

# CLIMATE CHANGE FACTSHEET

## 3. Advice for Residents



### What can residents do?

#### A guide to helping your constituents

Since the declaration of the Climate Emergency by Local Authority Members, and the increase in general awareness of the impacts climate change is already having, residents are increasingly looking for guidance on how they can do their bit.

In Suffolk many properties are poorly insulated, hard-to-heat, or off the gas network. Add to this rural lifestyles and high transport fuel costs and many residents are in fuel poverty.

#### As Councillors you may be a first point of call for queries;

- Where can I get advice on insulating my hard-to-heat home?
- What are my options for upgrading my heating system?
- What does my energy bill mean and how can I save money?
- How can I drive less when public transport isn't suitable?
- My water bill is very high - how can I get it lower?
- Where can I find out if renewable energy is suitable for me?
- How can I use less energy and reduce my landfill waste?
- Is there a grant available to help me reduce my footprint?

The Suffolk Climate Change Partnership is here to help with advice and guidance on the [greensuffolk.org](http://www.greensuffolk.org) website available here:

<http://www.greensuffolk.org>

This factsheet and 6 others on related topics gives you a source of information which you can use to **inform, enthuse and empower** your constituents to take action on climate change. Please do signpost them to this information and all the information available online.

### IDEAS FOR ACTION

**Suffolk Energy Action** (SEA) is a county-wide scheme from Suffolk's councils to help residents save money on energy bills and reduce carbon emissions through home energy efficiency advice and signposting of funding and grants such as the national Energy Companies Obligation (ECO).

SEA can be contacted via Suffolk's Warm Homes Healthy People scheme on the helpline number 03456 037686 or the website at <http://www.greensuffolk.org/sea>

**To find out more** about generating your own energy, visit <http://www.greensuffolk.org/renewables>

**Solar Together** is a free, no obligation, group-buying scheme for solar panels run each Autumn by Suffolk County Council. Residents receive impartial advice and can buy solar panels at competitive prices. See the Solar Together website at <http://www.solartogether.co.uk/suffolk/home>

**The Greener Homes Loan Scheme** offers loans of up to £5,000 at 0% APR to help homes cut their energy use through measures such as insulation, boiler upgrades and renewable energy. Call Eastern Savings & Loan Credit Union on 01473 690690.

**Transport** costs can be reduced by car sharing, see <http://www.suffolkcarshare.com> For information on cycling and journey plans see <http://www.greensuffolk.org/travel>.

**For more information please visit** <http://www.greensuffolk.org/at-home/>

## WHAT CAN I DO?

### WATER

In a drought-prone county like Suffolk the reduction of water usage for residents is going to be critically important under future climate scenarios. Average usage is 120l per day per person, costing £400 a year per household.

#### Residents could:

- Fit water saving devices in bathrooms
- Use waterbutts in gardens
- Do full laundry and dishwasher loads

Find more information and a water calculator at

<http://www.anglianwater.co.uk/help-and-advice/save-water>

### WASTE

**Suffolk Recycles** has tips on plastic waste reduction, and an A-Z of recycling, including information on what waste recycling centres will accept.

<http://www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk>

There are also tips on composting and a new refill directory of water bottle refill points.

## Residents invest in green energy

Suffolk residents wanting to take more control over their energy supply and reduce their bills in the long term can apply for a Greener Homes Loan.

This is up-front capital from Eastern Savings and Loans Credit Union, to invest in green technologies for their home.

Mr and Mrs Wilmot received a £4000 interest-free loan for a 2kW solar PV system in 2013, which was paid back over 60 months.

By powering an immersion heater with the excess electricity generated, they have hot water in March-November, without using gas.

The family of 4 uses electricity during daylight hours whenever possible, for laundry and cooking.

Their combined energy bill for 2019 was £420, including a saving of £252 earned from their panels.

To apply for a loan call 01473 690690.



## Top tips for residents....

Calculate your family's actual carbon footprint using an online calculator tool:

<http://www.greensuffolk.org/at-home/carbon-footprint>

....then set some targets.

#### Can your family...

- Eat more locally sourced food?
- Cut back on flying?
- Leave the car at home more?
- Reduce your energy use, and bills?
- Respect and protect green spaces?
- Invest your money responsibly?
- Cut food packaging and waste?
- Talk about the changes you make?



The **Suffolk Climate Change Partnership** website has lots of information for residents on how to make positive changes in their lives, including grants that may be available.

See <http://www.greensuffolk.org> for more ideas.

## What is my Council doing in response to the Climate Emergency declaration in 2019?

#### Suffolk County Council:

The Council is investigating ways to cut carbon and harmful emissions on a spend to save basis, with the ambition to make all council buildings, schools and services carbon neutral by 2030.

#### East Suffolk Council:

The climate emergency task group, which is made up of a cross-party group of members, is reviewing the recent climate emergency report it commissioned and is reporting quarterly to Cabinet on proposed actions. Updates are online: <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/climate-change/east-suffolk-environment-task-group/>

#### West Suffolk Council:

The Council has set up a taskforce that has produced a road map of around 50 initiatives, agreed by the Cabinet, to build on their already successful work to reduce greenhouse emissions to net zero by 2030. You can read more online at: <https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/protecting-our-environment/>

#### Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils:

In 2019 the Council set up a taskforce engaged with environmental experts to develop an action plan which was unanimously approved by Cabinet in 2020, forming the two councils' first Carbon Reduction Management Plan.

#### Ipswich Borough Council

The Borough has declared a climate emergency and produced a plan of action which Cabinet approved in 2020.

## WHO TO CONTACT

Matt Hullis - Head of Environment Strategy (SCC)  
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 Sarah Gill - Community & Business Energy Advisor, Groundwork:  
 Daniel Wareing - Environmental Sustainability Officer (ESC):  
 Andrew Oswald - Environment Officer (WSC):  
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