

Annual update on progress with decarbonisation commitments

July 2023



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Contents

Summary – Page 2

Headline progress since the July 2022 annual update – Page 6

Council external awards and shortlisting achievements – Page 20

Securing external funding and support for the Council's climate response – Page 22

Review of outline annual Environmental Sustainability Board work plan July 2022 – Page 26

Summary

This report provides an update of the Council's key practical and strategic actions over the last 12 months to support its climate response. The list is not exhaustive but draws attention to some of the key outcomes. They are arranged in accordance with the five priorities established in the first 2020 annual update, noting that this approach will be replaced by a new format annual report from July 2024 onwards.

In addition, a number of key plans and strategies have been adopted over the last 12 months and set the framework for the Council's holistic climate response. There are also a number of further pieces of strategy and planning work at different stages of completion, some of which will shortly be finalised. The first section below captures all this, followed by a summary of key Council activities by priority.

Summary tables of funding secured and awards are then set out, followed by a review of progress in respect of the July 2022 outline work plan of the Council's Environmental Sustainability Board.

Progress on developing plans, strategies in respect of the Council's climate response and other assessment work

Climate Action Plan 2023–2030

The [Hackney Climate Action Plan 2023-2030](#) (CAP), was formally adopted at Cabinet in May 2023. It is the first holistic borough-wide plan to address the climate and ecological crisis, bringing together the various strands into one overall document. This is underpinned by the Council's Implementation Plan which sets out the key actions for the Council for the next three years to deliver the goals and objectives of the CAP and forms part of the Full Council report as Appendix 1.

Green Infrastructure Strategy 2023–2030

The [Green Infrastructure Strategy 2023-2030](#) was formally adopted at Cabinet in May 2023. Green infrastructure is integral and essential to the Borough's resilience, meeting its future challenges and the delivery of its wider strategies, both at a community and individual level. London Plan policy on Green Infrastructure recommends that boroughs should prepare green infrastructure strategies. The term green infrastructure describes the network of parks and green spaces, trees and woodlands, rivers and wetlands, and new green features in the urban environment such as green roofs and walls. This network can be planned, designed and managed to provide a wide range

of environmental, social and economic benefits that support more sustainable, liveable and resilient neighbourhoods.

Local Nature Recovery Plan 2023–2030

Alongside the widely publicised climate crisis there is also an increasingly severe ecological crisis. Conserving wildlife in urban areas is challenging because there are multiple competing land-uses in urban areas, exacerbated by high population density and intense recreational demand on existing parks and green spaces. Providing space for nature also has benefits for people too, not least for improving public health and mitigating the impacts of climate change. The [Hackney Local Nature Recovery Plan 2023-2030](#) was formally adopted at Cabinet in May 2023 and identifies a number of nature recovery areas alongside practical actions for their improvement.

Parking and Enforcement Plan (PEP) 2022–2027

The [Parking and Enforcement Plan \(PEP\) 2022-27](#) was formally adopted at Cabinet in October 2022. Key elements of the PEP seek to implement measures to reduce the impact of highly polluting vehicles, encouraging cleaner alternatives. There is an emphasis on reducing poor air quality and CO₂, as well as fulfilling duties set out in the Department for Transport's (DfT's) guidance to local authorities on parking, and Hackney Council's traffic management duties under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Transport Strategy 2025–2030

Preparatory work for the 2025–2030 Transport Strategy continues with the intention to have an updated strategy document for adoption by the end of 2024/25. To support this the Council has:

- Updated the through traffic study;
- Reviewed the need for further data analysis; and
- Further developed the Main Roads Programme, the scope of which was detailed in the Local Implementation Plan (LIP), agreed by Cabinet in January 2023¹.

¹ [Low traffic Hackney plans approved by Cabinet](#) and [Low traffic Hackney at heart of vision for greener, healthier borough](#)

Housing Strategy 2024–2029

In 2024 a new five year Housing Strategy will be published including a more explicit recognition of net zero ambitions of the Council for its own housing stock and development activities, as well as housing outside its direct control. The new strategy will take into account all new relevant regulations, policies and legislation and focus on work cross-departmentally and with external stakeholders to achieve the identified goals throughout the 5 year period and beyond. As a precursor to the strategy, the Council developed a [Housing Strategy Position Paper 2023](#) that was approved at the December 2022 Cabinet meeting. Since then two studies have been commissioned: a Strategic Housing Market Assessment and Housing Needs Survey so as to provide the key evidence base. The draft of the strategy is scheduled to be an item for decision at the December 2023 Cabinet meeting. A formal public consultation period is scheduled to begin in early 2024.

Sustainable Procurement and Insourcing Strategy

A draft of the new Sustainable Procurement and Insourcing Strategy (SPIS) has been prepared. The new strategy is not intended to be time bound due to the uncertainty of national and international political and environmental landscapes. It will provide procurement staff, colleagues and partners a framework of strategic priorities, commitments and targets. The Strategy aligns with the requirements of the National Procurement Policy Statement (NPPS), whilst ensuring systems, capability and capacity of procurement teams to support the borough's Climate Action Plan are addressed. The Council is in the final stage of stakeholder consultations and working towards submitting the new Strategy for Cabinet endorsement later this year.

Net Zero Scrutiny Review

A Net Zero Review (NZR) overseen by the Scrutiny Panel commenced in October 2021. The report and recommendations from this review are available [here](#). A full response from the Council to the recommendations is scheduled to go to Cabinet in September 2023. The NZR was set up to look at what may be needed to meet both national and local net zero targets, and to ask how the Council could better meet its ambitions in a manner that is affordable, efficient and fair. The Scrutiny Panel and thematic Scrutiny Commissions, engaged with a wide range of organisations, businesses, industries and communities on a number of issues and policy areas from decarbonising buildings, transport and waste, to supporting the delivery of clean energy projects, managing a transition to a low carbon, circular economy and enabling green growth.

Economic Development Plan

External consultancy support for preparation of an Economic Development Plan is to be commissioned shortly with a scheduled time frame for Cabinet approval of the EDP in Spring 2023. The EDP will set out the economic opportunities and challenges for the borough and where the Council can realistically have an impact through its economic development levers. Primarily this will include how to better leverage purchasing power, capital assets, regulatory functions, service delivery, status as a large employer, convening power and the ability to assemble funding. All with a focus on supporting residents and local businesses to benefit from these opportunities.

Headline progress since the July 2022 annual update

Priority 1: Reduce the borough's carbon emissions – including the target of net zero carbon emissions by 2040 for the Council's own functions and 2030 target for the Council's non-tenanted buildings and fleet vehicles

- In May 2023, the Council signed up to the UK100 climate membership network, a network of local leaders who have pledged to lead a rapid transition to net zero ahead of the government's legal target of 2050. The pledge will see the Council commit to decarbonising its non-tenanted buildings and its transport fleet by 2030, and it will continue to review this commitment to expand its scope over time².
- Phase 2 of the [Green Homes Programme](#) was completed this year and phase 3 is open for applications with an additional £200,000 funding approved³ to improve the energy efficiency of private homes.
- The Corporate Solar Programme (tier 1) focuses on generating solar energy from Council-owned buildings. The Council has completed five solar panel installations in: Kingshold Community Hall (40kWp), Haggerston Depot (33kWp), Lee View Community Hall (19kWp), Wren Park Community Hall (33kWp), and Hackney Marshes Centre⁴ (79kWp). It has been working to install up to 1MW of solar energy by March 2024 in the Concorde Community Centre, Queensbridge Leisure Centre, Wrens Park Community Centre, Webb Estate Community Hall, Rose Lipman Building and Gascoyne Community Centre.
- The Council has also completed a business case with a specialist energy consultancy to develop plans to install solar PV on residential housing estates and aims to deliver a further 1MWp pilot project in 2024.

² [Hackney brings forward net zero target to 2030](#)

³ [Apply now for insulation and heating grants](#)

⁴ [Marshes Centre now powered by solar](#)

- In November 2022, working with local energy groups, the Council launched Hackney Light and Power's Community Energy Fund. The fund aims to support community-led, innovative energy projects benefiting Hackney – particularly schools, students and communities. The first round was awarded in April 2023 and The Hackney Empire, Mildmay Club and Parkwood Primary School received capital funding for solar panels. A church, a gurdwara, a wellness charity and seven schools also received funding to develop carbon-saving projects. Throughout the duration of the projects, the community energy groups will work with people who use the buildings to encourage carbon-saving behaviour. The round one projects are due for completion in 2023. Hackney is working with local energy groups to develop the fund and design round 2, aimed to be launched in 2023. The goal is to establish the fund as an annual grant programme⁵.
- Using a specialist software package (Portfolio), the Council has started to develop a more detailed understanding of the energy efficiency of its social housing stock including testing the modelled carbon impacts associated with different retrofitting options etc.
- A number of strategic District Heat Network opportunities have been identified:
 - Green Heat Network Fund for Colville – the project is transitioning to a commercial stage and the business plan is to be submitted for approval;
 - Shoreditch – a detailed delivery plan is under preparation; and
 - Woodberry Down, Stamford Hill, Stoke Newington and /or other areas in Hackney have seen works carried out to connect to the Energetik energy recovery facility in Edmonton. This project is funded by Greater London Authority [North London District Energy Network](#), with the study due to report in July 23.
- The Council has progressed works on ground heat pump projects:
 - Abney Park Cemetery's ground source heat pump has now been installed, with the building due to open by the end of 2023. This was part of a £5m project funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, The National Lottery Community Fund and Hackney Council⁶; and

⁵ [Council funds carbon-saving projects at 14 Hackney landmarks](#)

⁶ [Installation of heat pump marks latest phase of Abney Park restoration project and step towards delivering Hackney's Climate Action Plan](#)

- Installation of water source heat pumps at the West Reservoir Centre was completed in May 2023. This project was made possible with £263,000 secured from the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) through an earlier Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund round.
- The Council has appointed a supplier to deliver both slow and fast Electric Vehicles (EV) charger types as part of the borough-wide network delivery. The rapid charger supplier appointment is expected to be concluded shortly. The target date for expansion of the EV network to 3,000 residential charge points has been brought forward from 2030 to 2026. The EV network map with the initial proposed new locations (2,650) is currently being reviewed internally and is due to be made public for resident feedback in July 2023. The Council is on target to deliver the first set of new EV chargers by the end of the year⁷.
- The Council has upgraded 11,107 street lights to LED. Approximately 100 units are outstanding due to their decorative nature, with completion scheduled by March 2024, ensuring the full LED upgrade for all street lights in Hackney⁸.
- The Council's fleet currently operates 84 electric vehicles, which account for approximately 15.8% of the total fleet. Apart from the Housing fleet almost all other (non electric) vehicles in the fleet are running on renewable biofuel known as Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO). The use of HVO biofuel helps in reducing carbon emissions. In the year 2022/23, the adoption of HVO biofuel has resulted in a total carbon emissions savings of 2,599 tonnes.
- The Council agreed contracts for the rollout of 2,500 fast and slow chargers and are in the process of agreeing a contract to also deliver rapid chargers. The network of charge points has been mapped and all planned locations for charge points will undergo a public consultation during which residents can share their views. All of the charging points will use 100% renewable energy, with a discounted rate available for Hackney residents through Hackney Light and Power, the Council's energy services arm⁹.

⁷ [Hackney helping lead the electric vehicle charge](#)

⁸ [All street lights to be LED by next year](#)

⁹ [Hackney to become national leader in electric vehicle charging](#)

- In November 2022, Transport for London (TfL) made the decision to proceed with the expansion of the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) starting in August 2023. Alongside this expansion, a £110 million scrappage scheme was introduced. However, there has been opposition to the ULEZ expansion, as evidenced by the plans of five councils (Bexley, Bromley, Harrow, Hillingdon, and Surrey) to challenge the legality of the ULEZ expansion process through a judicial review scheduled for July 2023, which may slow implementation.

Priority 2: Improve local resilience to impacts of climate emergency

- The Council has successfully completed the planting of 5,000 new street trees.
- Nine Sustainable Drainage Schemes (SuDS) schemes have been implemented to July 2023 (Chapman Road, Eastway EAST and WEST, Haggerston Road, Duncan Road, Well Street, Bushberry Road, Penn Street and Flanders Way). More than 650m² of highway has been depaved, benefiting the public realm, improving biodiversity and amenity value, as well as reducing flood risk and improving water quality.
- Public consultation on the plans to deliver improvements to increase the accessibility of West Reservoir, including creating access to new green space as well as upgrading some elements of the West Reservoir Centre facilities was undertaken between April and May 2023. The results of the consultation are currently being analysed.
- The Mayor of London's Climate Resilient Schools programme has concluded, and the Council had the highest representation with 16 schools participating out of 95 schools on the programme. As part of the initiative, 12 schools in Hackney received visits from Smarter Business, an organisation focused on improving sustainability practices. Additionally, 12 schools implemented SuDS Rain Planters, which help manage rainwater runoff, and four schools were equipped with Weather Stations to monitor weather conditions. A total of 12 schools developed Climate Adaptation Plans to address the challenges posed by climate change.
- Successfully delivered the Grow Back Greener Fund¹⁰, a project linking two parts of a local park with new greenery and a playful stepping stone trail. The project on Ufton Road was funded by the

¹⁰ [New project to link Ufton Gardens shows future ambitions](#)

Council and the Mayor of London's [Grow Back Greener Fund](#)¹¹, enabling 55m² of road space to be converted into a brand new rain garden complete with 201 new plants, three new street trees and a bug hotel.

- New parklets have been installed on Wilton Way (three) and Stoke Newington (nine), repurposing car parking spaces into green sitting areas and providing additional space for local cafes and restaurants¹².

Priority 3: Promote active travel and public transport

- The Council has 49 [School Streets](#) across the borough, 47 of which are permanent and 2 are experimental. Hackney has the largest School Street programme in the country – with 86% of the borough's state primary schools and 15% of secondary schools being covered by a School Street.
- The [Zero Emissions Network](#) (ZEN) continues to support businesses in the transition to low-carbon transport and promotes a shift to active, shared, collective and electric mobility, particularly in areas of the borough where traffic filters have been or are being introduced. ZEN does this through understanding business delivery and servicing requirements, providing cargo bike trials, discounts for zero emission delivery companies and offers from other ZEN partners, supporting and promoting local Hackney businesses. Residents also benefit from the ZEN measures available.
- The Council is in the process of converting the three hangar based cargo bike hire stations at Calvert Street (currently underway June 2023), Pitfield Street (including complete relocation to Leonard Street) and Fleetwood Street to open air hubs, to improve operational efficiency for users.
- The Council is actively expanding the cycle hire bay network to provide more convenient options for residents. An ideal parking density of 400 cycle hire bays has been identified, ensuring that a bay is available within 100 metres of all residents. In Spring 2023, a consultation was conducted for an additional 60 bays, which are now being

¹¹ [New project to link Ufton Gardens shows future ambitions](#)

¹² [Wilton Way parklets get thumbs up](#) and [Six new parklets now open in Stoke Newington](#)

implemented. The Council is engaging with [Lime](#) to improve parking compliance and with London Councils to develop a London-Wide Contract.

- The second entrance to Hackney Central station on Graham Road opened in July 2021, and has now recorded 3,200 weekly trips – up from 2,500 in early November 2022.
- In June 2023, the Council with the City of London Corporation hosted the annual [London Walking and Cycling Conference](#). The primary objective of the conference was to look at the ways in which to better support, encourage and develop walking and cycling as the primary modes of transportation for individuals.
- Bike Around the Borough, a cycling event aimed at promoting cycling among Hackney's school children, made a comeback after the pandemic. Twelve schools participated in the event, which took place on 14 July 2022. The event received support from London Marathon Events and the London Cycling Campaign¹³.
- The Council is set to undergo a major expansion of secure on-street cycle parking with the installation of 675 new bike hangars by 2026¹⁴. To date 47 hangars were installed in 2022/23 – this equates to 282 spaces.
- The Council is continuing the programme of introducing [Low Traffic Neighbourhoods](#) (LTNs) with a target of 75% of all eligible roads low traffic by 2026. Engagement with local residents is underway in 2023 and depending on feedback new LTNs could be introduced in 2024 and 2025¹⁵.

Priority 4: Reduce waste and promote the circular economy

- The unaudited recycling rate for 2022/23 is 26.2%, with a street level household recycling rate of 41.9% and an estate household recycling rate of 18.5%. Recycling rates are typically seeing a fall as the impact of behaviour change takes effect. People are ensuring food waste is

¹³ [Bike Around the Borough returns](#)

¹⁴ [Number of cycle hangars set to double in next four year](#)

¹⁵ [Walking and cycling up after Stoke Newington LTN, Safer walking and cycling after traffic enforcement boost, Main road traffic in Hackney 6% lower than last year](#)

reduced, reusing and refilling instead of purchasing items in glass or plastic bottles and jars, and possibly consuming less in general due to the cost of living crisis. Further, manufacturers are changing packaging types and lightweighting materials, which target the materials that are typically recycled, rather than those that end up in the general waste. With hotter and drier summers, garden waste tonnages are also less.

- Phase 4 of the Estate Recycling Programme, whereby waste chutes are closed and dedicated bin stores installed, has seen recycling rates increase to 28.7% from 9.6%. The Council has also reduced the 3rd weekly waste collection on three of the Phase 4 estates and this has contributed to the improving recycling rate. Further estate based interventions included installing 354 new design recycling bins on selected estates, assisting with an increase in recycling rates for estate based properties.
- The Council is leading the food consumption emissions theme of the pan-London One World Living (OWL) Programme (an element of the [London Councils Climate Programme](#)), which has so far delivered:
 - A [circular food procurement working group](#) – currently 21 boroughs and one waste authority have joined to introduce climate friendly menus for all catering services provided by councils, such as schools and care services, as well as to reduce food waste;
 - A [London Food Purchasing Commitment](#) – which was launched in March 2023 for all London boroughs to sign up. Hounslow and Hackney are the first boroughs signing up to it, which commits the Council to reduce meat consumption, reduce food waste and improve food provenance with targets for each to be achieved by 2030; and
 - A pan London (26 boroughs) Food Waste and Sustainable Diet crowdfunding campaign, launched in April 2023 – delivering the [EatLikeaLondoner.com](#) campaign.
- [#ZeroWasteHackney. Go Beyond Recycling](#) is the Council's award-winning circular economy campaign empowering residents to reduce waste, reimagine resources, and save money. The campaign is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of all Hackney residents, especially those who are vulnerable or on a low income. Through the support of residents and local partners, more than 2,000,000 household items have been kept in the local circular economy, engaging with over 5,000 residents face-to-face.

- From July 2022 to the end of June 2023, the Library of Things based in Dalston Library performed 2,080 borrows, saving residents circa £59,000, diverting 14.5 tonnes of waste from direct disposal and avoiding 25.4 tonnes of carbon emissions. It also brought almost 5,000 extra visits to the library.
- The Council participated in the annual campaign to promote the national [Refill app](#) to reduce single-use plastics via signposting residents to businesses where they accept reusable containers and refill water stations.
- In September 2022, the Council launched a month-long challenge to encourage residents to reduce their non-recyclable waste. Participants were motivated by the opportunity to win Library of Things credit prizes. Throughout the challenge, the Council provided weekly email communications with waste forms and zero waste ideas. Out of the 72 people who signed up, 19 actively participated, and 8 successfully completed the challenge. The average weekly non-recyclable waste per person decreased from 0.8 bags to 0.6 bags, while the average weekly recyclable waste decreased from 1.7 bags to 0.6 bags. Overall, challengers produced 50.3% less waste (mixed recycling and general waste) during the challenge, highlighting the significant impact of individual efforts in waste reduction.
- The Council actively promoted [Hackney shops](#) that offer refills and food without packaging. To raise awareness and provide easy access to these eco-friendly options, the [Hackney Zero Waste map](#) was created. This comprehensive map showcases local shops where residents can bring their own containers for refilling household cleaning products and purchase food without packaging. The impact of this initiative has been significant, with the map generating 22,812 views.
- The Council has delivered:
 - Four [Zero Waste Hubs](#): the Hubs deliver reuse and repair pop-ups where residents can donate items they don't need, take things they do, and repair their electrical items, textiles and bicycles for free. In 2022/23 approximately 850 residents attended the events with 200 items including bikes, electricals and clothes repaired (or advice on repair was provided). Nearly 5.5 tonnes of waste was diverted from direct disposal and 15 tonnes of CO2 equivalent avoided;
 - Four [clothes swaps and repair sessions](#): 555 attendees in 2022/23, with nearly 3,000 pieces of clothing exchanged, and swaps therefore contributing to extending the lifespan of

garments and reducing waste in the fashion industry. Additionally there was an estimate savings of £40,000;

- The Toy Reuse Scheme, whereby circa 1,500 toys (1.2 tonnes) have been distributed reaching vulnerable families, including families affected by domestic violence and poverty, refugees, children in hospitals, and children affected by brain injuries; and
- Ten plastic-free workshops and sessions helping residents reduce single-use plastic by showing them how to make their own low-cost and plastic-free products e.g. reusable sanitary products and wipes, cleaning and toiletries products, as well as providing information about sustainable alternatives to single use items (plastic and non-plastic).
- The Council promotes furniture reuse to facilitate a transition to a circular economy and encourages residents to use a variety of services, including apps like [Ferris](#) and [TipTapp](#), which enable individuals to give and receive reusable items for free. Also encouraged is the use of platforms such as [Freecycle](#), [Freegle](#) and [LoveJunk](#), where people can give away unwanted items and find preloved furniture and appliances. Residents are signposted to the [British Heart Foundation](#) for free collection service for donating unwanted furniture and household items and to [OLIO](#) which allows for the sharing of household items among neighbours.
- 200 tonnes of nappy waste have been avoided between 1 July 2022 and 11 July 2023 working with [Real Nappy for London](#) to help parents reduce disposable nappy waste by providing them with a voucher to get started with washable alternatives.
- 541 tonnes of clothing and textiles were collected between June 2022 and May 2023 as a result of the 90 public [reuse clothes banks](#) across the borough in partnership with Traid, Islamic Relief and Oxfam, where clothing and textiles are sold for re-use in charity shops. 32 tonnes were also collected via home collections operated by Traid. An estimated total of 5,453.3 tonnes CO2 equivalent has been saved through circular clothing collection.
- Three cooking and sustainable food shopping workshops, aimed at promoting plant-based foods, reducing food waste and encouraging healthy eating have been delivered and also provided information about avoidable and unavoidable food waste. Throughout the duration of the workshops, participants had the opportunity to learn valuable cooking skills, explore sustainable food shopping practices, and gain knowledge about the importance of plant-based diets. The workshops

aimed to raise awareness about food waste reduction, both in terms of avoidable waste that can be prevented and unavoidable waste that can be properly managed.

- The Council supported the [GetComposting campaign](#), which aimed to offer our residents access to affordable and environmentally friendly products, including home compost bins. By participating in this scheme, residents are encouraged to engage in composting at home, thereby reducing organic waste for collection and promoting sustainability.
- Created the [Circular Economy Knowledge Base](#), a collection of resources aimed at helping businesses in Hackney transition and thrive in the circular economy. The report encompasses information to support those in different stages of circular economy development, from beginner to more advanced, plus funding a number of businesses to deliver circularity projects – in depth case studies [here](#).
- There are currently 65 schools registered to take part in the [Eco-School programme](#) with a total of 18 Green Flag awarded schools. Schools continue to take part in waste audits and waste prevention & recycling assemblies to improve environmental performance at school. More details of specific initiatives are as follows:
 - Rushmore School is trialling a surplus food waste redistribution project with OLIO;
 - Five schools took part in the Eco-School 'Cut Your Carbon' Campaign which was about raising awareness about food, energy and fashion contribution to carbon emissions;
 - Schools conducted assemblies and worked on carbon related projects; and
 - Four Eco-Schools took part in 'Running Out of Time Relay', Britain's largest sporting event celebrating environmental awareness.
- A number of activities as part of the [London Climate Action Week 2023](#) were delivered by the Council, alongside others, including:
 - A 'Healthy and climate-friendly cooking' masterclass with [ProVeg International](#) to inspire and motivate school chefs and cooks to embrace plant-based food with a positive attitude;

- The Eco School Annual Event where three schools came together for a round table discussion on Hackney's Climate Action Plan; and
- The annual Sustainability Day, an event to showcase sustainable actions in Hackney, featuring engaging activities, workshops and exhibitions.
- Restrictions in the use of single-use plastics in Council run markets has been implemented through new terms and conditions, with traders and business operators currently still in the 24-month period to transition to alternative suppliers and products.

Priority 5: Reduce and remove pollution

- The Council has progressed actions within the [Air Quality Action Plan](#). An [Annual Status Report](#) which contains details of progress against all of the measures in the Action Plan was submitted to the GLA in May 2023. The report contains all of the borough's air quality monitoring data for the 2022 calendar year.
- The network of automatic monitoring stations was expanded with 2022 the first year for which data was available from the new sites. The network saw additional automatic monitoring of NOx being carried out at Green Lanes, Amhurst Road, Homerton Library and Queensbridge Road. The latter three sites also contain an automatic monitor measuring PM10 concentrations.
- A contract to manage and publish data from the automatic air quality monitoring stations was awarded to Ricardo. The data is now publicly available on the [AirQualityEngland](#) website. [Breathe London](#) also continues to operate monitoring nodes within the borough and publish the data on their website. A further round where monitors were made available to schools and community groups was launched and a campaign to raise awareness was carried out.
- Modelled data and analysis of the air quality impacts in and around three [Low Traffic Neighbourhoods](#) was added to the Council website. An additional dispersion modelling study was carried out to assess the air quality impacts from the introduction of the Stoke Newington Low Emission Neighbourhood.
- The campaign to tackle engine idling continued with [anti-idling](#) workshops being held at two schools (Olive & Southwold Primary School). The campaign also increased the number of signs asking drivers to switch off their engines. The Council has commenced work

on developing systems for reporting and responding to complaints about vehicle idling using the [Fix My Street](#) platform.

- The Council continued to use social media to raise awareness of the impacts on air quality and health from [solid fuel burning](#). All solid fuel suppliers in the borough have now received a visit to advise on the requirements brought in by the Environment Act 2021. Details of all historic Smoke Control Orders covering the borough have been collated and the areas covered mapped on GIS.
- The Council continued to provide comment and advice on the air quality impacts of new developments and to ensure appropriate mitigation measures are in place. A [guidance document](#) for developers on controlling dust and emissions during the demolition and construction phase was developed and made available [here](#).
- A DEFRA funded project to raise awareness on air quality has included the development of a web-based tool in conjunction with volunteers from each of the delivering boroughs (Hackney, City of London, Newham and Tower Hamlets). To help promote the campaign and tool, the Council:
 - Delivered training to healthcare professionals so that they can give appropriate advice to patients who may be affected by exposure to air pollution;
 - Invited residents within the community to join a Champions programme where they will receive training on air pollution;
 - Supported residents to deliver three events/studies/campaigns within their community; and
 - Delivered a Clean Air Day 2023 including a workshop with the volunteers on the subject of air quality in Hackney.
- A pollution-blocking green screen has been installed at Rushmore Primary School in Clapton, as part of a roll-out to 32 primary and secondary schools in Hackney¹⁶.

¹⁶ [Pollution-blocking green screens to be rolled out to 32 primary schools](#)

Other: Understanding the Green Economy and supporting business to transition

- A [green economy webpage](#) was launched on the [Hackney Business Network website](#) to provide businesses with resources and links, eliminating the need for extensive research across multiple sources.
- The Council has completed the initial work of establishing a [baseline of businesses](#) that are active within the green economy. This piece of work will support:
 - The Council lobbying of the Greater London Authority and Central Government;
 - Future funding bids; and
 - Future plans including the Economic Development Plan.
- The Council delivered a [general large-scale business survey](#) (25,400 businesses) and key findings are:
 - 74% of businesses are not aware of the Climate Action Plan;
 - Only 4% of businesses (potentially 980) have made a commitment to reach net zero by 2030;
 - 7% (potentially 1,700) have made the commitment but without a deadline; and
 - The main barriers to becoming net zero were cited as lack of knowledge (18%), lack of grants (15%) and lack of finance (13%), and 32% of businesses said they didn't face any barriers to net zero transition.
- The Adapt Your Business programme is an element of the wider business support programme, that used the government's Additional Restrictions Grant post pandemic to help businesses go greener and strengthen the circular economy. As a result of the programme:
 - 35 businesses attended three circular economy webinars - the live session can be seen [here](#);
 - 42 businesses participated in the Green Business Programme and the Achieving Net Zero masterclasses;
 - 43 businesses completed decarbonisation or environmental performance plans; and
 - 27 businesses were funded to deliver sustainability projects.

- Collectively businesses reported that funding enabled them to make average savings of:
 - 8,110 tonnes of CO2 equivalent per month;
 - 4,538 kg of waste per month; and
 - 11 businesses reported making financial savings from sustainability changes.

- A final report summarising what was delivered alongside small-scale findings on the key barriers and support needs of businesses in implementing circular practices and models has been prepared. The report encompasses information to support those in different stages of their circular economy, from beginner to more advanced.

- The Council offers Green Skills Courses, which are 3-hour sessions with an end-of-course test. These courses focus on green apprenticeships and training pathways, with an emphasis on supporting disadvantaged groups. Currently, the Council is exploring ways to expand and enhance these courses and improve the management of participation until completion. Several staff members have already completed the courses as part of their Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

- The Council's Pension Fund has set a new, highly ambitious, series of climate targets to help achieve net zero by 2040 ([Pension Committee in March 23](#)). The fund has previously committed to reducing its exposure to fossil fuel reserves by 50% between 2016 and 2022, surpassing the target with a reduction of 97%. The fund is expanding its focus beyond fossil fuel reserves and has set three targets to stay on track towards net zero:
 - **Target 1:** Reduce the fund's carbon footprint by 50% (scopes 1 and 2) by 2030 compared to the 2023 baseline. This will cover carbon emissions across all sectors of the economy;
 - **Target 2:** Align the fund's portfolio to a 2C warming scenario by 2030 with a 1.5C goal for 2040. This forward-looking target encourages investment in assets that contribute to the transition to net zero; and
 - **Target 3:** Allocate no less than 10% of assets to climate solutions over the next five years including renewable energy and nature-based solutions.

Council external awards and shortlisting achievements

The Council has won or been shortlisted for a number of awards – the full list is as follows:

Award	Project	Recognition
National Energy Efficiency Awards	Solar panel installations, Hackney's Green Homes Programme, wider decarbonisation programmes, and commitments to achieve a net-zero target by 2040.	Special Commendation – Council of the Year (November 2022).
London Energy Efficiency Awards	Hackney's Green Homes Programme – improve energy efficiency and sustainability in residential properties within the Borough.	Shortlisted – Small Project of the Year (June 2023).
Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC) Awards	Partnership with Library of Things – a lending library where residents can borrow items and equipment at affordable prices.	Finalist – Best Waste Prevention Project (October 2022).
LARAC Awards	#ZeroWasteHackney, Go Beyond Recycling – circular economy and waste prevention programme.	Finalist – Circular Economy Achievement (October 2022).
Global Public Service Awards	Efforts in promoting and delivering #ZeroWasteHackney, Go Beyond Recycling.	Won – Team of the Year Award – Planet Protector (January 2023).
Keep Britain Tidy Awards	#ZeroWasteHackney, Go Beyond Recycling.	Won – Environmental Campaign of the Year

Award	Project	Recognition
		(February 2023).
Awards for Excellence	#ZeroWasteHackney, Go Beyond Recycling.	Won – Circular Economy Success (May 2023).
Global Action Plan – Sustainable City Awards	#ZeroWasteHackney, Go Beyond Recycling.	Finalist – Best Campaign of the Year 2023 (May 2023).
Local Government Chronicle Awards	Partnership with Library of Things.	Finalist – Best Public/Private Partnership 2023.
Good Food for All Londoners report 2022	Leadership in sign up boroughs to the London Food Purchasing commitment. Co-delivering the Eat Like A Londoner, sustainable food and food waste campaign.	Most improved council.
Green Flag	Standard for well-run and accessible parks.	Hackney’s parks and green spaces have maintained their record of 28 green flags.

Securing external funding and support for the Council's climate response

The Council has submitted several funding applications – the full list with description and results is as follows:

Grant/fund	Description	Results
Successful applications		
Social Housing Decarbonisation Scheme	Grant to improve the energy efficiency of 600-700 street properties homes to EPC 'C' ¹⁷ . Overall project cost is circa £9 million.	£4.5 million awarded.
Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Fund	Decarbonising heat in nine buildings. The overall project cost is £16.8m. It aims to achieve carbon savings of over 1,550 tonnes. The project includes the installation of three ground source heat pumps and four air source heat pumps to manage the heating needs of the nine buildings ¹⁸ .	£12.2 million awarded.
Central Government Levelling Up fund	Supports the Hackney Central Town Centre Strategy to facilitate the transformation of the town centre into a greener space, addressing issues such as traffic congestion and poor air quality ¹⁹ .	£19 million awarded.

¹⁷ [Major boost for ambitious plans to improve energy efficiency of Hackney Council homes](#)

¹⁸ [£12m energy boost for Council buildings](#)

¹⁹ [Fairer, safer and more sustainable - Hackney Central plan approved](#)

UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF)	Council-led delivery of business support.	£500,000 awarded.
Mayor of London's Grow Back Greener Fund²⁰	Rewilding of three areas of London Fields, with improvements to the woodland and green classroom, new planting and habitats created around the edge of the park.	£50,000 awarded.
	Nature recovery work in Hackney Marshes, and introduce a new wildlife-rich area around North Marsh Pavilion.	£25,000 awarded.
DEFRA Air Quality Awareness Programme	London Borough of Hackney, in collaboration with the London Borough of Newham, Tower Hamlets and the City of London to address the issue of low public awareness around air pollution and how individuals can reduce their exposure to air pollution.	£313,000 awarded.
Transport for London Local Implementation Plan Funding	Funding for a variety of capital schemes that support the delivery of the Council's Transport Strategy.	£1.935 million awarded for 23/24 year.
Submitted and awaiting outcome		
Green Heat Network Fund	£2.9 million grant application for a District Heat Network for Colville Estate etc to support the £14 million cost of implementing the network.	Outcome expected circa August 2023.
UK100 Local	An application has been submitted to secure a political consultant known as	Outcome expected July

²⁰ [Wildlife boost for Hackney Marshes and London Fields](#)

Power into Action	Net Zero Pathfinders across a 9 month period from Autumn 2023 to provide support to overcome challenges with The Council's net zero projects.	2023.
London Legacy Development Corporation Carbon Offset Fund	Provision of solar panels to permanent residential accommodation on Travellers pitches in the Hackney Wick area £199,000.	Outcome expected. October 2023.
	Hackney Dine Out, Carbon Down for £160,000: Increase the uptake of climate friendly meals when our residents are out and about.	
	School based child led ECO Refill Shop project for £132,000: 10 eco refills.	
	Water fountains in Haggerston £25,000: Eliminate 35,000 plastic bottles a year.	
	Solar Project at New Wave Federation: £270,000. Solar installation at two schools.	
Unsuccessful applications		
Innovate UK	Submitted a 'Pioneer Places' application for a social housing estate in November 2022.	Scored highly but unsuccessful.
	Submitted a 'Fast Followers' application in March 2023 to resolve non-technical barriers (finance, legal and leaseholder charging) to retrofitting social housing property.	Scored highly but unsuccessful.

Work in progress		
Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Fund future round	A second portfolio of corporate buildings is being assessed for grant submission.	Submission expected to be made later this year – subject to eligibility criteria.
Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund future round	A second portfolio of social housing buildings is being assessed for grant submission.	Submission expected to be made later this year – subject to eligibility criteria.
Knowledge Transfer Partnership	Working with Loughborough University to establish a 2 year Knowledge Transfer Partnership to work on non-technical barriers to building decarbonisation.	Submission expected to be made later this year.

Review of outline annual Environmental Sustainability Board work plan July 2022

Each year an outline annual work plan is included as part of the annual update. The key tasks from the July 2022 report are set out below alongside a progress update.

Key task	Progress update
<p>Oversight of the programme for development and production of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) for public consultation later this year.</p>	<p>The development of the draft CAP has been a regular item at the ESB’s bimonthly meetings over the last 12 months. Following the decision by Cabinet on 24 October 2022, a public consultation was carried out which included a consultation survey that was open for 10 weeks from 1st November 2022 to 10th January 2023. These responses alongside a broader set of engagement activities were reviewed and considered by the ESB prior to the CAP being adopted at Cabinet on 26th May 2023.</p>
<p>Oversight and approval of annual progress reporting on decarbonisation to Full Council.</p>	<p>The ESB has guided the content of this year’s annual report and approved it on 7th July 2023 to go to Full Council on 26th July 2023.</p>
<p>Maximising the benefits that come from the recent establishment of the Climate, Homes and Economy (CHE) Directorate.</p>	<p>Staff resources have been increased within CHE with a specific focus on climate and include a new Climate Manager and Strategic Climate Delivery Officer, expected to be in post by September 2023. In addition senior capacity has been enhanced as a result of the Strategic corporate lead – climate emergency moving from the corporate centre within the Chief Executive's Directorate to the Sustainability & Environment Service in CHE in 2022, better consolidating key climate staff and functions. A new Head of Finance has been recruited to support climate work across CHE and net zero.</p>

Key task	Progress update
<p>Oversight of longer term plans for community engagement and further development of the external engagement framework required as part of delivering the CAP.</p>	<p>A set of engagement principles to guide all stakeholders was part of the adopted CAP. The Council has developed a Council Implementation Plan for the next three years identifying a number of key projects where engagement is needed. The Local Climate Engagement programme has been rescheduled to 23/24 and aims to enhance skills in respect of climate engagement across the various teams that have outward facing engagement responsibility, thereby supporting Manifesto Commitments to hold more localised deliberations on specific topics related to the climate emergency. A restructure of the consultation team in the corporate centre is underway. One of its aims is to provide more support on scoping the Council's wider engagement activities deploying expertise as required.</p>
<p>Ensuring a system is put in place for the reporting/monitoring requirements of the CAP.</p>	<p>A commitment was made in the October 2022 Cabinet report to develop a monitoring and reporting framework and include it as part of the adoption of the CAP. This has been progressed, assessing both Council and borough-wide monitoring and reporting needs. Where there is certainty regarding future monitoring and reporting, this was set out within the adopted CAP in May 2023.</p>
<p>Ensuring robust participation with the London Council led regional climate action plan work and associated oversight structures, plus the London Recovery Board Green New Deal mission.</p>	<p>A number of staff are participating in London Councils thematic groups and oversight structures. The Council is also leading on the Low Carbon development theme. London Councils has undertaken a number of specialist peer engagement sessions which a range of Council officers have attended depending on the topic area. The Council officers participated in the development of future London Council policy on climate. The Council is also leading on the Food theme of the One World Living Programme, resulting in the Eat Like a London campaign and the launch of the London Food Purchasing</p>

Key task	Progress update
	Commitment. The Mayor continues to participate in the London Recovery Board Green Deal mission.
Ensuring an effective interface with political participation in regional climate emergency governance.	A clear set of lobbying tasks was set out in the adopted CAP, providing steer and guidance to the Mayor and others regarding the lobbying required to unlock some of the existing challenges in respect of the Council's climate response.
Overseeing and shaping the production of the funding and resource strategy for the delivery of the CAP.	An outline funding and resourcing strategy has been developed which has been reviewed by the ESB. The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan has identified key projects where financial commitments have been made within the capital programme.
Establishing and approving further governance structures where required to support this work.	Post the adoption of the CAP, the ESB will oversee a review of the membership and terms of reference of the internal governance structures to ensure the widest participation across the Council. The adopted CAP identified a number of future governance areas for consideration including funding and resourcing, green economy, communications and engagement amongst others, whilst ensuring specific topic areas are aligned within other organisational governance structures.
Establishing robust future internal and external scrutiny arrangements.	<p>Internal governance structures were set out in the adopted CAP in May 2023 whose function is to provide oversight and scrutiny links to the key Council political and corporate governance structures. Corporate oversight takes place through Climate, Homes & Economy Directorate Leadership Team, Corporate Leadership Team and the Strategic Leadership Group. Member oversight is provided by the Cabinet, various Scrutiny Commissions and Full Council.</p> <p>Proposals for key actions to develop external scrutiny arrangements were outlined in the adopted CAP and are a key future action for the ESB over the next 12 months.</p>

Key task	Progress update
<p>Building in related manifesto commitments to future plans for delivery effectively.</p>	<p>Relevant Manifesto Commitments (MC) were assessed as part of developing the Council Implementation Plan and are aligned to a number of key actions where relevant. The Council has a well established and robust wider MC monitoring system which is overseen by the Mayor's office to ensure effective linkages back to the administration.</p>