

More trees please for Surrey

29 September 2022



Surrey County Council will receive £298,000 from the Defra Local Authority Treescapes Fund (LATF) to increase tree planting and keep on target with the planting of 1.2 million trees, one for every resident, by 2030, supporting the Council's aim to be carbon neutral by 2050.

This funding will help to facilitate planting in non-woodland settings such as parks and community spaces as well as along roads and footpaths helping communities to fight the effects of climate change. Trees in these settings are particularly valuable as they can provide the greatest levels of benefit to ecosystems, such as carbon absorption, flood protection and support for biodiversity, as well as connecting fragmented habitats through wildlife corridors.

Marisa Heath, Surrey County Council Cabinet Member for the Environment comments: "Since 2019 over 333,749 trees have been planted across Surrey. We are well on our way to achieving the County Council's ambition to plant 1.2 million new trees and this boost in funding will help us to achieve this. We can't do this alone and encourage Schools, Parish Councils, landowners and community groups to help us achieve this".

The LATF fund will help the nation build back greener from the pandemic and will target landscapes that have been neglected in the past, ecologically damaged or affected by tree diseases like ash dieback - with ash being the most common species of tree found in non-woodland locations. For further information on the LATF Fund visit Local Authority Treescapes Fund - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

If you are a school, Parish Council, Charity or formal community group who own, or have a formal lease agreement on land and you are interested in receiving free trees to plant, you can contact SCC at trees@surreycc.gov.uk.

Read Surrey County Council's Climate Change Delivery Plan and New Tree Strategy.

Keep up to date on the progress towards SCC's target of making Surrey net zero carbon by 2050, and find out what you can do to help. Sign up to SCC's Greener Matters newsletter to get updates.