

CHAIR'S STATEMENTS TO COUNCIL

Councillor Liz Frost

Chair of the Environment Committee

Climate Change

The Council's first 5 year Climate Change Action Plan ended in December 2024, and a further 5-year Action Plan has been adopted.

- Figures for 2023/24 show that the Council has reduced its own operational emissions by 16% since 2019/20.
- Initiatives have also been developed to enable and encourage residents and businesses to reduce their own carbon footprint and live more sustainable lives.

Recent achievements include –

- Installing solar panels at Bourne Hall, Epsom Playhouse and the Rainbow Leisure Centre.
- Replacing 95% of all lighting in council-operated buildings and streetlighting with energy efficient LEDs.
- Installing 14 electric vehicle charge points in council-owned car parks.
- Changing 4 fleet vehicles to electric/hybrid.
- Planting over 2,600 additional trees on council land as part of a Tree Management Plan.
- Installing 8 public water fountains around the borough.
- Placing 27 additional cycle racks in Epsom Marketplace.
- Adding 2,385 households to the food waste collection service.

Car parks

- The start time for the evening parking rate has been harmonised across Ashley Centre, Depot Road / Upper High Street and Town Hall car parks and the evening rate reduced to max £5.00.
- The barrier system at Hook Road Car Park had come to end of life and it was not economically sensible to replace it. The car park therefore moved to permit or RingGo only from 1st April.