

# ALDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Please see the latest edition of climate communications newsletter, containing the latest news coming out of Colchester City Council linked to environment and climate, grants for communities and residents and other support and resources which may be of interest to you. It is produced for city councillors, but much will be of relevance to town and parish Councils, and of course residents.

Of interest this month is that Essex County Council through Travel Essex, have put out a bus survey (for bus users and non-bus users) to complete. It is for understanding public opinion of buses and ways service provision could be improved. Please could you take this opportunity to fill this survey in - The link to the survey is below and **closes for responses on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024**.

There are also several new grant opportunities for community groups and parishes that are listed in the document.

## Climate comms (March 2024)

### Monthly updates/news:

**New Bus survey from Essex County Council** – A new survey to understand public opinion of bus services in Essex has been launched. It has been designed to understand ways to improve bus services to encourage greater use. The survey link is here - [https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/h-t/f9874637/?utm\\_source=e-shot&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=TravelEssex-BusSurvey2024](https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/h-t/f9874637/?utm_source=e-shot&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=TravelEssex-BusSurvey2024). Please share with residents and communities. The survey closes on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

**Energy Grants launched!** – The Council has been working hard to enable ways for residents to access grant funding for energy efficiency/decarbonisation improvements for their homes (e.g. variety of insulation types, air source heat pumps) and will be launching these in the next month. There are 3 main grant schemes; Home Upgrade Grant, Energy Company Obligation and Great British Insulation Scheme, all of which are explained at [www.colchester.gov.uk/energy-grants](http://www.colchester.gov.uk/energy-grants). Residents can also email their queries to [EnergyEfficientHomes@colchester.gov.uk](mailto:EnergyEfficientHomes@colchester.gov.uk). Please let us know if you would like any flyers/promotional materials or have ideas of where we could promote these grants and energy advice – We're keen to get round to events and hold pop-ups throughout Colchester.

**Green Doctor** – Green Doctor provide support to help residents with energy-based queries such as understanding bills, helping with energy switching, applying for grants and support, joining priority services registers and more. They are particularly aimed at helping those on low incomes, over 65, young families, living with physical or mental health conditions, living in poor housing. The Green Doctor can do telephone and in-person consultations. To refer please visit <https://groundwork.my.salesforce-sites.com/CadentEnquiryForm> or call 07702941440 (this can be done by a carer/work professional on behalf of a resident)

### **Event dates for the diary:**

**Electric vehicles and EV charging introduction for Councillors, Energy Saving Trust, Online webinar** – A set of webinars giving an introduction to electric vehicles, including myth busting and the role of local authorities in promoting them are being run by the Energy Saving Trust. Meeting options provided are 14<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm, 15<sup>th</sup> March, 10am. To sign up to your preferred webinar please visit this [website](https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/event/an-introduction-to-evs-ev-charging-for-councillors/) (<https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/event/an-introduction-to-evs-ev-charging-for-councillors/>)

**Community Carbon Calculator (Ideal for community groups/Parish Councils):** The Impact Community Carbon Calculator produced by the Centre for Sustainable Energy provides a great starting point to understand your community's environmental impact. Two webinars have been arranged to discuss the tool; the first took place on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024 (2-3pm) which introduced the tool and how it can be used. The second taking place on **23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 (11am-12pm)** will involve guest speakers showing how they have used the tool in their community (sign up [here](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/community-carbon-calculator-the-tool-in-action-tickets-780820012677?aff=oddttdcreator) - [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/community-carbon-calculator-the-tool-in-action-tickets-780820012677?aff=oddttdcreator](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/community-carbon-calculator-the-tool-in-action-tickets-780820012677?aff=oddttdcreator)) . More information on the tool [here](https://impact-tool.org.uk/) ([impact-tool.org.uk/](https://impact-tool.org.uk/)).

## **Funding:**

### **Personal**

**Boiler Upgrade Scheme** - The Government is providing £7,500 in grants off the cost and installation of air source heat pumps and biomass boilers (in rural off gas grid areas only), and £6000 off the cost and installation of ground source heat pumps. For more information see the [Government website](https://www.gov.uk/apply-boiler-upgrade-scheme) ([www.gov.uk/apply-boiler-upgrade-scheme](https://www.gov.uk/apply-boiler-upgrade-scheme)).

**Love Essex discounts** - [Love Essex](https://www.loveessex.org/) ([www.loveessex.org/](https://www.loveessex.org/)) have several schemes where residents can access discounts/refunds on purchasing [reusable nappies](https://www.loveessex.org/news-and-ideas/cloth-nappies/) ([www.loveessex.org/news-and-ideas/cloth-nappies/](https://www.loveessex.org/news-and-ideas/cloth-nappies/)) and [compost bins](https://www.loveessex.org/news-and-ideas/try-composting-at-home/) ([www.loveessex.org/news-and-ideas/try-composting-at-home/](https://www.loveessex.org/news-and-ideas/try-composting-at-home/)). They also have lots of useful information on recycling in Colchester.

**Electric Vehicle Charge Point grants:** There are different grants available for installing electric vehicle charge points. The scheme is currently focussed on providing grants for landlords, owners/renters of flats and workplaces. See further details on the Government's [website](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-grants-for-low-emission-vehicles) ([www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-grants-for-low-emission-vehicles](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-grants-for-low-emission-vehicles))

### **Community/Parish**

**Essex Fund** – The Essex Fund can provide up to £5000 for project costs/items or to cover core operating costs. Organisations (mainly charities) and projects that contribute to improving the environment/engaging people in environmental projects can apply. See more information about the grant on this [website](https://www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk/2024/02/does-your-charity-need-funding-apply-to-the-essex-fund/) ([www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk/2024/02/does-your-charity-need-funding-apply-to-the-essex-fund/](https://www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk/2024/02/does-your-charity-need-funding-apply-to-the-essex-fund/)). For more information about eligibility, past funded projects/organisations and to apply visit this [website](https://www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk/applying-for-support/) ([www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk/applying-for-support/](https://www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk/applying-for-support/)). **Deadline to apply is 5pm on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024.**

**Village Halls small grant fund** – Grants of between £2000-£5000 to improve rural community buildings including village halls. Funding is mainly aimed at small projects like toilet upgrades, boiler replacements, new kitchens etc. The fund will only cover **20% of the full costs**. You must identify where the other 80% will come from. There are several other detailed grant conditions which can be downloaded from the 'Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE)' [website](https://acre.org.uk/village-halls-small-grants-fund/) ([acre.org.uk/village-halls-small-grants-fund/](https://acre.org.uk/village-halls-small-grants-fund/)). This grant is expected to stay open till December 2024.

**Funding for outdoor schools equipment** – Up to £500 for equipment or training through 'Learning through landscapes' – See [website](https://www.ltl.org.uk/projects/local-school-nature-grants/) ([www.ltl.org.uk/projects/local-school-nature-grants/](https://www.ltl.org.uk/projects/local-school-nature-grants/)) for further information. Applications open and close on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

**Energy Efficiency Assessment and Capital works grants** – The Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Energy Efficiency Scheme has been launched to support these organisations improve the energy efficiency of their buildings. Funding is available for getting an independent energy assessment of the building done to identify opportunities to improve building energy efficiency. Funding is then also available for covering the cost of the capital energy efficiency works. Organisations must deliver frontline services that benefit the community. Full eligibility criteria for the grants, alongside further information is listed on this [website](http://www.groundwork.org.uk/vcseenergyefficiency/) (www.groundwork.org.uk/vcseenergyefficiency/). The programme closes for applications in August 2024.

**Aviva Community Fund** – [Aviva](https://www.aviva.co.uk) provide matched funding for donations to community projects, with 'climate action' one of the eligible causes they will provide funding to. Just upload your project for approval and featuring on their website. For every donation to your project, Aviva will match the donation amount (up to £250). See more details of the fund [here](http://www.saveourwildisles.org.uk/community/fund/) (www.saveourwildisles.org.uk/community/fund/).

**Enovert Community Trust funding** – Regular rounds of grants (next deadline 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024) for not-for-profit organisations to do community environmental projects (e.g. decarbonising a Village Hall, creating or enhancing a habitat, playground improvements etc). Project locations must be within 10 miles of Bellhouse landfill site (CO3 0NN). See more details of the fund [here](http://www.enovert.co.uk/enovert-community-trust/funding/apply-for-funding/) (www.enovert.co.uk/enovert-community-trust/funding/apply-for-funding/).

**Sport England Small grants programme** – This programme provides funding between £300-£15,000 for projects that aim to increase physical activity across a 12-month period. They are particularly keen to see projects consider environmental sustainability this year, for example in terms of purchasing locally made equipment or reducing energy use. Applications can come from charities, CICs, amateur sports clubs, local authority bodies (including town, parish and community councils). Applications close on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. See the full list of what can and can't be funded [here](http://www.sportengland.org/funds-and-campaigns/our-funds/small-grants-programme#whoandwhatwellfund-19454) (www.sportengland.org/funds-and-campaigns/our-funds/small-grants-programme#whoandwhatwellfund-19454).

**ECC Public Health Accelerator Bid Programme** – This 3 year programme offers small grants (£500-£15,000) and major grants (from £15,000) for projects that aim to boost mental and physical health at an individual or community level. Projects must complete by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026. See more [here](http://www.essex.gov.uk/phab) (www.essex.gov.uk/phab).

**Matthew Good Foundation 'Grants for Good'** – This scheme gives out funding to small charities, enterprises and community groups who want to deliver projects for social good, community and the environment. They offer funding throughout the year in 4 cycles, offering 5 projects funding each time of between £2,000-£5,000. See case studies of previously funded projects and find out more at this [website](http://www.matthewgoodfoundation.org/amplify-fund-grants-for-good/) (www.matthewgoodfoundation.org/amplify-fund-grants-for-good/)