

JULY 2025

GREEN WATCH

Working together for a better future

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Welcome to GREEN WATCH

Each month, Environment and Sustainability Manager, Corrina Jones MRICS, shares a round-up of stories and guidance on all things 'green' and sustainable practices.

We welcome the opportunity to work with you and your colleagues to explore the ways in which we could support you to achieve your sustainability targets. If you would like to arrange a meeting to discuss any of the initiatives featured in this update, please contact Corrina Jones via email to corrina.jones@esurv.co.uk.



In this month's issue:

- Sustainable Growth
- Earth Overshoot Day
- Climate Change
- Climate Risk
- UK Strategy Update
- Property Risk
- Property Markets
- Energy
- Green Finance
- Sustainability Reporting
- Around the World
- Retrofit
- New Build
- Renewable Technology
- Drive Green
- Climate Action
- And Finally...
- Environmental Days to Support



Sustainable Growth

Earth Overshoot Day: Why It Matters

Earth Overshoot Day 2025 fell on 24 July, marking the point when humanity's resource use exceeds what Earth can regenerate in a year. The earlier the date, the greater the ecological strain - reflected in biodiversity loss, climate change and disaster vulnerability. It's also a call to action.

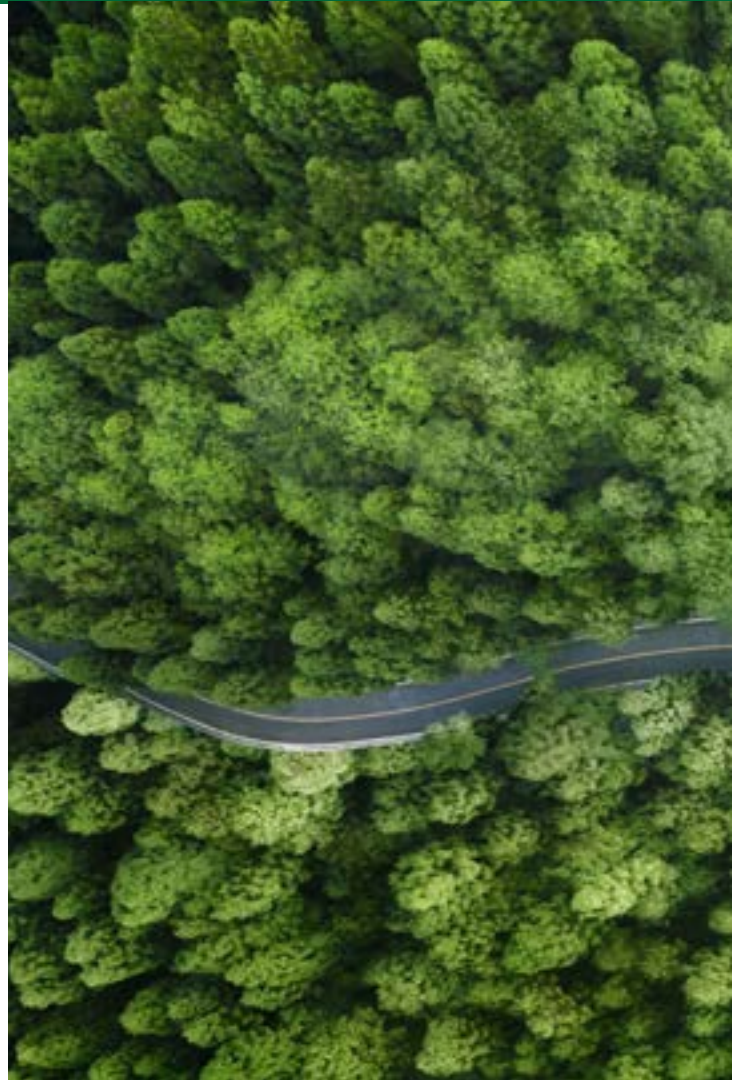
By transforming energy, food systems, urban planning and resource efficiency, we can delay Overshoot Day and foster sustainable growth.

The UK has cut emissions by over 50% since 1990, mainly through large scale infrastructure technologies such as solar, wind and other renewables. Reaching net zero now hinges on public and business engagement, particularly the adoption of more energy efficient methods of heating and cooling the UK's homes. UK may be on verge of triggering a 'positive tipping point' for tackling climate change - The Conversation.

Purpose-led Business

MPs will debate whether to legislate to compel company directors to balance shareholder profits with employee and environmental interests on Friday 12 September.

 **Company Directors (Duties) Bill -
Parliamentary Bills - UK Parliament.**



Corrina says...



....Why is a Company Directors (Duties) Bill needed? Current UK company law (Section 172 of the Companies Act 2006) prioritises shareholder primacy, requiring directors to act mainly in the interest of shareholders. This narrow focus encourages short-term profit maximisation at the expense of long-term sustainability, which has contributed to the environmental crisis we are now facing.


The Bill proposes that directors balance the interests of shareholders, employees, and the environment, aligning legal duties with modern expectations of corporate responsibility.

It would give directors legal clarity and the freedom to make decisions that support long-term value creation and sustainable growth. Sustainable growth doesn't mean lower profits. Purpose-led businesses have often shown stronger financial performance, with B Corps showing turnover growth of 23% vs. 17% for the national average. Other countries are moving towards stakeholder capitalism and the UK risks falling behind if it doesn't modernise its corporate governance laws.

Climate Change


UK's hottest day of 2025 as heatwave peaks

St James's Park in London saw England's highest temperature of 34.7C (94.4F) on 1 July, while parts of Essex and Kent also topped 33C. It comes as the Met Office said June was the warmest June on record in England.

 [Hottest day of the year recorded in England - BBC News.](#)

Spain records highs of 46C

A vicious heatwave engulfed southern Europe, with punishing temperatures reaching highs of 46C. In France, heat warnings covered nearly the entire mainland for the first time in history.

 [Spain records highs of 46C and France under alert as Europe swelters in heatwave - The Guardian.](#)


State of the UK Climate Report

The Met Office's 2024 climate report confirmed the UK is warming by 0.25C per decade, with the last three years among the warmest on record. Sea levels are rising, winters are wetter and extreme weather events are increasingly frequent.

 [State of the UK Climate - Met Office.](#)

Is it time to aim for 1.7C as the new limit for global warming?

With the world on the cusp of passing 1.5C of warming, scientists are turning their attention to defining a new limit for temperature rises – but not everyone agrees that we should.

 [Is it time to aim for 1.7C as the new limit for global warming? - New Scientist](#)

Turkey records highs of 50.5C

Greece continued to battle major wildfires across the country while neighbouring Turkey recorded its highest ever temperature of 50.5C.

 [Wildfires rage in Greece and Turkey as extreme heat persists - BBC News.](#)


Climate Risk

OBR: Climate inaction risks soaring debt

The Office for Budget Responsibility has warned UK debt could reach 270% of GDP by 2070, driven by lower productivity and infrastructure damage from extreme weather.


 [Read the full report here: Fiscal risks and sustainability – July 2025 - Office for Budget Responsibility](#)

Which countries face the biggest GDP and labour productivity losses from heatwaves? Countries like Cyprus, Greece, Italy, France, Croatia, Portugal, Malta, Spain, and Romania show the highest projected economic losses.

 [Heatwaves in Europe: Which countries face the biggest GDP and labour productivity losses - MSN.](#)


Storm claims handling under scrutiny

UK home insurers have been urged to improve how they manage storm damage claims. Regulators are calling for faster payouts and better support for affected households.

 [Home insurers told to improve handling of storm damage claims – The Times.](#)


Storm insurance dispute

After a storm tore the roof off a couple's home, insurer RSA denied their claim, blaming "wear and tear." The Financial Ombudsman ruled in the couple's favour, citing wind damage. The case highlights rising insurance disputes as climate-driven storms intensify, with 37% of building claims rejected in 2023.

 [Insurer denied payout after claiming roof blown off by storm was 'wear and tear'- The Telegraph.](#)

UK councils face £566m flood clean-up bill

Flood-related clean-up now costs UK councils £566million a year.


 [Councils Face £566m Annual Flood Costs in UK - edie.](#)

UK Strategy Update

The Government has published a **solar roadmap**, outlining 70 steps aimed at boosting rooftop solar through the Future Homes Standard, streamlined planning, and installations on schools and hospitals.

To address cost barriers, DESNZ will work with the Green Finance Institute and private lenders to improve financing. Public awareness efforts and updates to energy performance certificates are also planned, alongside new incentives and commercial leasing support.

The Government has released its new UK Trade Strategy, outlining plans to align trade policy with climate goals, boost supply chain resilience and secure access to key imports.

 **UK Trade Strategy: Climate Goals & Supply Chain Focus - edie.**

Onshore Wind Strategy

The Government has launched a new plan to boost onshore wind with over 40 actions to speed up planning, repower old sites, and strengthen UK supply chains.

 **Onshore wind strategy - GOV.UK**

Corrina says...



...What does the UK's onshore wind strategy mean for homeowners?

This marks a significant shift in energy policy, aiming to rapidly expand wind power to meet clean energy targets. For homeowners, this could mean lower energy bills in the long term. Planning reforms may also make it easier to install small-scale turbines on private property, while communities near new wind farms could benefit from energy discounts, local investment funds, or even ownership opportunities.

Although more turbines may alter rural landscapes, the strategy promises job creation and economic boosts in hosting areas. House prices can be impacted by proximity to onshore wind farms, but the effect varies depending on location, visibility, and public perception and a myriad of other considerations.

Bottom line: Homeowners should stay informed and involved in local planning to ensure their voices are heard as wind projects accelerate.



Property Risk

How Climate Change Is Reshaping the UK's Building Risk Landscape

A new study has mapped how UK buildings are increasingly exposed to climate-related hazards under future warming scenarios. The findings highlight the urgent need for climate adaptation in building design, planning, and insurance.

Five Key Climate Hazards and Their Impacts

Extreme Wind

Coastal areas and the Scottish Highlands are most exposed, with risks rising nationwide by 2080. Mobile homes and traditional roofing are particularly vulnerable.

Wind-Driven Rain

Western and coastal regions face growing exposure, especially under 2°C and 4°C warming. Buildings with porous materials and cavity walls are at higher risk.

Subsidence

Driven by clay shrink-swell, subsidence risks are increasing in southeast England and the Midlands. Lightweight buildings with shallow foundations are most affected.

Wildfires

Southern and eastern England face growing wildfire exposure, particularly under high-emissions scenarios. Timber-framed buildings near vegetation are especially sensitive.

Pests

Warmer temperatures could support the spread of wood-damaging beetles and termites, especially in southern and eastern regions. Timber structures are at risk.




Download the report here: [Exposure of UK building stock to 5 climate-related hazards - GOV.UK](#)




Overheating in homes

As UK summers get hotter, overheating in homes is becoming a serious health and comfort issue - especially in new builds and urban areas. According to CIBSE's TM59 guidelines, a home is considered to be overheating if indoor temperatures exceed 26C for more than 3% of the time it's occupied over the year.

 **Overheating in homes: how big is the problem and what can we do to mitigate the effects?** - Designing Buildings.

Rising summer heat raises subsidence risks

June 2025 was the warmest on record for England and second warmest for the UK since 1884. Facilities managers and property occupiers are being advised to stay vigilant for signs of ground movement, as rising temperatures this summer could increase the risk of subsidence, erosion and sinkholes beneath buildings.

 **Rising summer heat raises subsidence risks for commercial sites** - Property Reporter.

Calls grow for cool homes plan

Housing and health experts are urging the Government to expand its Warm Homes Plan into a full Cool Homes Strategy, warning that millions of UK homes are dangerously unprepared for rising summer temperatures.

 **Calls grow for 'cool homes plan' as extreme heat puts thousands at risk** - Property Reporter.

As UK Endures Record Heat, UKGBC Demands Climate Resilience Action

Amid record UK heat, the UK Green Building Council is calling for urgent action to embed climate adaptation into planning.

Its Resilience Roadmap warns that millions of buildings are unprepared for rising risks and outlines a four-step framework to boost resilience through green infrastructure and better design.

 **As UK Endures Record Heat, UKGBC Demands Climate Resilience Action** - Sustainable Times.

Figure 2: Map of the UK showing the 13 villages, towns and cities most vulnerable to climate Hazards.



Figure 3: List of the UK's 13 most vulnerable places and their exposure to specific climate hazards.

1	London, Greater London	●	●	●
2	Birmingham, West Midlands	●	●	●
3	Manchester, Greater Manchester	●	●	●
▲ 4	Peterborough, Cambridgeshire*	●	●	●
5	Nottingham, Nottinghamshire	●	●	●
6	Leicester, Leicestershire	●	●	●
7	Northampton, Northamptonshire	●	●	●
8	Gillingham, Kent	●	●	●
9	Glasgow, Glasgow City	●	●	●
10	Lancaster, Lancashire	●	●	●
11	Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire	●	●	●
12	Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset	●	●	●
▲ 13	Fairbourne, Gwynedd*	●	●	●

Property Markets

Climate change reshaping property law

Hotter, drier weather is driving a rise in subsidence across the UK, especially in clay-heavy regions like London. This is delaying property transactions, complicating insurance, and triggering legal disputes. Experts call for better coordination across planning, legal, and insurance sectors to manage the growing risks.

 [From soil to sale delays: how climate change is reshaping property law - Property Reporter.](#)

Lenders tighten rules ahead of EPC changes for rental properties

Some lenders are already restricting mortgages on properties below EPC rating C, despite rules not taking effect until 2028 for new tenancies and 2030 for all rentals, brokers report.

 [Lenders applying tougher criteria on lower EPC-rated homes - Estate Agent Today.](#)

Energy-efficient property sales climb across England

London remains top region, with 64.3% of homes sold meeting the EPC C benchmark.

 [Energy-efficient property sales climb across England - Property Reporter.](#)

Bristol tops knotweed hotspots


Bristol has the highest density of Japanese knotweed in England, with nearly 34 infestations per square mile. The invasive plant threatens property values and costs the UK economy millions annually.

 [Bristol tops list of England's knotweed hotspots - Today's Conveyancer.](#)

Energy


Consultation response - sharing energy data

The UK Government has published responses to its consultation on exploring a Smart Data scheme for sharing energy data. The majority were supportive of a scheme enabling secure data sharing and the government will now consider next steps. Potential use cases for an energy smart data scheme includes tailored retrofit offerings and advice for households, carbon reporting and monitoring and the ability to link financial data to access green finance and support financial health checks.

 [Developing an energy smart data scheme: Government response to the call for evidence - gov.uk.](#)


Ofgem proposes £24.2billion grid investment

Ofgem has outlined draft plans for approving £24.2billion to support 80 key projects to modernise the UK's energy networks.

 [Ofgem approves initial £24 billion to operate and maintain critical gas networks and upgrade Britain's electricity supergrid - Ofgem.](#)

No zonal pricing

The government has set out reforms to the national pricing electricity market and will retain a single national, GB-wide, wholesale electricity market and will not introduce zonal pricing.

 [Government sets out reforms to create a fair, secure, affordable and efficient electricity system - gov.uk.](#)


Clean flexibility roadmap

The UK Government has unveiled plans for a more flexible electricity system, giving households greater control over energy use and costs.

 [Households given freedom and choice with more ways to cut energy bills - gov.uk.](#)

Energy Bills to Fall

From 1 July energy bills for 21 million UK households will drop by £11 a month under Ofgem's new price cap—a 7% cut. Analysts forecast a slight further drop in October, but prices remain well above pre-pandemic levels, with long-term reductions unlikely.

 [Price cap: Household energy bills fall but may not go much lower - BBC News.](#)

Sizewell C nuclear plant approved

The UK Government has given final approval for the £38billion Sizewell C nuclear power station in Suffolk which is expected to power six million homes.

 [Sizewell C gets green light with final investment decision - gov.uk.](#)

Hydrogen blending consultation opens

The UK Government is consulting on the potential benefits and challenges of blending hydrogen into the GB gas transmission network. The consultation is open until 16 September 2025.

 [Hydrogen blending into the GB gas transmission network - gov.uk.](#)

Energy Secretary approves largest Irish Sea offshore wind farm


It is estimated the Mona Offshore Wind Farm could generate enough electricity to power the equivalent of more than 1 million British homes.

 [Energy Secretary approves largest Irish Sea offshore wind farm - gov.uk.](#)

Green Finance


SBTi launches the Financial Institutions Net-Zero Standard

The new standard will help financial institutions align their portfolios with climate goals, offering clear guidance for setting science-based targets across lending and investment, supporting credible climate action and sustainable growth.

 [Financial Institutions - Science Based Targets Initiative - Science Based Targets.](#)


UK drops green taxonomy plans

The UK government has scrapped plans for a green investment taxonomy, citing limited effectiveness. Instead, it will focus on expanding sustainable finance through broader reforms aimed at boosting green investment across the economy.

 [Chancellor vows to boost sustainable investment, but drops plans for green taxonomy - BusinessGreen News.](#)

HSBC exits net zero banking climate coalition

HSBC's decision to exit the Net-Zero Banking Alliance is "hugely disappointing" say shareholders and sustainability experts. It is the latest in a series of high-profile bank departures earlier in the year.

 [HSBC's net zero alliance exit 'hugely disappointing', say shareholders - The Banker.](#)

Green mortgage broker


Lenderhive, a new digital broker, has launched to help homeowners access green mortgages that reward energy efficiency. It is backed by Rosemount Financial Solutions.

 [Launch of digital green mortgage broker Lenderhive - Mortgage Finance Gazette.](#)

Sustainability Reporting

New register for carbon accountants

To tackle greenwashing and support credible net-zero efforts, a new Carbon Accounting and Auditors Register (CARR) has been launched.

 ["Carbon Accountants must be accountable to underpin trust in net-zero" as independent professional register prepares to launch - IEMA.](#)

GRI launches new climate reporting standards

The Global Reporting Initiative has set science-based disclosure rules on emissions, energy use, and just transition impacts.

 [GRI Launches Climate and Energy Standards to Align Corporate Reporting with Global Climate Goals - SDG News.](#)





Around the World

EU Steps in as US retreats from climate leadership

With the US pulling back from global climate commitments, the EU is seeking to fill the void by strengthening ties with China. As the world's top greenhouse gas emitters, EU-China cooperation could help stabilise clean energy markets and restore momentum in global climate action.

 **With US out of picture, EU tries to fill the climate void with China – POLITICO.**


Nations boost UN funding

At the Bonn climate talks, attended by 5,000 delegates from nearly 200 countries, nations agreed to raise the UN climate body's budget by 10% to \$81.5million. China increased its contribution to 20%, while the U.S. federal government remained absent—its share was covered by Bloomberg Philanthropies.

 **Nations Wrap Up Bonn Talks with Pledge to Boost UN Climate Budget by 10% - Sustainable Times.**


Gas flaring

The fossil fuel industry pumped an extra 389 million tonnes of carbon pollution into the atmosphere last year by needlessly flaring gas, a World Bank report has found, heating the planet by about as much as the country of France.

 **Gas flaring created 389m tonnes of carbon pollution last year, report finds - The Guardian.**

UK boosts green growth and global climate resilience

The UK has pledged £12million to support climate disaster risk finance in vulnerable countries.

 **New UK support to power green growth at home while tackling climate change abroad – gov.uk.**


Nature credits

The European Union will develop rules for “nature credits” that pay farmers and foresters to take care of ecosystems, in an attempt to make this work more economically beneficial.

 **EU looks to 'nature credits' to fill green funding gap - Reuters.**

Air-con guilt

As France endures a punishing heatwave, a national debate has erupted over the use of air conditioning.

 **Sweaty French at war over air con guilt - The Telegraph.**


Swiss nuclear power plant shuts down due to heat

Switzerland's Beznau nuclear power plant, has shut down both reactors due to rising temperatures in the Aare river, which it uses for cooling.

 **Swiss nuclear power plant shuts down due to heat - Le News.**


Texas floods

Death toll rises to 120 as rescue operations start to shift to recovery phase. At least 173 people remain missing as the hope of finding survivors dwindles.

 **Texas floods: Death toll rises to 120 as rescue operations start to shift to recovery phase - NBC News.**

US climate reports removed from federal sites


Legally required US climate assessments have quietly disappeared from government websites, making it harder for the public to access critical information on local climate impacts.

 **Major reports about how climate change affects the US are removed from websites - The Independent.**

Retrofit

RICS explores new professional pathway

RICS is launching a pilot programme to explore the potential for three new professional pathways to help support decarbonisation of the built environment.

 Exploring new professional pathways for RICS membership - RICS.


New panel to reform retrofit standards


The UK government has launched the Retrofit System Reform Advisory Panel to tackle poor-quality home insulation and fragmented consumer protections. The panel will advise on creating a simpler, more robust system for retrofit standards, installer accreditation, and consumer redress.

 Retrofit System Reform Advisory Panel: terms of reference – gov.uk.

New standard aims to improve retrofit assessments


Successful retrofitting should begin with a high-quality pre-retrofit assessment of the property in question. RICS highlights the upcoming BS 40104 standard, designed to improve the quality and consistency of domestic retrofit assessments.

 BS 40104 aims to clarify retrofit assessment - RICS.

 The standard is due to be published later this year. Find out the detail here: British Standards Institution - Project


Scaling up Retrofit

First Choice Homes Oldham is set to begin work to improve the energy efficiency of 645 homes in a £6.1 million new wave of investment.

 Oldham landlord set to deliver £6m retrofit programme - Housing Digital.


£60million retrofit loan from Lloyds Banking Group

Housing association Peabody has secured a £60million loan from Lloyds Banking Group to retrofit thousands of social homes in London and the South East.

 Peabody secures £60m retrofit loan from large bank - Unlock Net Zero.


£125million ESG-linked investment

Affordable housing provider VIVID has secured a £125million sustainability-linked facility investment from NatWest's Royal Bank of Scotland that will help retrofit more than 400 homes across the South of England with energy efficiency upgrades.

 VIVID secures £125m ESG-linked investment for affordable housing and retrofits - edie.

New Report Highlights Health Benefits of Net Zero Home Retrofits

As the UK accelerates efforts to retrofit homes for net-zero and climate resilience, a new report reveals that the benefits go far beyond energy savings and carbon reductions. If done right, retrofitting can significantly improve public health and wellbeing.

 Download here: Health impacts of net zero housing in England

Corrina says...




...RICS' plans to introduce professional pathways for sustainability roles in the built environment are long overdue. With growing demand for skilled experts in retrofit and net zero advisory, formalising these roles will help raise standards, ensure consistency and build trust. It's a vital step toward delivering high-quality, low-carbon solutions and accelerating progress on the UK's net zero targets.

New Build

Future Homes Standard to be published in the Autumn

The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero has confirmed that the FHS will be published in the autumn, and the vast majority of homes will have solar panels included as a 'Functional Requirement'.

 [Rooftop solar for new builds to save people money – gov.uk.](https://www.gov.uk)

New homes sector net zero transition plan

The Future Homes Hub, with industry and The Carbon Trust, has released a Net Zero Transition Plan to help the new homes sector align with UK carbon targets. It offers a framework for tracking progress and fostering long-term collaboration.

 [New Homes Net Zero Transition Plan.](#)


Labour considers copying French net zero housing laws

The government is exploring whether to adopt French green building policies that impose strict net zero laws. France introduced new laws in 2022 which set limits on how much carbon buildings can emit over their lifetime, including during construction.

 [Labour mulls importing Macron's housing laws – The Telegraph.](#)

BNG rule changes could undermine nature recovery

Proposed government changes to biodiversity net gain rules may exempt nearly all small developments, risking £250million in lost biodiversity funding and threatening over 215,000 hectares of land.

 [Government plan could derail nature recovery and biodiversity market - Property Reporter.](#)

Future Homes Hub Launches new guide to simplify biodiversity net gain on-site

The Future Homes Hub has launched its BNG Good Practice Guide for the homebuilding sector.

 [Future Homes Hub UK.](#)

Green Homes

Homes England has partnered with Greencore Homes, a sustainable housebuilder constructing better than net zero homes, to provide £8million of funding to support the delivery of Greencore's 42-home scheme in Oxfordshire.


 [Homes England supports Greencore Homes to build new affordable sustainable homes in Oxfordshire – gov.uk.](#)



Renewable Technology


Low-carbon heating awareness rising, but adoption lags

The government's Spring 2025 Attitude Tracker has identified that 86% of respondents are aware of the need to change home heating to meet Net Zero goals. Despite rising interest, more owner-occupiers now say they are unlikely to install heat pumps compared to Spring 2024.

 [DESNZ Public Attitudes Tracker: Spring 2025 - gov.uk.](https://www.gov.uk)


UK home solar installations surge to highest level in a decade

Home solar installation levels were 22% higher in the first half of 2025 than in the first half of 2024. Almost two-thirds (63%) of the owner-occupiers polled by the Government said they are keen to have solar on their home, but less than 6% of UK households currently have solar roofs.

 [UK home solar installations surge to highest level in a decade - edie.](https://www.edie.com)

Mine water heat revolution

New study shows 87% of coalfield boreholes succeed, busting myths around drilling risks and boosting confidence in mine water heat for green energy.

 [New study provides major boost for mine water heat revolution - gov.uk.](https://www.gov.uk)


Ministers eye energy bill cuts to boost green tech uptake

The Government may offer bill discounts and bigger subsidies to encourage heat pump and solar panel adoption, including removing green levies for homes with heat pumps. The proposals are part of the upcoming Warm Homes Plan which is expected to be published in October.

 [Cheaper bills and bigger grants: Miliband's heat pump plan - inews.co.uk.](https://www.inews.co.uk)

What are the latest innovations in solar power?

From plug-in solar units in Germany, solar slates on York Minster, solar fences, windows and paint, new technologies are making solar power more accessible and adaptable.

 [What are the latest innovations in solar power? - RICS.](https://www.rics.org)

£7million to boost heat network efficiency


49 projects across England and Wales will share £7million from Round 8 of the Heat Network Efficiency Scheme, improving energy use for 11,300 residents and key community buildings. Social landlords like Notting Hill Genesis and Camden Council are among the recipients.

 [Successful bidders announced for Round 8 of Heat Network Efficiency Scheme - Unlock Net Zero.](https://www.unlocknetzero.com)

Drive Green

On-street charging boost

The Government has announced £63million which will help develop innovative on-street charging solutions for homes without driveways.

 [New £63 million boost for Britain's electric vehicle revolution - gov.uk.](https://www.gov.uk)

New electric car grants

The UK Government has launched a £650million Electric Car Grant, offering up to £3,750 off new electric vehicles priced under £37,000, which started on 16 July 2025.

 [Discount of up to £3,750 on electric cars set to slash costs for thousands - gov.uk.](https://www.gov.uk)



Climate Action


Disconnect

Despite increasingly severe and frequent heatwaves across Europe, public support for stronger climate action remains stagnant or even declining in some regions. There is a clear disconnect between lived experiences of extreme weather and political or behavioural shifts toward sustainability. ‘

 **A war of the truth’: Europe’s heatwaves are failing to spur support for climate action | Climate crisis - The Guardian.**

Countries could be held legally liable for failure to act on climate change

The world’s top court has said a healthy environment is a human right, and governments could be violating international law if they fail to act on climate change.

 **Healthy environment ruled a human right by world’s top court, as campaigners hail ‘seismic’ win - The Independent**

Legal challenge lodged

The European Court of Human Rights has been asked to hear a challenge to the UK’s climate adaptation plans, which Friends of the Earth argues are not strong enough to protect people from extreme weather.

 **Legal challenge lodged against UK’s climate adaption plan on human rights grounds - edie.**

Milton Keynes City Council aims to be net-zero by 2030

Milton Keynes City Council has published an updated five-year plan to become net-zero by 2030 to tackle climate change, its impacts and drive climate leadership in the UK city.

 **Milton Keynes City Council aims to be net-zero by 2030 - Smart Cities World.**


UK air pollution falls

Air pollution levels across the UK have significantly declined, largely due to a reduction in car emissions.

 **Air pollution falls across UK, led by drop in car emissions – The Times.**

Glasgow receives £10.6million sustainable travel boost

Funding will go towards a range of measures, including building active travel infrastructure and improving the accessibility of public spaces for pedestrians.

 **Glasgow receives £10.6m sustainable travel boost - Smart Cities World.**

Agencies call for tobacco-style ban on fossil fuel adverts

More than 60 advertising and media agencies have called on the UK government to introduce ‘tobacco-style’ restrictions on fossil fuel advertisements and sponsorships ahead of a Parliamentary debate on the topic.

 **Agencies call for tobacco-style ban on fossil fuel adverts - edie.**

Solar investment

Aldi has committed £7.7million to roll out solar expansion across 90 of its UK stores by 2026.

 **Aldi Commits £7.7million to Solar Expansion Across 90 UK Stores by 2026 – Sustainable Times.**

Mars has committed to invest up to \$250million in technologies which will ease the delivery of its sustainable agriculture, packaging and materials goals.

 **Mars launches \$250m fund supporting innovations for sustainability - edie.**

And Finally...


Biomaterials

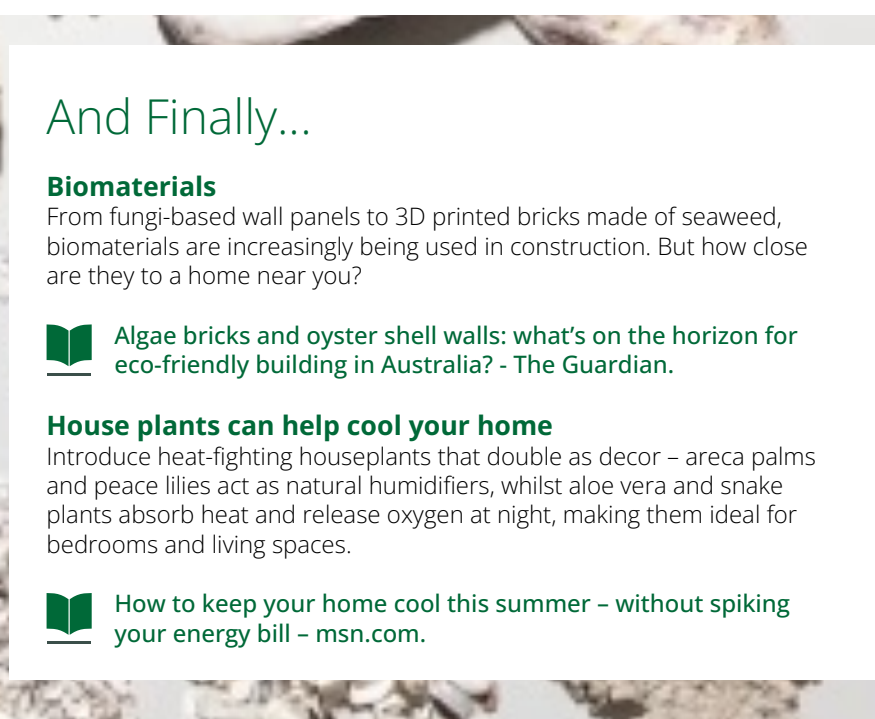
From fungi-based wall panels to 3D printed bricks made of seaweed, biomaterials are increasingly being used in construction. But how close are they to a home near you?

 **Algae bricks and oyster shell walls: what’s on the horizon for eco-friendly building in Australia? - The Guardian.**

House plants can help cool your home

Introduce heat-fighting houseplants that double as decor – areca palms and peace lilies act as natural humidifiers, whilst aloe vera and snake plants absorb heat and release oxygen at night, making them ideal for bedrooms and living spaces.

 **How to keep your home cool this summer – without spiking your energy bill – msn.com.**



Environmental Days to Support

National Allotment Week – 11 to 17 August 2025, organised by the National Allotment Society.

Started in 2002, the week aims to:

- Raise awareness of the benefits of allotments
- Promote healthy lifestyles and home-grown food
- Celebrate community, wellbeing and green spaces

World Plant Milk Day - 22 August

World Plant Milk Day is celebrated annually on 22 August to promote the benefits of switching from dairy to plant-based milk alternatives. Try the 7-Day Dairy-Free Challenge.
