

Camden Climate Action Plan

Consultation – Print copy

In the summer of 2019, Camden Council held the UK's first Citizens' Assembly on the climate crisis. Residents with a broad range of experiences and backgrounds, who closely reflected the demographics of the borough, came together over three days to learn about climate change and shape a new Climate Action Plan for Camden.

The Citizens' Assembly concluded with 17 recommendations for a borough-wide response to the climate crisis. These recommendations and the views of people across Camden collected in the run up to the Assembly, helped to shape a vision for a zero carbon, climate resilient Camden.

Four main themes emerged. **People** taking action to reduce their environmental impact; public **spaces** being green, car free and healthier; **buildings** using less energy and harnessing power from the sun; and **organisations** leading the climate emergency response.

At a full Council meeting in October, Camden Council committed to take all the action it can to make Camden net zero carbon by 2030 and deliver on the recommendations of the Citizens' Assembly.

The proposed Climate Action Plan for Camden responds to the work of Camden's Citizens' Assembly by proposing a 5-year programme of projects and activities that deliver on the Citizens' Assembly recommendations and bring to life the vision of a zero carbon Camden. This will be the first of two plans to 2030.

We will review the Climate Action Plan on an annual basis to monitor performance and evaluate progress in delivery of the stated actions. The review will report on success and lessons learned in the year of work. New actions will also be introduced, building on the outcomes of actions completed in the early years; feasibility studies if successful may turn into actual projects for example. In line with Citizens' Assembly proposals, progress on the Climate Action Plan will also be scrutinised by a new citizen led panel which will be established in 2020.

This consultation allows you to comment on the proposed Climate Action Plan for Camden, before a final version is put forward for adoption to elected Members.

This is a print-friendly version of the consultation. Full consultation available at www.camden.gov.uk/climateplan where responses can be submitted.



1. Your vision

In 2019, Camden began an extensive public consultation exercise seeking views from the public on how we could collectively address the climate crisis. Over 2,500 residents, schools and organisations contributed to the process through on-line contributions, meetings and events. Building on this public engagement, Camden then held the UK's first [Citizens' Assembly on the Climate Crisis](#) to help shape a new Climate Action Plan for Camden.

At the Citizens' Assembly, the diverse views and lived experiences of the community came together around a shared vision for a future Camden. The Assembly concluded that by 2030, our homes and places of work should require less energy, walking and cycling routes should be safe and clear of pollution, tree coverage should have increased, public space should have greater ecological value, communities should consume less and take positive climate action, and organisations such as the Council should lead by example.

The proposed Climate Action Plan for Camden responds to the views expressed by the Citizens' Assembly and the wider community by proposing a set of four vision statements which will frame and guide activities as we move towards a 2030 zero carbon Camden.

The four vision statements proposed are:

- **People** – Everyone who lives, works, studies and visits the borough will be well informed and actively contribute to tackling the climate crisis in all aspects of their lives.
- **Places** – Camden's public spaces will encourage and enable healthy and sustainable travel choices and promote biodiversity.
- **Buildings** – Camden's buildings' will be energy efficient, comfortable and fit-for-purpose for a zero carbon future.
- **Organisations** – All organisations in Camden will operate responsibly and embed tackling the climate crisis throughout their operations.

2. Plan structure

The Climate Action Plan will begin by setting out progress on carbon reduction to date in Camden. The plan will outline the vision for a zero carbon Camden, before translating the 17 assembly recommendations into actions.

To achieve this, we are proposing the following structure for the Climate Action Plan for Camden.

What we have achieved so far

We will discuss the achievements of our previous environmental sustainability plan, Green Action for Change, including progress in achieving a 37% reduction of emissions across Camden (2010-2017) and a 44% reduction from Camden's own estate and operations (2010-2019).

We believe it is important to look back at the progress made so far to set the scene for the new plan and help give background information for the proposed actions. This section will also help communicate the scale and seriousness of the climate emergency, and the reduction in carbon emissions required to achieve net Zero Carbon by 2030.

Where we are now

This section will outline the recent developments in our scientific, social and political understanding of climate change, from various sources: including [IPCC](#), [Fridays for Future](#) and the [UK Government](#). We will also discuss the sources of information which have contributed to the Climate Action Plan for Camden, including the Citizens' Assembly, the views of local business, community groups, local schoolchildren, Camden citizens and a technical study produced by [Carbon Descent](#), which modelled how carbon emissions could be reduced in Camden given different building heating and transport scenarios.

This approach will provide valuable context for the Climate Action Plan, while also allowing us to show how Camden citizens were at the heart of this process. We believe this will help to build support for the plan and allow individuals, community groups and organisations to respond with individual actions aligned with the visions, as imagined by the community.

Where we want to be

This section would then set out the proposed Climate Action Plan for Camden around the four visions of People, Places, Buildings and Organisations. We would provide information about the specific opportunities and challenges associated with each of these areas, before outlining the actions the Council will take. We will outline which actions we can deliver immediately and which will be developed under the five-year programme.

The actions are purposefully centred around the first few years of the Climate Action Plan. New actions will be added during each annual review, building upon the successes/failures of the initial actions and responding to external factors such as national policy.

Organising the proposed actions around the four vision areas we will allow us to show how the Climate Action Plan responds to the community and Citizens' Assembly.

3. People

Vision - Everyone who lives, works, studies and visits the borough will be well informed and actively contribute to tackling the climate crisis in all aspects of their lives

Achieving a zero carbon Camden will require people who live and work in the borough to do things differently. People will need to use lower carbon goods, food and services; walk, cycle or take public transport instead of driving if they are able; and change the way homes and other buildings are heated and powered. People need clear information to help them understand what they can do to make a difference. A key recommendation from the Citizens' Assembly on the climate crisis was for the Council to work with our communities and schools to develop an action-based public information campaign to help people to make these positive changes.

The Climate Action Plan proposes to focus the public information campaign on "consumption based emissions" – those carbon emissions resulting from consumer choices like the food, clothes and products we buy, many of which are flown into the UK and driven to London before arriving in our shops and homes, with significant climate impacts.

The Climate Action Plan therefore proposes the following initial actions over the next 5 years. The council will review actions annually and add to them as more projects, funding and opportunities arise.

Immediate action

- In 2020, build on the successful pilot to create a permanent schools sustainability network called the Sustainers to share best practice and drive positive climate action.
- In 2020, extend the pilot "Think and Do" climate pop-up in Kentish Town to other locations and institutions so that more people can access free and high quality information about climate action.
- In 2020-21, design and deliver a public information campaign on the climate crisis together with the community focussing on "consumption based" emissions in Camden.
- In 2020, create a new overarching climate crisis brand for Camden to bring together Council projects and programmes, which are helping to address the climate crisis.
- In 2020, seek funding opportunities to support local community behaviour change programmes focused on climate action.

Programme development

- By 2021, create an education programme for elected members and council staff about the climate crisis, including enabling front-line staff to give advice to residents.
- By 2021, ensure climate advice is available from existing Council helplines, for residents wishing to learn more about the climate emergency and the funding and support available.
- 2021-22, create a programme of high quality information events accessible to schools and the community with expert speakers.

4. Places

Vision - Camden's public spaces will encourage and enable healthy and sustainable travel choices and promote biodiversity

A zero carbon Camden will mean that we need to radically change our public spaces and the way we use them. Our busy roads will become safer, less polluted, more people friendly places. Cycling lanes and safe walking routes would multiply and any remaining vehicles would be fully electric with zero exhaust emissions. Our streets would host more green space, which would be better for people and wildlife, and the air would be cleaner. This will lead to a healthier Camden as more people feel able to give up their cars. Public transport would also move more freely through the borough making longer journeys quicker and easier.

Transforming our public spaces will not be easy – many people are used to owning a car and the shift to on-line shopping is increasing delivery vehicles in Camden – but there are ways forward. The proposed Climate Action Plan for Camden proposes to make it easier for communities to trial road closures in their neighbourhoods. It also proposes to review our Controlled Parking Zones to encourage people to cease driving short distances around Camden while making it easier and safer for people to walk and cycle.

The Climate Action Plan will also require all new major development in Camden to produce zero carbon emissions in operation. We will also seek to ensure that all new development produces no emissions to air from boilers or vehicles through car free and updated energy related planning policy. Camden will also look to implement a Work Place Parking levy to discourage commuting by car.

We recognise that tree planting and improving the ecological and biodiversity value of Camden are critical for a climate-ready Camden. While the Climate Action Plan will reference the importance of these areas, they will be given specific focus through a new Biodiversity Action Plan and our future tree planting programme. The Biodiversity Action Plan will be developed in 2020.

The Climate Action Plan proposes the following initial actions over the next 5 years. Actions will be reviewed annually and added to as more projects, funding and opportunities arise.

Immediate actions

- Review and amend parking permits and prices to reflect the climate emergency
- Increase the number of electric vehicle (EV) charging points across Camden in line with our [EV Action Plan](#)
- In 2020, develop a new Biodiversity Action Plan for Camden in consultation with the community.
- In 2020, pilot a project to introduce a new food growing space at a Camden school as part of the Sustainers project and, if successful, roll out at other schools
- In 2020, launch a new exemplar planning framework for Kentish Town that requires all buildings and transport on the site to be zero carbon.
- Over 2020-2021, develop a new Euston Area Plan planning framework for the area requiring all buildings and transport serving the site to be zero carbon.
- From 2020, support the delivery of community-led local road closures and car free days by simplifying the application process and designing a new “How to guide” with the local community a toolkit and materials to simplify the application process in 2020.
- From 2020, trial the closure of Camden High Street to traffic around the market with a view to a permanent closure.
- Over 2020-21, create new segregated cycle routes in line with the Camden Transport Strategy
- In 2020 begin a programme to switch all street lighting to 100% LED by 2023

Programme development

- Progress a Workplace Parking Levy by 2023 to encourage low-carbon transport choices, subject to the outcome of the current feasibility study.
- Progress a range of transformational projects as set out in the Camden Transport Strategy which prioritise sustainable modes of travel.
- Review and amend Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) hours of control to restrict inessential motor vehicle trips with priority CPZ areas reviewed by 2023.
- Seek to increase the number of trees planted in Camden annually in line with [Camden's Tree Policy](#)
- Extend nature conservation volunteers programmes to support with the maintenance of existing and new green space.
- Lead the delivery of transformational low emission transport projects in Holborn, Camden Town, Kentish Town and Finsbury Park by 2023
- By 2021, introduce planning policy to require all major developments to improve the biodiversity value of their sites
- Increase the number of street closures around schools through the Healthy School Streets programme.
- Increase the number of segregated cycle routes in Camden as identified in the Camden Transport Strategy
- By 2022, create a "Parklets" programme that enables residents to transform parking spaces into mini parks

5. Buildings

Vision - Camden's buildings will be energy efficient, comfortable and fit-for-purpose for a zero carbon future.

The electricity and gas used by buildings for power and heating causes 85% of the carbon dioxide emissions in Camden.

Electricity is increasingly being produced by low carbon technologies such as wind and solar. However, this means that over time the emissions from heating buildings will become the key challenge in the journey to a zero carbon Camden. To help solve this we need to significantly increase energy efficiency improvements to reduce heating demand, as well as replacing gas heating systems with low carbon alternatives such as air or ground source heat pumps. One difficulty is that over two-thirds of Camden's buildings are in conservation areas, making some energy efficiency improvements challenging. More strikingly, new heating systems for every building in Camden would cost well over £1bn – far in excess of Council budgets.

We will also need to increase the amount of energy produced from renewable sources to help the move to lower carbon electricity. Whilst the potential for large-scale renewable energy in Camden is limited, there is still significant potential for systems such as solar panels on new and existing buildings. We need to ensure that new buildings meet the highest environmental standards, do not add to carbon emissions or air pollution and are built to last.

This is all possible but won't be easy. We need to lead the way with pilot projects for community heating and low carbon housing and example projects such as large scale solar on housing estates and low cost solar panels for residents, as well as overcoming the financial and planning challenges. We will look to hold a "Buildings Retrofit Summit" to develop our understanding of the challenges to improving existing homes and bring together a panel of experts to design new programmes and guidance to overcome barriers.

The Climate Action Plan proposes the following initial actions over the next 5 years. Actions will be reviewed annually and added to as more projects, funding and opportunities arise.

Immediate actions

- In 2020, deliver a Retrofit Summit for residents, businesses and community groups to develop our understanding of the retrofit challenge
- In 2020, establish an expert panel to design a new retrofit policy and programme for Camden in collaboration with other London boroughs as part of the new London Councils Climate Programme.
- From 2020, require all major developments in Camden to be zero carbon (subject to new London Plan adoption).
- From 2020, require all major developments in Camden to calculate to whole life carbon emissions of their development to include all operational and embodied carbon.
- From 2020, require all Camden led development under our [Community Investment Programme](#) to be zero carbon
- In 2020, complete a feasibility study to install a large-scale solar project on housing estates. Subject to feasibility, deliver the project in 2021 and extend thereafter.
- From 2020, use the Camden Climate Change Alliance business network to drive energy efficiency improvements across the commercial sector in Camden through best practice sharing and consultancy services.
- Supporting private landlords to improve the energy efficiency of their properties and ensuring compliance with minimum standards.

- In 2020, deliver a low cost solar panels programme for residents in Camden through Solar Together.

Programme development

- By 2021/22, deliver a pilot low carbon housing scheme to reduce embodied emissions. Learn lessons from the pilot and subject to findings, expand the programme
- In 2020-21, create a public database of all renewable energy installations in Camden
- In 2021, subject to funding, deliver a pilot low carbon community heating project at a council housing building to develop our understanding and inform a costed strategy to remove fossil-fuel heating systems from council buildings by 2030.
- In 2021, review and extend the Camden Climate Fund to provide financial support for energy efficiency improvement and renewable energy and heat deployment with a focus on the fuel poor and community groups
- Over 2021-22 complete a feasibility study into installing renewable energy systems on non-domestic council buildings.
- Over 2020-21, devise an approach for how energy efficiency and heating upgrades to a Council housing estate can be financed and delivered with support from a major development in the vicinity. Subject to findings, deliver a pilot scheme in 2024-25
- In 2022, launch the new retrofit programme for Camden in partnership with London Councils
- Over 2022-23, support a local community energy group to deliver a community heating pilot project (low-carbon district heating) project
- By 2025, develop a carbon offsetting scheme for local residents and businesses that directs funding towards local carbon reduction projects

6. Organisations

Vision - All organisations in Camden will operate responsibly and embed tackling the climate crisis throughout their operations.

Camden-based organisations including offices, shops, schools, universities, hospitals and the Council are major contributors to carbon emissions in the borough. Emissions from their buildings alone contribute to around 65% of direct carbon emissions, and their environmental impact increases further when carbon emissions associated with the goods they buy or use are included.

Camden Council is one of the biggest organisations in the borough. Council buildings such as libraries and offices, its vehicle fleet and 30,000 Council homes contribute approximately 15% of direct carbon emissions in Camden. The Council must therefore lead by example on the climate crisis, showing the way for other organisations and offering them support so that we can collectively reach Camden's zero carbon goal.

Camden will lead the way by switching buildings to green energy, upgrading our vehicles to cleaner alternatives, and reducing the amount of plastics we use. We will also re-think the way we buy goods and services so that the climate impact is minimised.

The Council and other organisations' progress on climate action should also be open to inspection from our community. We will therefore set up a new citizen led panel that will be able to review the climate work of the Council and, subject to their agreement, other major institutions in Camden.

The Climate Action Plan therefore proposes the following actions to show Council leadership and encourage other organisations to play their part:

Immediate action

- Create new governance with citizen participation to monitor and evaluate the Climate Action Plan for Camden. Recruitment for this panel will begin in 2020.
- Amend the Council's Constitution in 2020 to require all Council decisions to protect or improve the natural environment.
- In 2020, through the Camden Climate Change Alliance develop a Zero Carbon pledge of common goals local organisations can sign up to deliver.
- In 2020, commission University College London to review the climate impact of the Council's procurement practices and recommend improvements.
- Create a new Sustainable Procurement Policy and procedure for all Council purchases over £100,000
- Switch the Council's corporate estate and schools to green electricity by the end of 2020, and look at further ways to reduce the emissions associated with our energy supplies through renewable energy.

Programme development

- By 2021, define a low carbon supply chain rating project for local businesses in the Camden Climate Change Alliance to help inform consumer decisions.
- In 2021, extend the citizen governance to scrutinise the climate progress of other major institutions in Camden, subject to their agreement
- Work with other London Councils and local authorities to agree a London-wide lobbying position to Government on the climate and ecological crisis.
- Make 5 Pancras Square plastic free by 2020 and all other sites plastic free by 2021, including all Council events.

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- Make Camden's vehicle fleet 100% low/zero emission by 2022.
- Introduce no-meat days across Council catering contracts from 2020.
- Grow and develop the Camden Climate Change Alliance (CCCA) environmental business network as a platform for engaging and collaborating with businesses in the borough.
- Provide an annual update on the divestment of Camden's pension fund to ensure transparency.
- Undertake an assessment of the Borough's scope 3 carbon emissions and use this to inform further actions and projects to reduce wider consumption based CO2 emissions in Camden

7. What happens next?

This consultation will be open for 6 weeks. During this time, we will also arrange meetings with community groups, Citizens' Assembly members and those unable to use this on-line consultation platform, to gather views and feedback on the proposed Climate Action Plan for Camden.

We will review all feedback in March and develop a final "design and print" version of the Climate Action Plan which responds to the consultation feedback. We will seek informal feedback on this draft from the community.

In the summer of 2020, Camden Council's Cabinet will be asked to approve and adopt the final Climate Action Plan for Camden.

In the meantime, we will continue to deliver projects and programmes to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in Camden.