

## Sustainability Achievements 2024/2025

- Agreement of new waste and recycling contract with environmental commitments including all vehicles 3.5 tonnes and under to be electric; use of Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil in the refuse freighters; and greater opportunities for recycling.
- Trialled soft plastics recycling in multiple areas of the district ahead of this being rolled out to all areas as part of the new waste contract.
- An award-winning bee corridor in Letchworth. The bee corridor has been developed through partnership working between John O'Conner and North Herts Council and recently won two Green Apple Environment Awards. The bee corridor is due to be [expanded to Royston](#).
- Achieved five more Green Flag Awards for our sites: Oughtonhead Common; Ivel Springs; Howard Park and Gardens; Norton Common; and Priory Memorial Gardens.
- A Green Award (sponsored by John O'Conner) awarded to the founder of Green Care at Norton at our North Herts Heroes Awards.
- Worked with Herts County Council to facilitate public engagement with the forthcoming Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hertfordshire.
- Continued to progress the project to decarbonise our leisure centres via the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme.
- Awarded government grant (£40,000) to produce a strategy for decarbonising the council's estate.
- Carried out our first staff sustainability survey to help inform our work going forwards.
- Installation of more EV charging points at our council offices to enable charging of 12 electric vehicles at one time. This is to support our expanding electric vehicle fleet.
- Launched our Eco Flex scheme to help North Herts residents access funding for insulation and home improvements to make their homes more comfortable and energy efficient.
- Promoted free green home surveys and action plans to residents through the SuperHomes project.
- Helped more residents to install solar panels through participating in a second round of Solar Together, and launching a third round.
- Provided free cycle maintenance at events held across the district and gave out vouchers for free home cycle repair visits.
- Published a Sustainability Supplementary Planning Document to encourage developers to incorporate sustainability in their plans and designs.
- Funded community sustainability projects via our North Herts Prosperity Fund, including a low-emissions van for Green Care at Norton; improving biodiversity at Triangle Community Garden; and a tech recycling project at Letchworth Garden Shed.
- The Hertfordshire and Climate Change Sustainability Partnership (HCCSP), of which we are a partner, was awarded the Gold award in the category of Green Public Service at the [iese Public Sector Transformation Awards](#)