



Taking action on climate change in Sefton

Welcome back to Sefton Council's climate newsletter, an e-bulletin to highlight local news, events and actions you can take in support of the climate emergency response.

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Introducing Healthy Green Homes



The Council is announcing a new name for its Affordable Warmth service.

Now titled 'Healthy Green Homes', the name change is an aid to better reflect the current service provision, as well as boost future funding opportunities.

Since the service was founded in 2007, the fuel and energy landscape has changed dramatically and so has the support available to residents.

The Healthy Green Homes service focuses on helping vulnerable residents access grants for boiler repairs and replacements or insulation, and seeks to drive behaviour change through its advisory services.

The team offers support to make homes warmer and more energy efficient and can be contacted by telephone on 0151 934 2222 or email energy@sefton.gov.uk

The service continues to partner with Energy Projects Plus to provide emergency fuel top-up vouchers and debt support.

Utility saving tips this winter

With the rising cost of living, everyone will be looking at ways to increase income and reduce utility bills.

Here are some ways that may help:

Ensure you are receiving all the benefits you are entitled to

There are many support services, including [our Welfare Rights Team](#). For more information or to book a face to face appointment call 0151 934 3660 or by email at welfarerights.advice@sefton.gov.uk.

The Welfare Rights Advice Line is available on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10.00 am - 12.30 pm.

Speak to your energy supplier

Ask about smart meters which can help monitor energy usage in your home and in turn help save money. They may be able to help with debt and manageable repayment plans.

Could you save money with a water meter?

If you have more bedrooms than people living at the property, you are likely to save money. You can trial a water meter for two years to see if it benefits you. You can [find out more here](#) or call United Utilities on 0345 072 6065.

Emergency credit

If you are on a pre-payment meter you may qualify for an emergency top up voucher (subject to availability). You can [find out more here](#) or [contact 0151 934 2222](#).

Call the local Energy Advice Freephone line on 0800 043 0151 (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm);

Contact the national fuel poverty charity, [National Energy Action \(NEA\)](#) You can call National Energy Action on 0800 304 7159, Monday to Friday 10.00 am to 12.00 noon.

Debt and money management advice is available from the [Greater Merseyside Money Advice Partnership](#)

Have your say on City Region transport plan



People who live, work and study in Sefton are being invited to have their say on a new Local Transport Plan for the Liverpool City Region.

Two thirds of all journeys within the LCR are less than 3 miles

Two thirds of all journeys within the LCR are less than 5 miles and half of these journeys are made by car.

The Plan will outline how the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority will invest in public transport, and the road and walking and cycling networks.

It includes plans for cheaper tickets, more bus routes, better technology to monitor congestion and road safety and proposals to make it easier and more pleasant to walk, cycle and wheel.

This plan will change how you move around the region and it's important Liverpool City Region Combined Authority hears from as many people as possible, before they finalise the plans in 2025.

How to take part in the consultation

The consultation is open until Sunday 15 December 2024.

[Have your say](#)

Community event success

In November, the Council, with partners Sefton Opera and Sefton Carers Centre hosted two Keep Warm Keep Well events for those over 50 as part of its commitment to helping vulnerable people get through winter.

Over 180 people attended these events and offered free and confidential advice from Council services and partners, alongside blood pressure checks, chair-based exercise sessions, and free goody bags.

Keep an eye on our social media channels for information on future events.

Keeping warm this winter

Anyone concerned about keeping warm at home should contact Sefton's Healthy Green Homes team on 0151 934 2222.

People worried about paying gas and electricity bills or who are struggling due to rising prices can find support and advice by visiting:

[Cost of Living support](#)

Conservation efforts at the coast





Each winter, the Council's Green Sefton service brings grazing animals onto the Local Nature Reserves to help control vegetation growth.

This, in turn, encourages diverse plant species to grow and Sefton's rare dune specialists such as Natterjack Toads, Sand Lizards and Northern Tiger Beetles to thrive.

Herdwick sheep from Natural England and English Longhorn cattle from Lancashire Wildlife Trust have been moved on to the reserve at Ainsdale and Birkdale Local Nature Reserves. The animals will graze the reserves until spring 2025.

There are signs at entrances reminding visitors to keep dogs on leads, to close gates and to be mindful of the cattle and sheep during the grazing period.

[Learn more](#)

Recycling this Christmas



The festive season is just around the corner and Sefton Council is urging residents to consider their impact on the environment this Christmas.

The Council has lots of handy tips on how to avoid being wasteful over the festive period.

Wrapping paper and cards

The shops are filled with wrapping paper of all colours and designs. Most wrapping paper can be recycled after it's used, but any foil paper, or paper that uses glitter can't. If anyone is unsure, try scrunching the paper up – if it doesn't spring back into shape, it's likely to be recyclable.

Remember, wrapping paper doesn't have to be bought specially. You could use old magazines or newspapers that feel personal to the recipient.

With many people feeling the pinch this year, e-cards can be a cheap alternative to regular Christmas cards and create no waste. Most cards can be recycled, but cards that use glitter must be placed in the regular waste. For anyone feeling crafty, why not reuse cards as gift tags next year? Just cut the front of the card off and store them to be used again.

Festive food

Plan ahead and only buy the food and drink that you will need for the festive period. Make sure to keep an eye on any 'use by' dates and remember that the shops aren't closed for long.

Try out for recipes that use leftover Christmas food to save money and cut down on waste:

[Food Waste Recipes](#) | [Foods & Recipes](#) | [LFHW](#)

Gifts

For anyone doing a clear out to make room for this year's presents, consider donating old toys and gifts to a charity shop. A lot of presents come in cardboard packaging, which can be put in the regular recycling, but make sure to remove any other materials to save it from being contaminated. Plastic windows, staples and sticky tape will all prevent the cardboard from being recycled.

Christmas tree

After the big day, real Christmas trees can be recycled at any recycling centre in the Borough. Often, using a real tree is more environmentally friendly, unless you plan to reuse a synthetic tree for years to come.

Get in touch!

We would love to hear from you and what you would like to see in our climate newsletter.

- Are there climate-related topics you would like to learn more about?
- Do you want to know more about the Council's climate work and targets?
- Would you like to stay up to date with climate-related events and schemes happening across the borough?

Email the Climate Team

Sefton Council 

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