

Environmental Network Notes

18/11/2025

1. Attendees

Three Rivers District Council Members and staff present: Cllr Jon Tankard (Chair), Cllr Chris Lloyd (Vice Chair), Cllr Stephen King, Elen Dolder and Jo Hewitson

2. Apologies

No apologies were received from Council Members.

3. Talks

Sarah Burgess described GUCE's role and the solar canopy project (Attached)

Are there issues around maintenance? What is different about each design for maintenance? Can we find out how other councils are managing the maintenance? These questions will all be explored over the course of the project and we will book in meetings with those who have undertaken similar works if the project progresses.

Request for TRDC to Review website page for community gardens, to ensure it is kept up to date.

Elen Dolder gave a summary of TRDC progress on their Climate Emergency and Sustainability Action Plan (Attached)

Identify how many installations on solar together have been undertaken, this has been added to the presentation attached.

4. Discussion

Advice for residents and useful links:

- Install a Smart Meter and regularly check your utility usage.
- For home visits to see the technology in action and ask people questions about the process, do a home visit - [Visit a Heat Pump](#)
- Judith from St Albans has had a whole home energy upgrade and has lots of advice to share: <https://ecorenovationhome.com/so/a7Pg10K0 ?languageTag=en&cid=095f0e67-2797-4bf7-b1ae-120c1a2d30a2>

For advice on home energy upgrades and trusted installers;

- Eco homes and gardens event by FOTE.
- Use your energy company
- Ask your neighbors / WhatsApp group.
- MCS accredited installers
- Ask potential installers for references and follow them up.
Use [Hiya Car](#) for local car hire.

TRUST is a key barrier and influence – how can we build it?

- Smart meter installation and bill watching can change behavior through awareness.
- Solar Together- reviews for some companies were bad, breaking trust.
- Solar together was hard – even some of the keenest people struggled.
- Personal recommendations are preferred - *how can people get them?*
- Step by step guide and Tik Tok style videos through the whole process.
- Solar together don't have capacity for binge and purge - leading to inadequate quality and customer care at times.
- Real, local facts/figures/examples. [Super Homes.com](#)
- Talk to Judith from St Albans about talking to the Network.
- Energy is very complex for people to understand - needs to be kept simple.
- Funeral plan for your boiler
Who can we trust? How do we know what to do first? What goes in the plan?
- An Energy Clinic with TRDC logo/support would be good (Maybe not Energy Clinic).

Campaign and awareness ideas

- Many don't have the disposable income or have different priorities, funding options are needed.
- Go hyper local and focus 5 streets at a time. *Leafleting, not door knocking, ask them questions and give solutions, don't try to sell, ask what barriers they are facing or what would reduce their energy use.*
- Advert in Watersmeet, particularly before kids/family film, encouraging people to install solar & heat pumps.
- Use our data to target early adopters.
- Target high carbon users and highlight resale value of home.
- Focus on a center point with lots of traffic and work outwards make it appear more popular and visible.
- Possible facts/stats: % of people aren't taking advantage of free energy/solar (how many homes are suitable vs have solar installed).
- Possible messaging: Tell your neighbors! Spread the word.
- Create draft message for residents to send to their WhatsApp groups/community pages – *Can MCS do this when someone has had an installation if the resident agrees to the reminders to send?*
- Leisure Centers, RAs and S3R and Rickmansworth Sunday market are key.

Transport

- Car sharing on streets/in developments? Can you mandate car club in new development?
- Case study from South-Oxhey video.
- Transport theme next time with planning Officers present?
- Watford have a car club at a new development - *how have they done it?*
- Carpenters Park development has a shared car parking space – *is this used?*

5. Next meeting

Date: 18th March 2026

Time and location: To be confirmed.