

Simple scheme to buy solar panels returns for Suffolk residents

Solar Together Suffolk, a scheme which has helped over 1,500 homes to install solar panels and batteries, opened for new registrations on 22 August 2022.

The scheme helps homeowners feel confident that they are paying the right price for a high-quality installation from pre-approved installers, whilst increasing their independence from the grid and reducing their carbon emissions.

Solar Together Suffolk is supported by Suffolk County Council and all local borough and district councils.

From 22 August 2022, Suffolk residents can register for free with the group-buying scheme, with no obligation to go ahead with an installation: www.solartogether.co.uk/suffolk.

It is open to anyone interested in:

- installing new solar panels (with the option for battery storage and EV charge points)
- adding battery storage to an existing solar panel array

The innovative scheme builds on four years of the highly successful Solar Together programme run across the UK. To date, Solar Together Suffolk has:

- installed 17,900 solar panels at over 1,500 Suffolk households
- retrofitted over 200 batteries
- avoided carbon emissions totalling 28,730 tonnes of CO2 across the county

Households urged to get Food Savvy to save money and avoid waste

As the cost of living continues to bite a new campaign has been launched in Suffolk to help families reduce food waste and save money.

Back To Savvy is a Suffolk Waste Partnership initiative which advises people on how to reduce food waste through planning out meals and storing them effectively.

The campaign will advise on planning meals and batch cooking, storing prepared meals so they are ready for work/school, and repurposing leftovers into new meals.

The three main top tips are:

1. Cook today, eat tomorrow - cook multiple meals together using batch recipes and store in a fridge or freezer for later
2. Love your leftovers - turn dinner leftovers into tasty lunches or even remix them into fun new recipes.
3. Plan ahead - organise your lunches by planning and buying in advance. Even a minute planning your meals will save you a tonne of time and money.

Back to Savvy launches on Monday September 5 and is part of the wider Suffolk and Norfolk Food Savvy campaign, which offers a range of advice and information on how to save food and money.

Chris Chambers - County Councillor for the Gipping Valley Division

Mob : 07595310290 E-mail : chris.chambers@suffolk.gov.uk

Households across the UK waste 6.6 million tonnes of food annually, of which it is calculated 4.5 million tonnes are good to eat.

In Norfolk and Suffolk, this equates to 118,000 tonnes of wasted food across the two counties annually.

The average family with children could save more than £730 per year if they were to reduce their avoidable food waste.

Food waste also contributes to climate change as the greenhouse gases associated with food waste in the UK are the equivalent of those produced by ten million cars.

“With a little forethought and planning it is possible to make what we buy go further, last longer and help protect our environment.”

For more details [go to the Food Savvy website](#).

Windows now open to apply for primary and secondary school places

Parents and carers can now apply for primary and secondary school places for September 2023.

The deadline for applications to secure a place at a Suffolk secondary school is Monday 31 October 2022.

The deadline for applying for a primary school place, including infant and junior schools, is Sunday 15 January 2023.

All applications received by the relevant closing date are processed at the same time using the schools' oversubscription criteria to prioritise applications when necessary. Late applications are processed after all of those received on time.

Last year, Suffolk County Council received just under 15,400 applications from parents and carers indicating at which school they would prefer their child to be educated from September 2022.

Just over 95% of applicants received offers for their first preference school and almost 99% of applicants received an offer for one of their top three preferred schools.

Before making a school application, parents and carers need to consider how they will get their child to and from school. School Travel eligibility is based on a child attending the nearest suitable school that would have had a place available. This might not be the catchment area school. To find out more about SCC's school travel policy please visit www.suffolkonboard.com/schooltravel.

Suffolk Roadsafe Partnership rolls out ANPR devices to target speeding motorists

Speeding motorists are to be targeted with a mobile number plate recognition system to be rolled out across Suffolk.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) will be rotated around sites where there is a problem with speeding or rat-running on roads with a 20 or 30mph speed limit.

The devices, 10 in total, will display the speeds of drivers to them as they approach, encouraging them to slow down.

If they continue to ignore the speed limit the ANPR camera will take a picture of them and record the date, time, speed, vehicle registration and a photo of the vehicle.

In certain cases, persistent offenders will be reported to Suffolk Constabulary and, while no one will be prosecuted as a direct result of the devices, they may be visited by a police officer who will speak to them about their driving.

The information shared with the police may also influence the deployment of speed enforcement vans to problem areas.

This project is part of the Suffolk Roadsafe Partnership between Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Constabulary.

Suffolk County Council provided £400,000 from the 2020 Fund to support a two-year trial.

Ipswich Register Officer moves to Endeavour House

The Ipswich Register Office will be moving to new state of the art facilities at Endeavour House, from October.

To complete the move, the Ipswich Register office at St Peter House will close on Friday 30 September and will re-open fully at Endeavour House, Russell Road, on Tuesday 4 October.

From Tuesday 4 October, registrations of births and deaths, together with Notices of Marriage/Civil partnerships and Early Bird ceremonies will take place at Endeavour House which will also offer a walk-in reception service and more modern facilities. It will also be fully accessible, in its new ground floor location, giving improved access for all customers, as well as there being more parking options available.

Telephone and email services will remain open between 1 and 3 October for any urgent enquiries.