



Greening the Economy

Many businesses have got involved in community activity, these include:

Fairtrade Cake Off Competition - The Core Theatre, Hogarths Hotel, Waitrose, John Lewis, Boston Tea Party, Hobbycraft, Touchwood, Drayton Manor, Waterstones and Lakeland.

Fairtrade Art Trail - Oxfam, Thomas Cook, Liv, Waterstones and Touchwood.

Your Green Future 2018 was supported by Balfour Beatty, Birmingham Airport, JLR, ARUP, Environment Agency, Mott Macdonald, Network Rail, Waitrose and Centenary Lounge.

Love Solihull was supported by Asda, Lloyds Bank, Secure Trust Bank, Robert Half, The Wharf Tavern (Hockley Heath), Tesco and Touchwood.





Energy and Resources

Beech House Solihull is amongst a number of businesses pledging to eliminate single use plastics from their business by Earth Day 2019, and are investigating alternatives to plastic such as vegware!



Other organisations are doing similar actions, for instance, The Core theatre now use over 500 reusable plastic glasses in intervals instead of the single use glasses.



Metal reclaimed from the cremators at Robin Hood Crematorium is sent for recycling. The metals have a lot of value and so the council donates the proceeds of the sale to Acorns Childrens Hospice, with £5000 being donated this February.



Your local children's hospice



Buildings and Efficiency

The Council has quantified its emissions for 2017/18 and they have reduced yet again, from:

13, 105 tonnes in 2016/17 to **10,687 tonnes** in 2017/18.

In all three of the 'big emitters' there were reductions, but the greatest were a result of the streetlighting programme which saw a 25% reduction in the year.

Further details are available in the [Carbon Reports](#).

Jaguar Land Rover goes **100% renewable** with the signing of a new purchase agreement with EDF. From March 2020 all electricity at its UK plants will be renewable. This complements the recent installation at the Solihull plant of a **50kW array**, that saves 22 tonnes per year.





The work of the Independent Travel Trainers was analysed to estimate reductions in carbon emissions from 'switching' students from taxis and private vehicles to buses. The switching results in a reduction of around 5 tonnes of CO₂ per year.



The Highways Team have recently piloted the use of two electric vehicles in partnership with Co-wheels (an organisation supporting and supplying car sharing services). As well as providing convenient and efficient vehicles to the team, the emissions resulting from travel were significantly reduced.



The Council has just secured another major project supporting biodiversity in the borough. The programme, Greening the Grey (GtG), is aimed at creating a connected network of green infrastructure and improved wildlife sites while promoting active travel across Solihull, utilising sustainable modes of transport.

Solihull residents loved the wildflowers that bloomed during the spring and summer 2017! They shared their photos on social media, complete with compliments. The project saw suitable sites seeded with flower seeds. Recycled denim fibre was used to help moisture retention and so support germination.

The project was so successful that there will be a repeat in 2018!



Fairtrade Fortnight 2018 - this year saw the Solihull Fairtrade Cake Off expand, with over 40 entrants and 150 people at the award ceremony and more businesses getting involved than in the previous year. However, it also included the Fairtrade School's Bake Off, which saw schools from across the borough hold heats to select their best bakers, with the final at The Core Gallery. There were great prizes to be had, including prizes for the best Fairtrade contribution.



[News from Love Solihull](#) includes:

Solihull's SecureTrust Bank volunteers undertake nature conservation work in Elmdon Park Local Nature Reserve.

Solihull Rotary Club and St Alphege School joined forces for Crocus planting for Polio Awareness Week.