

Draft Climate Action Plan 2023–2030

Summary



Contents

- Foreword	3
- Introduction	5
- What is the Climate Action Plan	6
- What are the major sources of emissions in Hackney?	8
- Themes, goals and objectives in the Climate Action Plan	9
The five themes in the Climate Action Plan	11
Adaptation	12
Buildings	13
Transport	14
Consumption	15
Environmental quality	16
- What does the Climate Action Plan mean for you?	17
- What could Hackney look like in 2030?	20

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 consultation@hackney.gov.uk

We'll consider your request and get back to you in five working days.

Borough-wide emissions need to reach net zero by 2040 at the latest, ten years earlier than the target set by the UK government.



Foreword

When it comes to tackling the climate crisis, we're one of the most ambitious councils in the country. Since we declared a climate emergency in 2019, we've planted thousands of new trees, installed new zero carbon energy on many of our buildings and transformed more than half of Hackney's streets to make them better for walking and cycling.

A cleaner and greener Hackney has emerged from the pandemic, yet the dangers of catastrophic climate change – where increased drought, flooding and higher sea levels causes risk to lives and habitats in the UK and further afield – are only increasing.

To tackle these dangers, everyone in Hackney must work together to: change what and how we buy and consume; make our buildings more energy efficient; change how we get around; adapt our infrastructure and protect the most vulnerable; and, make sure Hackney's public spaces are greener, cleaner and more biodiverse.

This will be challenging. We will have to overcome significant financial and other barriers, and we must all work hard to make sure that the transition to net zero has fairness at its heart for residents and businesses. However, the benefits of climate action could be significant.

Reducing emissions from transport will help to improve air quality and reduce respiratory illness. Making Hackney's buildings more energy efficient will help to tackle the cost of living crisis, cut bills in the long-term and the risk of ill health. New green skills and jobs could be created from the need for our society to make this transition.

This draft Climate Action Plan aims to unlock these benefits for Hackney. Under five key themes – adaptation, buildings, transport, consumption and environmental quality – it sets out how residents, businesses and institutions, community groups and organisations and the Council could work together to tackle the climate and ecological crisis.

The plan is for everyone – and, through our consultation and the ongoing actions in the plan, we want to make sure that everyone knows how they can influence and benefit from a greener Hackney.

“...we know we can only tackle the climate and ecological crisis through collective action – sharing knowledge, building expertise and working together.”

We also want you to know that we'll continue to lead the way, which is why there's a Council implementation plan as part of the Climate Action Plan – setting out specifically what we will do over the next three years, using our influence to best effect. This will be updated every year so we can track our progress alongside our climate emergency declaration.

We recognise that, even though we only contribute to 5 % of the borough's emissions, we must continue to lead by example. That's why we're rejoining the UK100 network of Councils, committing us to reaching net zero emissions by 2030 across key functions.



*Cllr Mete Coban, Cabinet Member
for Environment and Transport*

From speaking to many Hackney residents – out in the borough and at our climate summit earlier this year – we know we can only tackle the climate and ecological crisis through collective action – sharing knowledge, building expertise and working together. This Climate Action Plan is designed as a guide that everyone can refer to and that we can work together on. We welcome your comments, your scrutiny and, above all, your participation in tackling the climate and ecological crisis.

Join us in rebuilding a greener Hackney.



Philip Glanville, Mayor of Hackney

**“We welcome your
comments, your
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and ecological crisis.”**

Introduction

The climate and ecological crisis is having a significant negative impact in Hackney and across the world, through increased extreme weather events, such as flooding and extreme heat, that put communities, ecosystems, and natural resources at risk. Without drastic reductions in emissions, and adaptation to higher rainfall and warmer temperatures, the impacts of climate change will continue to worsen – affecting our lives and those of future generations.

In response, the Council declared a climate emergency in 2019, supported by an ambitious vision to rebuild a greener Hackney in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

Hackney has made progress in reducing emissions over the last decade. Since 2010, emissions from buildings and road transport in Hackney have fallen by about 27 %. Consumption emissions – from the things we all buy and use – have fallen by about 10–15 % in the UK overall. Nevertheless, without faster action, driven by ambitious policies and targets, we won't be able to protect communities and ecosystems from the effects of climate change.

Since we declared a climate emergency, we have led some of the UK's most innovative work to tackle climate change: ending the dominance of motor vehicle traffic across large parts of Hackney; switching our energy supply to 100 % renewable; and generating more renewable energy on our buildings. While the Council's emissions only account for about 5 % of the borough's emissions, our climate emergency declaration commits us to a 45 % reduction in Council emissions by 2030 and net zero – where we will no longer be a net contributor to climate change – by 2040.

This work is just the beginning. Across the borough, we must now all work together so residents, community groups and



organisations, and businesses and institutions can tackle climate change together, and support each other to reduce emissions and become more resilient to the effects of climate change. This will be challenging but the long-term benefits such as better health and more sustainable jobs will help create a fairer and more inclusive borough. The science is clear: we must act now so we can harness these benefits locally and prevent the worst impacts of climate change.

What is the Climate Action Plan?

The Climate Action Plan (CAP) sets out an integrated approach for tackling the climate and ecological crisis.

It provides a framework for everyone to take action to reduce emissions and adapt to the climate change that is already occurring, driven by an ambitious vision for a greener Hackney in 2030.

This CAP is designed to set us in the right direction, but it will continue to be developed to keep pace with shifts across society, technology and wider policy, including the changing needs of communities, groups and organisations in Hackney.

Purpose and aims

The Climate Action Plan aims to:

- Outline what a greener Hackney could look like by 2030 based on a fair and just transition to net zero
- Build a shared understanding of the problem we face as a borough – and how we can work together to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change
- Help residents, businesses and other organisations to see their place in our shared response to climate change
- Identify areas where local partners can collaborate on key strategic challenges
- Outline initial proposals for monitoring and governance arrangements, as well as steps to support future stakeholder engagement requirements
- Use the final adopted plan to shape agreements on how to work together to achieve shared goals



Throughout this Climate Action Plan, there are four key principles that will guide our approach.

1.

Change is possible

Achieving the ambitions of the Paris Agreement, the international treaty that aims to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, will require collective action at a rapid pace and large scale. The good news is that there is still a path to avoid the worst impacts of the climate emergency and still an opportunity to effectively prepare and adapt to cope with rising temperatures.



2.

Collaboration is key

We can only address the climate emergency by working together to tackle emissions and adapt our borough to the changes already occurring. There are many opportunities to work collectively to reduce emissions and make our neighbourhoods more resilient.



3.

Fairness must be at the heart

We must ensure that those who are most vulnerable and affected by the climate emergency get the support they need. Although there are many benefits to taking action on the climate emergency, the risks are not distributed equally. To be effective, climate actions must be designed with attention to who might be most negatively affected, and how.



4.

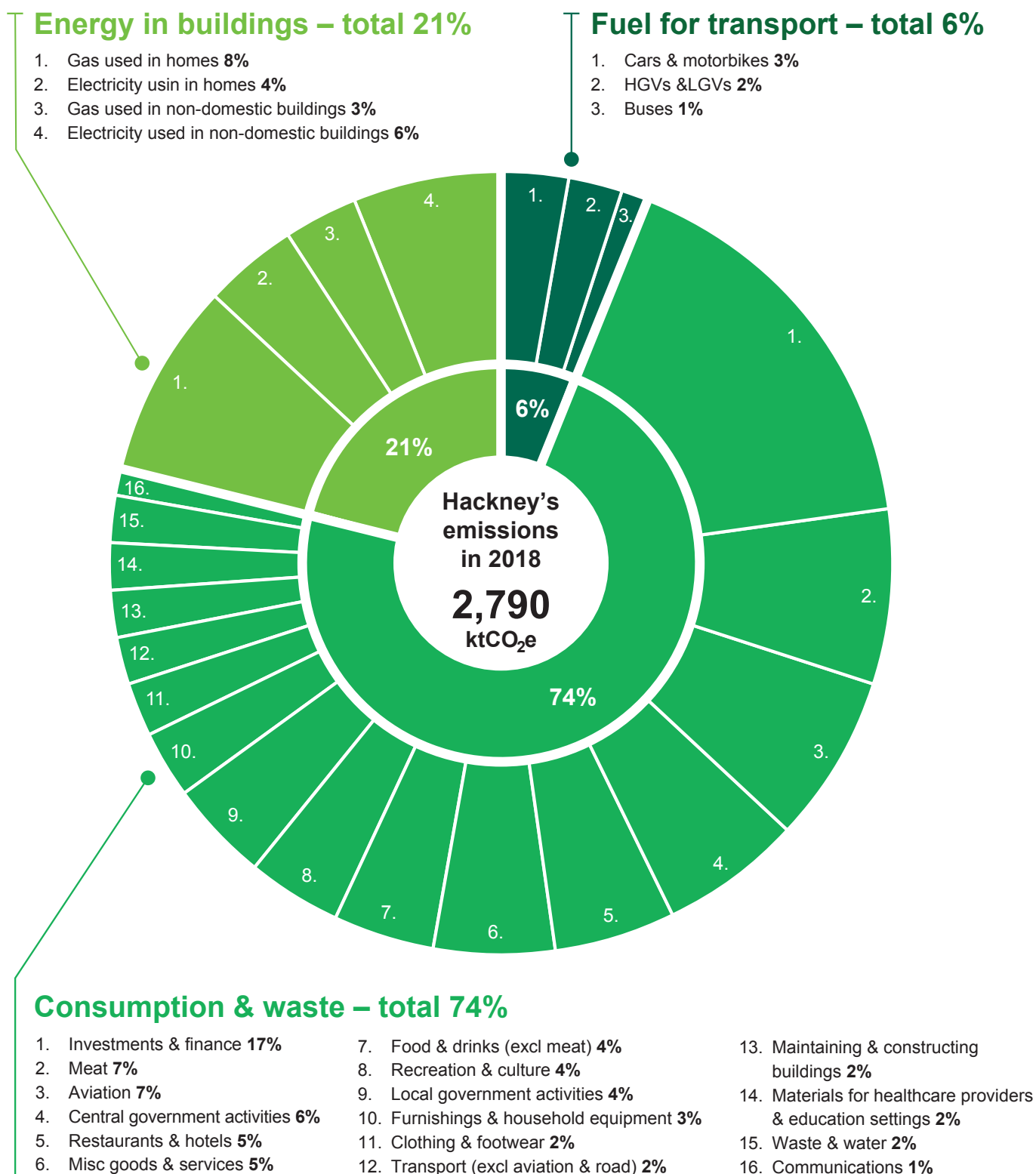
Climate leadership

There will be a need for leadership throughout our communities, from: businesses; big institutions such as our hospitals; the voluntary and community sector; and, residents themselves. Notwithstanding this, the Council can provide the civic leadership for the collective effort needed to tackle the climate emergency in the borough, helping to bring together different organisations and communities.



What are the major sources of emissions in Hackney?

The chart below shows the main sources of emissions in Hackney, and how they are broken down by sector. Nearly three-quarters of emissions are from consumption emissions – the things we buy, use and sell.



Themes, goals and objectives of the Climate Action Plan

The Climate Action Plan is broken down into themes, goals and objectives.

Themes

The Climate Action Plan sets out the ambitious, science-based changes that we can work towards achieving by 2030. All of these changes are organised into five themes, which are described on page 11:

- **Adaptation**
- **Buildings**
- **Transport**
- **Consumption**
- **Environmental quality**

Within each theme, we have identified a set of ambitious 2030 goals.

The themes define the broad areas of focus within the CAP, reflecting the need to reduce emissions, protect the natural environment and build resilience to climate change alongside wider benefits to responding to climate change, such as the potential to improve public health. At every stage, we also consider the impact on developing a local green economy and how we can ensure the response to climate change is fair and socially just.

Goals

Across the five themes in this document, there are 21 goals which set out the ambitious changes that we collectively need to make by 2030. This will require significant changes in all of our behaviour, infrastructure, business models, and co-operation.

These goals are: ambitious; borough-wide; and, aligned with the Paris Agreement. Reaching these goals at a local level doesn't rely on action by a single organisation, they are for everyone: residents, community groups and organisations, businesses and institutions.

Currently, not all the necessary infrastructure, finance and regulation is in place to enable these changes. The UK will only meet its emissions reduction targets if central government, regional bodies and local authorities, amongst others, work together to resolve some of these key barriers.

Objectives

Each goal has a number of key objectives. Objectives are the activities that we will need to work on together to progress towards realising the 2030 goals. They are made up of objectives for all Hackney stakeholders, as well as some specific Hackney Council objectives. Together, it is intended that the themes, goals and objectives provide a framework that shapes future action planning and decision making for all Hackney stakeholders. These can be viewed on pages 12 to 16.

The five themes in the Climate Action Plan

1.

Adaptation

Ensuring that we are prepared for and resilient to the impacts of the climate emergency, protecting our most vulnerable residents.



2.

Buildings

Removing gas boilers, adding solar panels and decreasing energy use in our buildings, reducing fuel poverty.



3.

Transport

Reducing emissions from the transport network, improving air quality and helping residents live active and healthy lifestyles.



4.

Consumption

Changing what and how we buy, use and sell, creating a new green economy in Hackney.



5.

Environmental quality

Maximising the potential for biodiversity in our green spaces, reducing pollution and helping local ecosystems thrive.



1. Adaptation

2030 borough-wide goals	Objectives
<p>Overheating: Communities, businesses and public sector organisations are protected from overheating, reducing the risk of extreme heat impacts on vulnerable groups and critical infrastructure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start to reduce temperatures in existing buildings, streets and public spaces • Ensure new buildings do not overheat • Build understanding and raise awareness of the possible risks and impacts of overheating in Hackney
<p>Flooding: Flood risk is reduced in all critical drainage areas and existing sewage system capacity is better managed to respond to extreme weather events.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce flood risk and expand the sustainable urban drainage network • Ensure new buildings are flood resilient • Connect Hackney to cross-borough flood defence schemes
<p>Conservation & resilient planting: Planting in Hackney is resilient to droughts and changing weather conditions, pests and invasive species are spotted and managed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant climate-resilient species where appropriate • Tackle ecosystem pests and invasive species
<p>Community preparedness: Businesses, public sector organisations and communities have advance warning of climate shocks and know how to prepare and support each other.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build local capacity to respond to environmental changes • Partner and collaborate with climate resilience groups • Connect Hackney to early warning systems for climate shocks
<p>Green economy: A Green New Deal has doubled the size of the local green economy and created a net zero, living wage-led economy of low carbon businesses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of Hackney businesses and jobs that contribute to the Green Economy, including through regeneration delivery programmes and procurement • Create green apprenticeships and training pathways, with a focus on disadvantaged groups • Ensure Hackney residents have the skills for and access to training and job opportunities linked to the Green Economy • Support Hackney businesses and partners to decarbonise • Attract new green businesses into the borough • Reskill, retrain and/or recruit staff to meet the needs of the climate emergency



2. Buildings

2030 borough-wide goals	Objectives
<p>Retrofit: Existing buildings (public and private) have been retrofitted to average EPC B to minimise energy consumption and reduce fuel poverty.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase retrofits and energy monitoring in private buildings • Encourage retrofits in conservation areas and heritage buildings where appropriate • Continue to retrofit and install batteries in Council-owned and managed buildings
<p>Gas phase-out: 63 % of buildings (public and private) use low carbon heat sources such as district heat networks, heat pumps and electric heating.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver additional infrastructure that supports low carbon heating, including District Heat Networks • Continue to swap gas boilers for heat pumps and other low carbon heat sources in Council-owned buildings and infrastructure
<p>Embodied & operational carbon of new builds: Buildings are maintained and refurbished to prolong their lifespans where appropriate. Where new buildings are needed, they are ultra-energy efficient and do not use fossil fuels, and they are made from low carbon and reused materials.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise maintenance, thermal upgrades and adaptive reuse instead of building demolition • Accelerate the reuse of construction materials and reductions in construction waste • Meet ambitious operational and embodied carbon planning requirements
<p>Renewable power: 80 MWp of solar panels and battery storage have been installed on the roofs of all possible buildings (public and private).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the deployment of solar panels across private buildings • Increase the number of community and cooperative solar panel projects • Deploy solar panels across Council buildings and explore further opportunities for renewables
<p>Green economy: A Green New Deal has doubled the size of the local green economy and created a net zero, living wage-led economy of low carbon businesses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of Hackney businesses and jobs that contribute to the Green Economy, including through regeneration delivery programmes and procurement • Create green apprenticeships and training pathways, with a focus on disadvantaged groups • Ensure Hackney residents have the skills for and access to training and job opportunities linked to the Green Economy • Support Hackney businesses and partners to decarbonise • Attract new green businesses into the borough • Reskill, retrain and/or recruit staff to meet the needs of the climate emergency



3. Transport

2030 borough-wide goals	Objectives
Walking and cycling: At least 59 % of journeys that start in Hackney are on foot or by bike, compared to 53 % in 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase rates of walking and cycling • Expand cycling infrastructure
Clean fuels: Most petrol and diesel vehicles have been phased out: 64 % of cars and 68 % of vans on the road are battery-powered.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the EV charging network • Reduce the Council's transport greenhouse gas emissions
Car and motorbike traffic: Only 5 % of trips that start in Hackney are by private car or motorbike, compared to 13 % in 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerate car sharing and other types of shared mobility • Improve the accessibility of public transport • Explore the introduction of Road User Charging
Freight & delivery traffic: Freight traffic is 10 % lower than in 2019, with more alternative delivery models on the road – such as cargo bikes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce freight traffic • Accelerate the use of alternative delivery systems
Green & resilient streets: Roads and spaces currently used for parking have been reduced to support the promotion of walking, cycling and climate resilience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convert roadscape to public realm, SuDs and other uses • Expand the network of school and play streets • Plan for further future changes
Green economy: A Green New Deal has doubled the size of the local green economy and created a net zero, living wage-led economy of low carbon businesses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of Hackney businesses and jobs that contribute to the Green Economy, including through regeneration delivery programmes and procurement • Create green apprenticeships and training pathways, with a focus on disadvantaged groups • Ensure Hackney residents have the skills for and access to training and job opportunities linked to the Green Economy • Support Hackney businesses and partners to decarbonise • Attract new green businesses into the borough • Reskill, retrain and/or recruit staff to meet the needs of the climate emergency



4. Consumption

2030 borough-wide goals	Objectives
<p>Consumption emissions: Residents, businesses and partners make low carbon procurement choices contributing to a 2/3 reduction in average total national consumption emissions, with more products being repaired and reused to extend their useful life.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and raise awareness of procurement strategies to reduce borough-wide consumption emissions • Increase repair and reuse of goods (electronics, clothing, furniture and more) • Embed actions to reduce the Council's consumption emissions into internal procurement and management processes
<p>Waste: Residents and businesses have actively reduced annual residual waste generation and there is increased participation in recycling and composting programmes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce household waste arisings and improve recycling rates • Reduce business waste arisings and improve recycling rates • Maximise rates of food composting
<p>Food: Healthy, plant-based diets are widespread, with reduced rates of food poverty. Avoidable food waste is 50 % less than in 2020.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce food poverty and enable access to healthy and sustainable diets for all • Encourage healthy and sustainable food being supplied in Hackney businesses • Procure sustainable and healthy foods for the Council's spaces
<p>Investments & finance: Half of residents', partners' and businesses' pensions and investments in Hackney are fossil-free, and local wealth is distributed to local, sustainable and cooperatively-run projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of the environmental impact of finances • Increase opportunities for funding local projects • Continue to divest Council investment funds and pensions



5. Environmental quality

2030 borough-wide goals	Objectives
<p>Air quality: The association between inner-London living and poor air quality has been broken, with Hackney meeting World Health Organisation Air Quality targets.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce air pollution from development and construction • Reduce solid fuel burning and raise awareness of its contribution to air pollution • Improve awareness of the impact of air pollution on public health
<p>Biodiversity: Ecosystems are enhanced in all the areas identified in the Hackney Local Nature Recovery Plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the biodiversity of green spaces • Increase connectivity between green spaces and create new ecosystems and green corridors • Support community groups to manage land in a way that benefits people and nature, and that draws on their knowledge and expertise • Improve awareness of biodiversity considerations in relevant decision making processes
<p>Water: Water bodies in Hackney are clean, healthy and protected from overdevelopment. Average water demand is reduced to 135 l/ person/day, including reducing water lost through leaks by 22 % compared to 2020.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect water bodies from overdevelopment • Support Thames Water campaigns to reduce water consumption and lobby to reduce leakage • Improve water body health
<p>Green economy: A Green New Deal has doubled the size of the local green economy and created a net zero, living wage-led economy of low carbon businesses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of Hackney businesses and jobs that contribute to the Green Economy, including through regeneration delivery programmes and procurement • Create green apprenticeships and training pathways, with a focus on disadvantaged groups • Ensure Hackney residents have the skills for and access to training and job opportunities linked to the Green Economy • Support Hackney businesses and partners to decarbonise • Attract new green businesses into the borough • Reskill, retrain and/or recruit staff to meet the needs of the climate emergency



What does the Climate Action Plan mean for you?

Achieving our goals will require change to how we all live, work and travel in Hackney. This will not be possible without collective action. Some suggested next steps are outlined below.

Residents

What can you learn in this document?	What might your next steps be?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An overview of where emissions in Hackney come from, and why we need to make changes• What Hackney will look and feel like to live in by 2030• Some of the changes you might need to explore to your home, transport routes and the products and services you use to reduce emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Talk to your friends, neighbours, families, and community groups about whether they are aware of what they can do about the climate emergency, and work with them to take action• Work out who is responsible for removing gas boilers and reducing energy consumption in your home, and discuss how and when you might start doing this• If your employer is based in Hackney, ask what their plans are for decarbonising• Implement small changes into your day to day life• Read through the 2030 goals: are there any you can commit to? Let the Council know!



Community groups and organisations

What can you learn in this document?	What might your next steps be?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An overview of where emissions in Hackney come from, and why we need to make changes• What Hackney will look and feel like to live and work in by 2030• Some of the changes to your buildings, vehicles, and activities you might need to explore to reduce emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work out where you are using fossil fuels in your activities, and who you need to work with to swap them for alternatives• Talk to your members about whether they are aware of what they can do about the climate emergency, and work with them to take action• Create local projects that contribute to the themes in this document, reducing emissions, conserving biodiversity or spreading awareness• Read through the 2030 goals: are there any you can commit to? Let the Council know!

Businesses and institutions

What can you learn in this document?	What might your next steps be?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An overview of where emissions in Hackney come from, and why we need to make changes• What Hackney will look and feel like to operate in by 2030• Some of the changes to your buildings, vehicles, and services you might need to explore to reduce emissions and contribute to tackling the climate emergency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work out where you are using fossil fuels in your operations, and how to swap them for green alternatives and develop your own plans to get to net zero• Better understand your vulnerabilities to extreme weather to become more prepared• Talk to your employees about whether they are aware of what they can do about the climate emergency, and work with them to take action• Consider whether you can offer green services, such as installing heat pumps, repairing goods or selling greener devices• Read through the 2030 goals: are there any you can commit to? Let the Council know!

Council staff

What can you learn in this document?	What might your next steps be?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of where emissions in Hackney come from, and why we need to make changes • How the Council's activities can unlock wider changes in Hackney, and enable other groups in Hackney to decarbonise • Learn from those we live and work alongside and capture best practices to inform future decisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure this plan is used to guide the decisions and actions across Hackney Council • Deliver alongside others the 3-year Implementation Plan • Provide the civic leadership for the collective effort needed to tackle the climate emergency in the borough helping to bring together different organisations and communities • Run projects and programmes to reduce emissions across the borough • Decarbonise buildings, vehicles, procurement, investment and activities • Lobby the UK government and regulatory bodies for systemic change and reducing barriers to change



What could Hackney look like in 2030?

Heating, flooding and other climate risks

- Buildings are protected from overheating
- We work together as a community to keep everyone safe from heat and flooding
- Streets are cool and shaded
- Flood risk is reduced throughout the borough

Clean and green transport

- We all mostly cycle, wheel, walk, and use public transport
- Most vehicles are powered using electricity
- More parking spaces changed to lower carbon uses
- There is less traffic and noise throughout the borough

Warm, low-carbon buildings

- All buildings are comfortable and safe
- Buildings are maintained and repaired regularly, with demolition only used in exceptional situations
- Most buildings are free from fossil fuels and have solar panels
- Construction workers trained to deliver low carbon buildings
- Energy use and fuel poverty are reduced

A green, community-led economy

- Goods are repaired and reused and we only buy what we need
- Healthy, plant-based diets are widespread
- Pensions and investments are fossil-free
- The Hackney green economy doubles in size
- There are more local, sustainable and cooperatively run projects

Wildlife and pollution

- Air is clean and safe to breathe
- We all only use the water we need
- Plants and animals are thriving
- Ponds, rivers and reservoirs are clean and healthy

