

Cleaner, Greener Spelthorne - April 2026

**Climate Newsletter**

From Spelthorne Borough Council



April 2026

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## **Plug-in-solar**

Plug-in solar panels are an emerging way for more households to take part in clean energy generation. These small photovoltaic (PV) systems, designed for balconies, walls or gardens, offer a lower-cost and more accessible option for residents who may not be able to install traditional rooftop solar.

By generating electricity during daylight hours, plug-in solar can help reduce household energy use and carbon emissions. Residents interested in this technology should ensure any system complies with UK electrical safety standards and seek permission where required, but it is an encouraging development in making renewable energy more accessible to all.

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**Spelthorne in Bloom: Best Environmental Planting Project**

The *Best Environmental Planting Project* category celebrates the inspiring work of local groups and communities who are helping nature thrive across Spelthorne. This award recognises projects that promote horticulture, protect wildlife and support environmental conservation, while making a clear and lasting positive impact on the local area.

Eligible projects include wildlife-friendly initiatives such as planting native trees and hedgerows, creating ponds, log piles or habitats for birds, bats and hedgehogs, restoring neglected land or waterways, and activities that address climate change or sustainable water management. Successful entries also demonstrate strong community involvement, encouraging people to care for the environment and adopt more sustainable practices.

This category showcases how local action can make a real difference to support biodiversity.

(picture: Wildflower Meadow at Lammas Park)



**Big Green Week comes to Spelthorne**

This year, Spelthorne Borough Council is proud to be partnering with Talking to support Big Green Week, the UK's biggest celebration of community action for climate and nature.

Big Green Week will see a range of activities taking place across the borough, with events happening around Staines that highlight practical ways to care for the environment, tackle climate change and support local communities.

A key highlight will be the Green Forum on Friday 12<sup>th</sup>, bringing together residents, community groups and organisations to share ideas, inspiration and local action.

From talks and activities to community-led events, Big Green Week is a great opportunity to get involved, learn more and play a part in making Spelthorne greener and more sustainable. Look out for more information coming soon about events, venues and how to take part.

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**Solar panels power Sunbury Leisure Centre**

Sunbury Leisure Centre is now benefiting from a new solar panel installation, marking an important step towards lower-carbon council buildings. The 58.3kW system has already made a strong impact, at times generating enough electricity to cover 100% of the leisure centre's electricity consumption.

By producing clean, renewable power on site, the solar panels are helping to significantly reduce operating costs while cutting carbon emissions.

The installation at Sunbury Leisure Centre demonstrates how investing in renewable energy can deliver immediate environmental and financial benefits for the borough.

(picture: solar panels at Sunbury Leisure Centre)

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