

Our Star shines on Epsom Playhouse

30 September 2023



This month **Epsom & Ewell Borough Council** has installed 90 solar panels on the roof of **Epsom Playhouse**. The panels will generate over 32,000 kWh of electricity annually, covering a third of the Playhouse's current electricity usage and saving more than 6.9 tonnes of carbon each year. The project is part of the council's **Climate Change Action Plan** which sets an ambitious target for council operations to be carbon neutral by 2035.

The council has already installed solar panels at its Operational Depot which have saved more than 35 tonnes of carbon to-date and currently provide 20% of the site's energy. Further solar panel installations are in the pipeline, following feasibility studies. Additional carbon-saving measures include installing energy efficient lights in all council buildings, and purchasing energy from a green tariff that guarantees energy is supplied from renewable sources. There are also plans to replace streetlighting throughout the borough with energy efficient LED lights. This will be done in phases, with phase 1 completed by 31st March 2024.

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council's operational carbon footprint has reduced by 13% since 2019 when the council first began to measure it.

Councillor **John Beckett**, Chair of the Environment Committee, said "We're absolutely committed to tackling climate change at Epsom & Ewell Borough Council.

"Climate change is not a standalone single issue for the council or the borough; it runs through a broad range of our activities and behaviours. We're passionate about working with partners and our residents to lead the way to a more sustainable borough, and the installation of solar panels at Epsom Playhouse is one of a range of initiatives that contributes to this."

More details about the Council's Climate Change Action Plan can be found on the council website: <https://epsom-ewell.gov.uk/residents/climate-change>

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