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**City of Westminster**

**Project Brief (2020-21)**

**WCC Domain Advisor for MSc Student:**

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| Nic Wells | nwells@westminster.gov.uk |

**WCC Problem Owner(s)**:

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**Project title:**

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| Westminster City Council – Achieving net zero carbon emissions |

**Project description:**

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| In 2019, Westminster City Council declared a Climate Emergency, and committed itself to becoming a council with net zero emissions by 2030 and a carbon neutral city by 2040. This agenda will require action that addresses a range of issues such as partnership working, zero emission zones, air quality, green infrastructure, transport, waste reduction and energy use. These are outlined in the Council’s [City for All strategy.](https://www.westminster.gov.uk/sites/default/files/city_for_all_vision_and_strategy_2020-21.pdf)  As a place, Westminster draws visitors from around the world, with popular sites such as the West End, Parliament and Buckingham Palace. However, this means that the borough’s overall sources of emissions are heavily dominated by industrial and commercial organisations. From 2005 to 2017, Westminster’s carbon dioxide emissions per capita were 1.9 times higher than the national average, and 2.6 times higher than the London average.  For Westminster to achieve these ambitious sustainability targets, the Council will need to have an in-depth understanding of the spatial variation of buildings’ emission profiles in order to design and target projects and initiatives.  *Policy context*:  The Council believes in creating a City for All – a city where people live in a healthy, sustainable and safe environment, can grow and learn throughout their lives, build fantastic careers in world-leading industries, have access to high quality, affordable homes and retire into the community with dignity and pride. Everything the Council does should enable every individual in our city to have the opportunity to improve their lives.  ***Please note: we welcome students’ interpretations of the topic and suggestions to further specify it.***  Intelligence needs/ business problems:   * What are the emissions profiles – building typologies, uses, efficiency and emissions reduction potential - of different areas of Westminster? Where or for what type of buildings/ industries should emission reduction activities or solutions be prioritised? * Based on the available literature, what emissions reduction solutions are most appropriate to Westminster’s context, and where/ how could these be targeted? * Who is most vulnerable to fuel poverty, and where are these households located?   **Subject to data owner approval, sources could include:**   * UCL Energy Institute’s London Building Stock Model * WCC 2018-19 emissions data * Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy open data |

**Deliverables:**

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| * Dissertation in full * Executive summary for policy and practitioner audience * Presentation to council stakeholders * Access and sharing of code on WestminsterBI GitHub |