Consider it for a modern and effective heating solution!



Big APSE Energy Conference Highlights

The climate change team attended the Big APSE Energy Conference and identified several key themes and actions in the Net Zero Delivery space:

Key themes:

- **Investment Readiness**
- **Data**
- **Partnership & Collaboration**
- **Place-Based Development**

Key areas:

- **Community Energy:** The community energy space has never been more exciting with deregulation from Ofgem and proposed funding from Great British Energy

- **Nature-Based Solutions:** Looking at data-based solutions to promote collaborative nature partnerships.
- **Planning:** The Planning landscape is rapidly changing with the introduction of the NPPF and Clean Power 2030.

These insights and actions will help advance our energy and climate initiatives, fostering a sustainable and collaborative future.

2024 Council CO2e Reporting

The numbers are in for the Council's reporting figures for 2024.

Buildings:

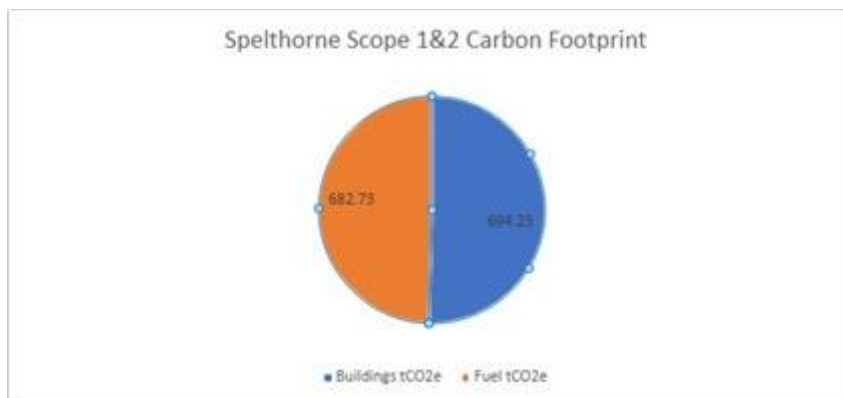
- 3,583,544kwh of Gas and Electricity
- 23tCo2e

Fleet Vehicles:

- 258,697.82l of Diesel and Gasoil
- 73tCO2e

Total:

- 23 (energy) + 682.73 (fuel) = 1376.96tCo2e



Grant Grid

Name of Organisation	Title of Fund	Who Can Apply	Deadline	Further Details
Matthew Good Foundation	Grants for Good Fund	Small charities, not-for-profit	15th March 2025	£15,000 shared between five shortlisted projects

		groups, social entrepreneurs		every three months.
Grow Wild	Youth Grants Programme	Young people aged 14 to 25	19th March 2025	£500 for youth-led projects celebrating UK native wildflowers, plants, and fungi.
Ofgem Energy Industry Voluntary Redress Scheme	Support for Vulnerable Energy Consumers	Charities and community energy groups	20th March 2025	£40 million in grants to support vulnerable households.
Heat Network Efficiency Scheme	Heat Network Efficiency Scheme Round 9	Public, private, and third sector applicants	28th March 2025	£32 million grant support for improving district heating or communal heating projects.
Government	EV Charging Scheme for Schools & Education Institutions	State-funded schools and education institutions	31st March 2025	75% off the cost of EV chargepoints, up to £2,500 per socket.
Energy Efficiency Sharematch	Energy Efficiency Sharematch Fund	Community organisations	Mar-25	Up to £250,000 for energy efficiency projects.
Veolia Environmental Trust	Community and Environmental Projects	Not-for-profit organisations and local authorities	3rd April 2025	Grants ranging from £10,000 to £75,000 for community and environmental initiatives.

Royal Society	Tomorrow's Climate Scientists Programme	UK primary and secondary schools	30th April 2025	Grants up to £3,000 for school projects tackling climate change and biodiversity.
Climate Action Fund	Climate Action Fund	Organisations working in formal partnership	Spring 2025	Grants up to £1.5 million for community-led climate action projects.
National Lottery Heritage Fund	National Lottery Grants for Heritage	Not-for-profit organisations	28th May 2025	Grants between £250,000 and £10 million for heritage projects.
Woodland Trust	Free Trees for Schools & Community Groups	Schools, nurseries, colleges, universities, outdoor learning centres, and other groups	Aug-25	Up to 420 saplings for environmental improvement.
Power to Change	Energy Resilience Fund	Community businesses	No deadline announced	Grants between £10,000 and £150,000 for retrofitting buildings with energy-generating or saving technologies.
John Ellerman Foundation	Building Healthier Ecosystems	UK-registered charities	No deadline announced	Grants between £10,000 and £50,000 per year for up to 3 years.

Npower Business Solutions Fund	Stronger, Greener, and More Sustainable Communities	Not-for-profits and educational institutions	No deadline announced	Grants up to £100,000.
Ernest Cook Trust	Communities Grant Scheme	Charities and not-for-profit organisations	No deadline announced	Grants of £500 to support projects encouraging young people to connect with nature.

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