
Elmbridge Community Climate Action Fund (ECCAF) 2024-25 Summary Report



Summary of Elmbridge Community Climate Action Fund (ECCAF) projects supported in the 2024-25 funding round.



Elmbridge
Borough Council

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Foreword

“In July 2024 we had the pleasure of launching the Elmbridge Community Climate Action Fund (ECCAF), making individual grants of up to £5,000 available to local schools, community groups and organisations who share our vision for a more sustainable Elmbridge to enable them to deliver carbon reduction and sustainability projects across the borough. Projects driven by the community can make a huge difference to reduce the impact of climate change locally, and everyone can make a valuable contribution to help protect our environment.

In its first round ECCAF supported 16 projects, ranging from energy efficiency initiatives to biodiversity improvements, as well as waste reduction and water-conservation projects. It’s inspiring to see the myriad ways in which local community groups are working together for a greener and more sustainable Elmbridge. We ran a second round in 2025, supporting yet more exciting community-driven projects, and we’re now building on this momentum as we prepare to launch the next round of ECCAF in May 2026.”

Cllr Ashley Tilling, Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Environmental Services and Sustainability

Background

Elmbridge Borough Council declared a climate emergency in 2019; since then climate change and sustainability have been fundamental to our work, and we remain committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

We know that many local community groups and organisations share our ambition to create a greener future for the borough. We want them to get involved and help us deliver a thriving and sustainable Elmbridge that will benefit the whole community.

Elmbridge Community Climate Action Fund (ECCAF) launch

The Elmbridge Community Climate Action Fund (ECCAF) was launched in July 2024, making grant funding of up to £5,000 available to Elmbridge-based community groups and organisations to help deliver carbon reduction projects and initiatives to

improve sustainability. The awards can be used for either full or part-funding of a project.

ECCAF funding applications were required to cover at least one of the following key areas:

- carbon emissions reduction – education measures
- energy – reduce consumption and installation of low carbon or renewable forms of energy
- water – reduce water consumption
- waste – minimise waste, reduce, reuse and recycle
- biodiversity – increase biodiversity and wildlife in the borough
- active travel – promote cycle, walking, and public transport

Applications were invited from non-profit organisations based in Elmbridge primarily focused on serving the residents of Elmbridge, including charities, sustainability-focus community groups, schools, faith groups and sports clubs, amongst others.

2024-25 funding round

In the 2024-25 funding round over £56,000 was used by organisations across the 16 completed projects.

ECCAF project overview

The following section provides an overview of the projects delivered in the key award areas to help achieve the ambitions of the groups and benefit our communities.

Carbon emission reduction support

The **Nature & Climate Action CIC** used the ECCAF grant to capture the advice and knowledge-sharing from the 2024 Nature & Climate Festival in the form of 'Live Life Better, a handbook for sustainable living' as a source of top tips to help with carbon footprint reduction. The handbook is downloadable in PDF format via the website and promoted through local networks including Green Elmbridge, local clubs groups and societies, schools and local magazines.

Lower Green Community Centre ran a series of workshops for residents to help them reduce their outgoings on energy bills by reducing their energy consumption.

Energy efficiency

A number of organisations used the funding for energy efficiency improvements. For example, **Cobham Free School** replaced the old lighting at the Old Police Station site with 146 LED fittings and 4 LED lamps. Replacing the old fittings at the school with LEDs has estimated to halve its carbon emissions from lighting.

Imber Court Sports Centre replaced the lights in the main sports changing area with LED equivalents and sensors, similarly reducing energy consumption from the centre.

The main clubhouse cool room at **Long Ditton Cricket Club**, which is used to keep beverages and perishable foods cool, had a chiller unit in the region of 25 years old. Data is not available on the energy efficiency ratio (EER) of the existing chiller, however, the change in standards over the last two decades means that the EER will have improved by at least 20% and perhaps by up to 40%. The Cricket Club used the ECCAF grant to upgrade the chiller unit, resulting in an estimated saving of around 2.5 MWh per year.

New doors at Vine Hall:



Vine Hall Community Group used the ECCAF award to replace the original exterior doors, which were energy inefficient and warped with age, with modern, secure, energy efficient doors (see pictures)

Water efficiency

Painshill Park Trust's approach to climate change includes a focus on reducing water usage and used the ECCAF award to replace all the public taps for timed-flow push taps. Painshill Park receives over 200,000 visitors per year (the majority of whom are from Surrey), and all the charity's toilet facilities now employ water efficient compression taps, which require the user to manually turn the water on and off (see image below).

Compression tap installation (Painshill Park Trust)

"I cannot tell you how pleased volunteers and staff have been to see these installed, knowing how much water was used by the old-fashioned manual taps."



Walton Allotment Association manages four allotment sites in Elmbridge which are owned by Walton Charity. The plots are available for local people to rent in order to grow fruit, vegetables and flowers. The allotment tenants were unable to afford the cost of a shed and consequently unable to install waterbutts – by using the ECCAF award, Walton Allotment Association was able to increase the number of sheds and water butts on each of the sites and thus increase water efficiency (see photos below).

New sheds and waterbutts at Walton Allotment Association:



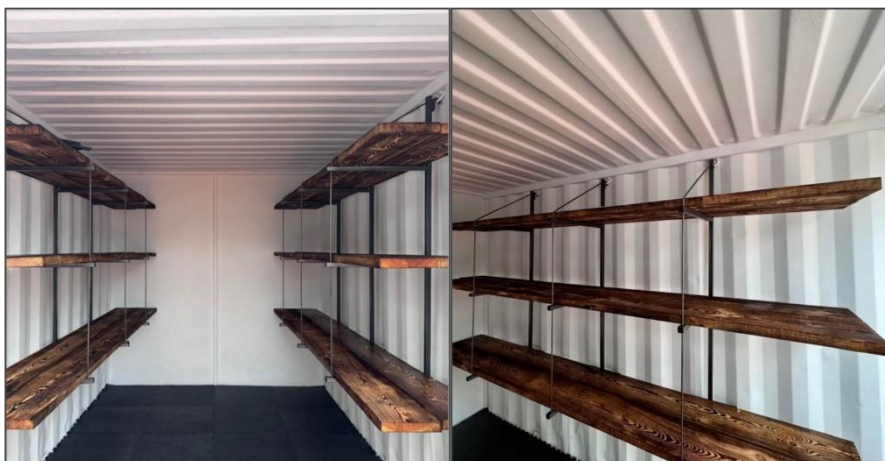
Waste, recycling and reuse

The **Elmbridge Eco Hub** used ECCAF funding to tackle waste by installing a composting unit at its site in Hershaw, reducing the amount of food waste going to landfill by encouraging more members of the community to recycle leftovers, peelings etc. as well as redirecting food items donated the Community Fridge that are not fit for human consumption directly into a vermin proof composting unit (see pictures below)



Vital Village in Thames Ditton has established lending ‘libraries’ for both household items and toys, initiatives focused on sustainability and carbon reduction. The *Stuff Depot* collects donated household items, as well as purchasing new ones, to be held centrally and borrowed by the community, while the *Toy Depot* offers gently used and new toys. Both projects promote reuse, reduce waste, and conserve resources.

Manby Lodge Infant School used ECCAF funding to buy a used shipping container to be refitted and repurposed as a shop for pre-loved school uniform for parents/carers to access on school grounds before or after school, similarly promoting reuse, reducing waste and conserving resources (see photos).



Biodiversity enhancement

To enhance its Green Space projects and support their green sustainability, **Walton Charity** sought ECCAF funding for water saving and compost measures, and used the award to buy a compost box for use at the Community Allotment, as well as a number of water butts and guttering at the Tree Canopy Project. “It’s been fantastic to use our compost created by the Ridan Compost Bin and the rainwater collected in the butts all made possible through the funding!”

Suitable grass verges in Oxshott were identified by **Oxshott Net Zero** to apply for Blue Heart grass verge status from Surrey County Council. They used the ECCAF award funding to purchase wildflower seed/plug plants to enhance biodiversity in these areas.

Weybridge in Bloom has three existing long standing, prominent, visible sites and used the ECCAF award to both enhance and expand the planting to include climate resistant plants with very long flowering seasons known to be attractive to insects and pollinators. “We hope that people will then be inspired to plant similar things themselves, thus creating more habitat” (see pictures below).



Volunteers turned a wasted grass verge at the Vital Village Hub into an environmentally- and child-friendly growing space for everyone in the community. **Rootz Up** used the ECCAF award to fund a project to develop key features of the garden to increase biodiversity, capture rainwater and support waste reduction

through composting surplus food waste.



The Garden of Remembrance at **All Saints Weston Green** is an oasis where loved ones can be remembered, as well as providing the focal point for the Weston Green community Remembrance Day service. The ECCAF award supported replanting the flower beds, enhancing biodiversity and making them more sustainable for volunteers to maintain.