

# TACKLING THE CLIMATE CRISIS



## CAMDEN CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2020-2025

[camden.gov.uk/climate-crisis](http://camden.gov.uk/climate-crisis)

we  
make  
**Camden**

 Camden

# FOREWORD

A decade ago, Camden Council published Green Action for Change – our ten-year plan to improve our environment, including driving down carbon emissions in the borough.

During that time we have made great strides on carbon reduction, thanks to the political ambition that underlay the plan combined with the hard work of officers of the council and partners throughout the borough. Borough-wide emissions now look set to reach the 40 percent fall targeted by that roadmap.

However, mounting evidence about the warming climate meant that by the end of the last decade this issue had entered the public debate in a way that it had not done previously. Expectations for government action, at local and national level, rightly grew. Aware that we can only confront the climate crisis if we work together rather than alone, in Camden we convened the country's – possibly the world's – first citizens' assembly on the climate and ecological emergency.

The 17 recommendations made by the citizens have fed directly in to this new

Climate Action Plan for Camden. We present our four visions for People, Places, Buildings, and Organisations. And we pledge to follow the principles of: basing decisions on evidence; pursuing social justice; demonstrating leadership by example; approaching the challenge as a shared endeavour; and responding with the urgency that the climate emergency requires.

Throughout the lifetime of the plan, and aiming to do all we can to reach zero carbon by 2030, Camden Council intends to honour and sustain this participative approach and the relationships we built through this process. The ongoing citizens' panel that we will convene to review progress is one way of doing this. We will also need to make sure that climate impact is embedded right throughout the council's decision-making processes – and that residents and community groups across Camden are fully involved and empowered to play their part. Reaching zero carbon in this timeframe is ambitious and will require all levels of government and all parts of society to take action.

At the time of writing the impact of the coronavirus is still only just making itself felt, and it looks likely it will leave problems behind even larger than those of the 2008 financial crash. Prior to the arrival of Covid-19, campaign groups rightly foresaw the need to respond to the climate crisis by getting onto an emergency footing. Camden Council shares the ambition to do so. With all the means and support from government and from partners in the borough we will work to transform Camden over the coming decade, to make it not just resilient to climate change but to play our part in turning its tide.

## **Adam Harrison**

Cabinet member for a sustainable Camden



# STATEMENT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

I am so proud of how this climate action plan reflects not just how we as an organisation are putting the climate emergency at the heart of how we work as a Council, but how it reflects the priorities and ideas of our communities. The climate crisis is the great challenge of our generation and we can only meet it if we call on the creativity and energy of our whole community. I am in awe of the way that community groups, neighbourhoods, streets and estates across Camden are taking local action to meet the crisis. This plan does not belong to the council but to our whole community.

A year ago we launched the first climate emergency citizens' assembly in the country because we believe that tackling the climate emergency means us all taking decisions and action together. I spoke at the first meeting, and joined participants for the last, and it was so powerful to see people engaged and involved in shaping their neighbourhoods for the better, negotiating and listening to each other, learning and sharing to make the best decisions for their community. Some of those will be hard decisions, and will involve us all making changes in our lives. The citizens' assembly

showed that we can all come together to understand and make trade-offs together, and that we can build on our shared vision for Camden to be a more sustainable, equal and fair place where everyone has a voice and no one is left behind.

This past year has shown us all how interconnected we are, and how much difference we can make when we work collectively. We wanted to take the spirit of the assembly out into our communities, and to shape how to deliver the assembly's recommendations. Inspired by the commitment to listening, learning and acting shown in the assembly, in August we launched the Think and Do in Kentish Town, a model for community space that provides a platform for collaboration as well as action. It has been an incredible and inspiring success, and has taught the Council and communities more about how to work as equal partners. It has brought together campaign groups, schools, social enterprises, Council officers and citizens. I spent time there learning, meeting new people and its spirit of openness and generosity has stayed with me, and I am excited to see how the work of the Think and Do and aligned

projects will take forward the activity of this Action Plan.

I will always be proud that Camden was the first local authority to hold a climate emergency citizens' assembly because I believe that a challenge as urgent and all-encompassing as global heating requires all of us. As a Council we are committed to setting an example in how we make decisions for how we want to act in the world. From the assembly to the Think and Do, I believe we have shown a way forward – how tackling a global crisis locally requires all our ideas, all our energy and passion, all our desire for change and a better world for ourselves and future generations.

**Georgia Gould**  
Leader of the Council



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# INTRODUCTION

**CAMDEN IS AT THE FOREFRONT OF CLIMATE ACTION. OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS, CARBON DIOXIDE (CO<sub>2</sub>) EMISSIONS FROM OUR OWN ESTATE AND OPERATIONS AND ACROSS THE BOROUGH AS A WHOLE HAVE REDUCED BY 44% AND 39% RESPECTIVELY, BUT THERE REMAINS MUCH MORE TO DO.**

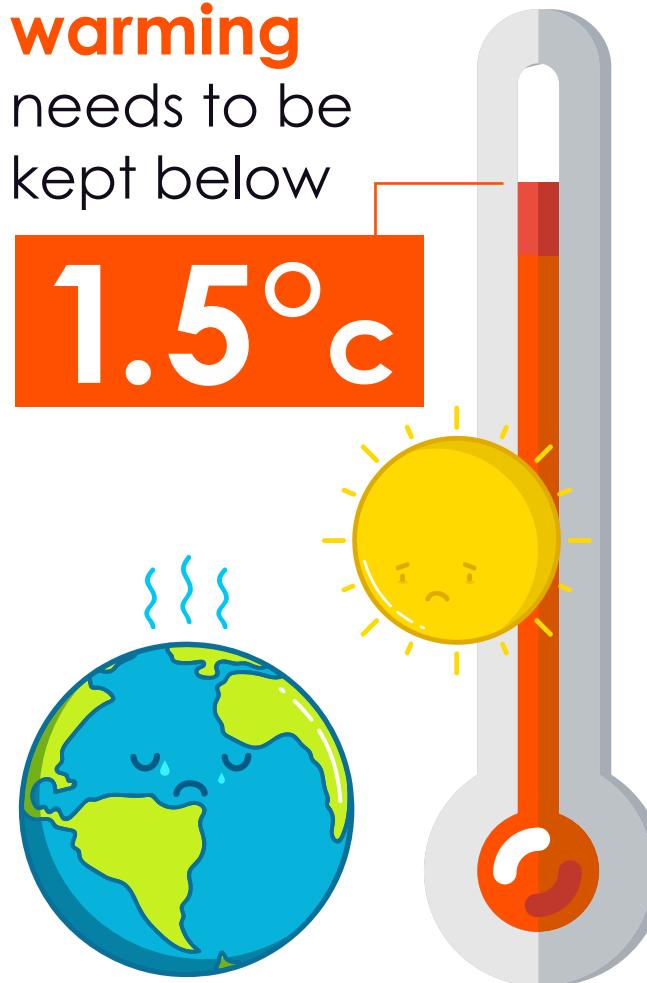
In late 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published a special report on Global Warming, describing the devastating impact a global temperature rise of 2°C would have on our food security, water supply, human security and economic growth<sup>1</sup> in comparison to 1.5°C. The report called for immediate and unprecedented action to cut greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050, and limit global warming to 1.5°C.

The seriousness of this message re-ignited a global movement of climate action to raise awareness and demand governments at all levels take action. Schoolchildren went on strike inspired by a courageous Greta Thunberg, Extinction Rebellion held large scale demonstrations in London and other major cities across the world, and the climate and ecological emergency became front page news.

Following this renewed attention and on the recommendation of the Committee on Climate Change, the UK government became the first major global economy to set a net zero greenhouse gas target for 2050.

**Global warming needs to be kept below**

**1.5°C**



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### WHAT IS CLIMATE CHANGE?

Greenhouse gases (most commonly carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide) in our atmosphere help to regulate global temperatures. Over the past century, greenhouse gases in our atmosphere have increased due to human activity primarily from the burning of fossil fuels, which has caused the average global temperature to rise by 1°C. This rise in temperature has resulted in changes to our climate such as rising sea levels, disruption to ecosystems and greater incidents of extreme weather.

Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from the burning of fossil fuels are the greatest contributor to global heating but other emissions from industrial processes and land use also have an impact. Within Camden, the main action we can take to control the climate crisis is to reduce the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions associated with buildings, travel and consumer choices.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

In November 2019, Camden Council formally declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency, recognising not only the threat of climate change but also the impact of irreversible damage to ecosystems, and committed to do everything it can to make Camden net zero carbon by 2030.

This Climate Action Plan, developed following an extensive community engagement process, creates a framework for action across all aspects of the borough with the aim of achieving a zero carbon Camden by 2030.



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### WHAT IS ZERO CARBON?

We define our zero carbon target as attempting to reduce all of the carbon dioxide emissions associated with fuel consumption within the boundary of the borough to zero, by 2030. This focuses on the emissions associated with gas, electricity and transport fuels and are referred to as **direct** emissions.

We aspire to do this through meaningful action within the borough without the use of offsetting, which typically delivers emissions reductions outside Camden. The scale of this challenge is vast, and if we are not able to achieve the target we will consider the options for offsetting at the time.

This target does not address the emissions resulting from our consumer choices and business supply chain activities outside Camden. These emissions, referred to as **indirect**, are too complex to track and monitor accurately; however, we have committed to complete a study to explore this in more detail, and we will review local targets which could help reduce these emissions as part of this commission.



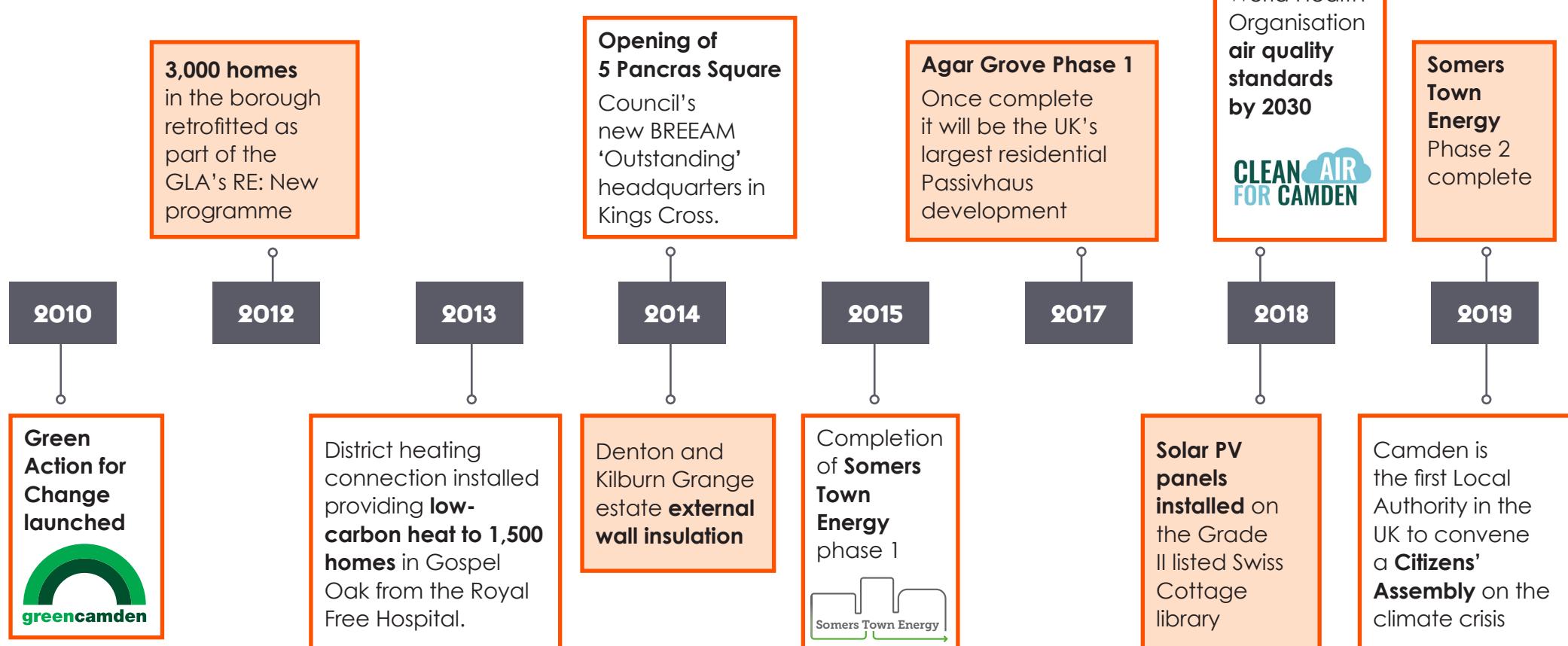
## PROGRESS TO DATE

## GREEN ACTION FOR CHANGE

Camden has a long-standing focus on environmental action. Green Action for Change, Camden's 10-year environmental sustainability plan to 2020 was published in 2011. It was a call to action to everyone living and working in Camden to help make Camden a low carbon and low waste borough, while reducing air pollution and improving green space.

In addition to commitments regarding increased recycling rates, improved flood resilience and cleaner air, Green Action for Change set 40% carbon dioxide emissions reduction targets across the borough and for the Council's own estate and operations. These targets drove borough-wide action on the climate agenda and were supported by Council led programmes and policies such as the Camden Climate Change Alliance business network, pilot district energy projects and our environmentally friendly planning policies.

The time-line below details some of the highlights from Green Action for Change, with further detail on the progress towards the 40% reduction targets provided overleaf. The most recent 6th review of Green Action for Change can be read [here](#) and a final review will be published in 2020.



## BOROUGH-WIDE CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS

The UK government produces an annual breakdown of carbon dioxide emissions by Local Authority area as a subset of its annual inventory of greenhouse gas emissions<sup>2</sup>. This approach measures the consumption of gas, electricity and other fuels within the borough boundary. These emissions are referred to as 'direct' emissions, and mainly result from heating and powering buildings and through transport based fuel use (see Fact Bank).

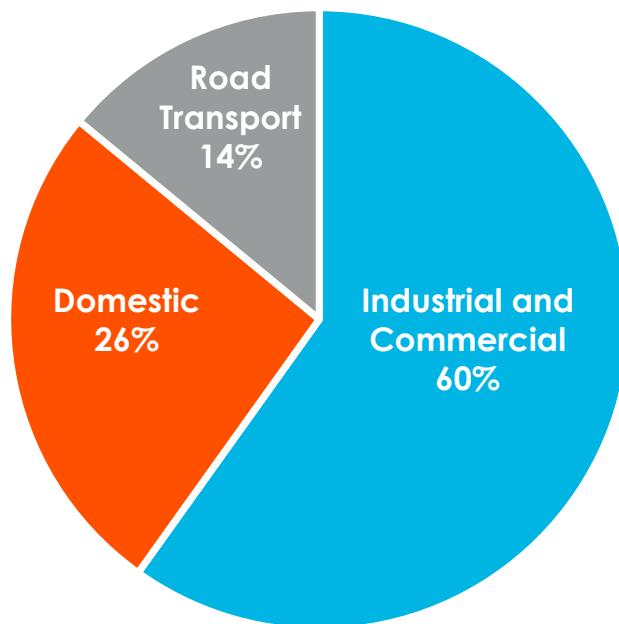
A quarter of Camden's direct emissions come from heat and electricity supplies to housing. Approximately 60% result from non-domestic buildings such as offices, shops, universities and schools. Transport makes up a relatively small 14% contribution to borough wide emissions. Although the contribution to carbon dioxide emissions from transport is low, road transport is the primary cause of poor air quality in the borough.

Government data for 2017<sup>2</sup> (the latest national dataset available) shows that 'direct' carbon dioxide emissions in Camden have reduced by 39% since 2005. Data for 2018 will be published in July 2020 and is expected to show that Camden has met the 40% borough wide target set in Green Action for Change. While efforts to improve the energy efficiency of buildings

and transport have helped to reduce these emissions, the decarbonisation of the UK electricity grid (see Fact Bank) has been the biggest driver of reductions.

These figures only paint a small picture of the wider impact Camden has on the greenhouse gas emissions globally. The emissions associated with the products we buy, the food we eat, where and how we travel are key sources of global emissions. These emissions, known as 'indirect'

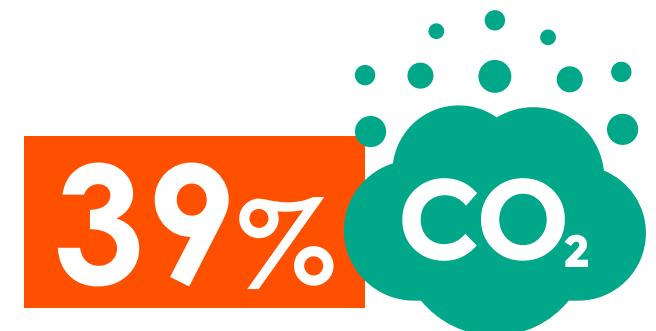
**Camden CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 2017**



<sup>2</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics)

emissions, result from consumer choices, the behaviour of us as citizens and the supply chains of Camden based organisations and businesses.

It is estimated that two-thirds of greenhouse gas emissions across London are 'indirect'<sup>3</sup>.



**reduction**  
in Camden  
since 2005



<sup>3</sup> [www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/assessing-londons-indirect-carbon-emissions](http://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/assessing-londons-indirect-carbon-emissions)

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## HOW DO WE MEASURE CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS?

### SCOPE 1:

Emissions associated with combustion of fuels directly by a consumer. Within Camden this mainly refers to gas use for heating and hot water, and petrol/diesel used by vehicles whilst they are on the roads in Camden.



### SCOPE 2:

Energy which is purchased from elsewhere, but used by a consumer. Within Camden this means the electricity used in the borough. The emissions are created at power stations located outside of Camden, but the electricity is used within Camden supplied via the electricity grid.



### SCOPE 3:

Emissions resulting from the behaviour and activity of a consumer, but occurring from sources outside of their control. Within Camden these are the emissions from the food we eat, products we buy, our travel outside the borough, etc. Measuring these emissions are particularly complex as they are often a combination of scope 1 and 2 emissions in other locations.



In this report we make this simpler by referring to Scope 1 and 2 emissions as **Direct** and scope 3 emissions as **Indirect**.

## CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS FROM CAMDEN COUNCIL'S ESTATE AND OPERATIONS

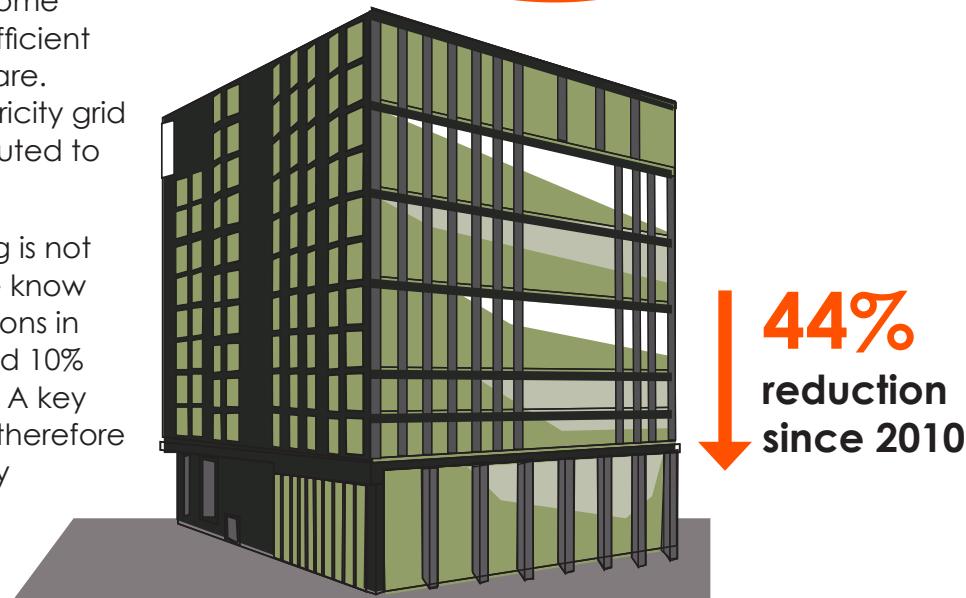
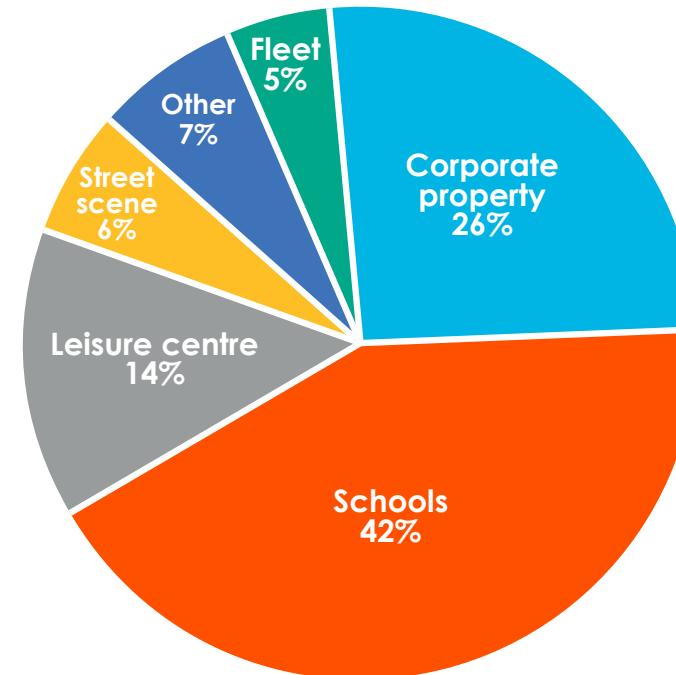
Camden Council's carbon footprint covers our estate and operations with the exception of Council owned housing, where heating and electricity is consumed by tenants and leaseholders. The Council's footprint represents approximately 4% of the total 'direct' emissions in Camden.

The Council's carbon dioxide emissions have fallen by 44% since 2010, exceeding the 40% target set in Green Action for Change.

Carbon reduction has been achieved through improving the energy efficiency of our own estate through our Carbon Reduction Programme, and in some cases, by building new, highly efficient buildings such as 5 Pancras Square. Decarbonisation of the UK electricity grid (see Fact Bank) has also contributed to these reductions.

While Camden's council housing is not included within this footprint, we know that it is a major source of emissions in the borough representing around 10% of 'direct' emissions in Camden. A key part of the Climate Action Plan therefore focuses on improving the energy efficiency of Council housing.

### Council Estate and Operations CO<sub>2</sub> footprint



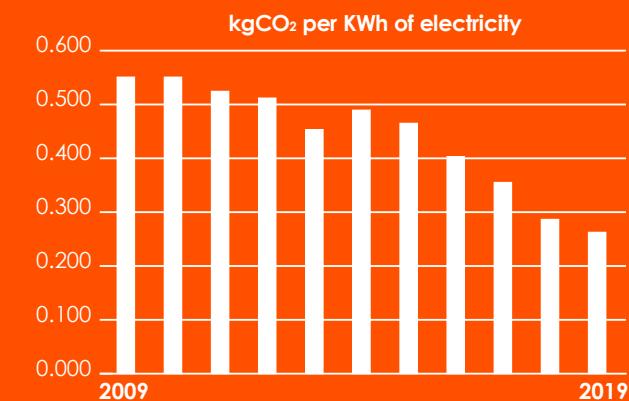
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### GRID DECARBONISATION

Over the past 10 years, carbon dioxide emissions associated with the production of electricity in the UK have decreased by over 50%. This reduction has been driven by the replacement of coal-powered generation with renewable alternatives such as wind power. This decarbonisation has significantly contributed to carbon dioxide emissions reduction in Camden, and across all parts of the UK.

The rate of grid decarbonisation is likely to continue at a slower rate over the next decade; however, the electrification of heating and transport will become an increasingly effective way of reducing carbon dioxide emissions.





# DEVELOPING THE NEW CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

## TECHNICAL EMISSIONS REDUCTION STUDY

To guide our approach to future climate action in Camden, the Council commissioned a technical study to model the possible approaches Camden could take to achieve further carbon dioxide emissions reduction across the borough by 2030.

The model considered a range of factors including population growth, new housing targets, projected electric vehicle uptake, available technologies and government projections for electricity grid decarbonisation and produced three main reduction scenarios detailed below, all of which necessitated the rapid electrification of heat and transport.

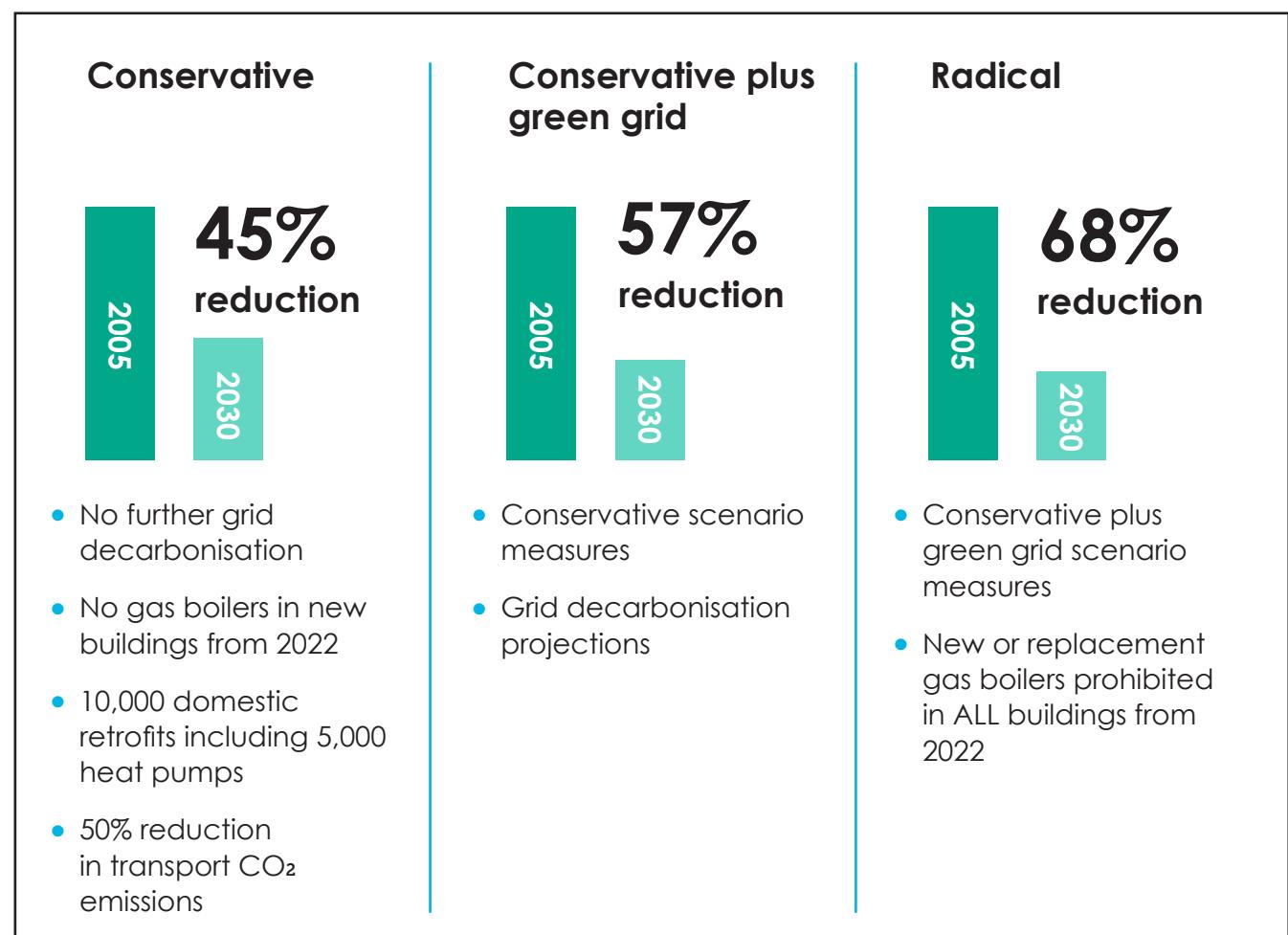
The most radical and stretching of the three proposals would require an additional £900m of investment by 2030 (significantly beyond Council budgets). It would also require new enabling legislation, unprecedented rates of household energy efficiency improvements, a complete ban on gas boilers and the significant electrification of heat and transport.

The modelling highlights how difficult it will be to achieve a zero carbon Camden by 2030. It also clearly demonstrates the need for stronger and supportive national policy

to support the climate agenda. Significant additional funding would also be needed to improve the energy efficiency of housing and replace fossil fuel based heating and hot water systems in domestic and non-domestic premises with low carbon alternatives.

The study also only accounts for direct carbon dioxide emissions, with emissions associated with our consumer choices and business supply chains not included.

You can read the full technical study [here](#).



## CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Over the summer of 2019, Camden held the UK's first Citizens' Assembly on the climate crisis to help shape this new Climate Action Plan. In the lead up to the Assembly, residents, community groups, schools and businesses were asked to put forward suggestions about how Camden could address the climate crisis. Ideas came through groups such as "the Sustainers" schools' sustainability group and the Camden Climate Change Alliance business network, and over 2,500 residents and groups submitted proposals through an on-line platform called Commonplace.

The Citizens' Assembly itself brought together residents with a broad range of experiences and backgrounds, who closely reflected the demographics of the borough. This diversity helped to ensure that issues and solutions discussed reflected the lived experiences of residents. Across three focussed sessions, assembly members heard evidence from climate scientists, renewable energy experts, campaign groups, environmental engineers and inspirational residents and were then independently facilitated by a leading public participation organisation called Involve to develop proposals for how Camden could address the climate crisis.



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### WHAT IS A CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY

A citizens' assembly is a group of people who are brought together to discuss an issue or issues, and reach a conclusion about what they think should happen. Assembly members represent the wider population – in terms of demographics (e.g. age, gender, ethnicity, social class) and sometimes relevant attitudes.

Assembly members are then supported through a three step process of learning, deliberation and decision making with evidence provided by experts in the topic.

Find out more about Citizens' Assemblies here <https://www.involve.org.uk/resources/methods/citizens-assembly>

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 FINAL SET OF SEVENTEEN CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATIONS ARE SET OUT BELOW:

### NEIGHBOURHOOD

Planting more trees and creating more allotments

Piloting a community energy heating scheme

Installing more 'segregated' cycle lanes

Promoting and trialling car free zones and days

Enabling electric transport with infrastructure and incentives

Developers to fund energy efficiency retrofits of old buildings

### HOME

Encouraging low-carbon dietary choices

Making all new homes 'zero carbon'

Creating more green space on residential streets

Fitting solar panels on as many homes as possible

Campaigning to make CO<sub>2</sub> reduction fun

### COUNCIL

Climate Emergency scrutiny panel

All council properties to be fossil-fuel free

Planting trees and retaining public spaces

Council communications on the climate crisis

Mobilising existing community groups

Greening the Council's operations

## CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY DECLARATION

In October 2019, the Citizens' Assembly members and groups such as the Sustainers schools network were invited to present the Assembly findings at a Council meeting attended by all local Councillors and Cabinet members. Full Council meetings are important council meetings that allow all elected members to come together to discuss a topic central to Camden.

Elected Members supported the Assembly proposals and agreed to adopt them within a new Climate Action Plan for Camden. Members also passed the following Motion committing the Council to target a zero carbon borough by 2030.



### This Council formally:

- a) declares a climate and ecological emergency;
- b) commits the Council to take the action it can to make Camden net zero carbon by 2030, taking forward the recommendations of the Camden Climate Emergency Citizens' Assembly to achieve this, ensuring that Camden's citizens, businesses, and local organisations are fully involved

- in the mission to reduce carbon, and pursuing climate action measures with energy and dedication;
- c) commits the Council to tell the truth to Camden citizens about the scale and seriousness of the emergency;
- d) commits the Council to press the Government to take as much action as it can and for it to be similarly upfront about the extent of the emergency;

- e) commits to produce a new ecological plan for Camden to sustain and improve biodiversity in Camden;
- f) encourages all citizens, businesses, and organisations or groups in the borough of Camden to join with the Council to cut carbon, and to protect and improve biodiversity, in order to avert impending catastrophe.



# THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

## OUR VISION

Achieving a net zero carbon Camden by 2030 will require everyone living and working in Camden to play their part, but the Council will need to enable and support people to take climate action.

The Council will also need to lead by example by continuing to drive carbon dioxide emission reduction across our own estate and operations.

The Climate Action Plan for Camden responds to the views of the Citizens' Assembly and wider community by defining four vision statements for the themes of People, Places, Buildings and Organisations to shape Camden's climate programme. These statements describe our ambition for a zero carbon Camden by 2030.

### ZERO CARBON CAMDEN BY 2030

**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.

**Camden Climate Change Alliance**



## THE CO-BENEFITS OF CLIMATE ACTION

The Climate Action Plan has the potential to deliver many other local benefits, including improved health and wellbeing, increased social cohesion, economic opportunities and increased resilience to extreme weather events and rising fuel prices.

For example, the Climate Action Plan necessitates a shift away from combustion engine vehicles and heating systems, both of which are significant contributors to air pollution in Camden. The Climate Action Plan also seeks to encourage healthier travel options such as walking and cycling, which also bring public health benefits.

Action on climate can improve equity and social cohesion by focusing on the most vulnerable in society and bringing people together to design solutions to the crisis. Recent initiatives such as the Citizens' Assembly and the Think & Do climate pop-up show how a new wave of community participation in climate action can achieve this.

Investing in initiatives to reduce carbon emissions can also create economic opportunities and jobs for people in Camden through the low carbon economy. Action to reduce carbon emissions can also increase the resilience of communities to future changes in energy prices, for example through the improved energy efficiency of buildings, as well as to the impacts of the climate crisis through increased green infrastructure.

The Climate Action Plan is also shaped by the following guiding principles:

**Evidence based** – all actions will be evidence based, ensuring they deliver an effective improvement on carbon emissions reduction

**Social justice and inclusion** – the climate crisis and social inequality are inextricably linked and disadvantaged groups suffer disproportionately from the adverse effects of climate change.<sup>4</sup> The Climate Action Plan is designed to work for everyone living and working in Camden.

**Leadership by example** – The council acknowledges its role as a local leader, and will do all that it can to lead by example on the climate crisis.

**Shared endeavour** – to achieve our ambitious goals, we will need participation from everyone within and outside of the borough. Our actions will include a participative approach wherever possible to maximise outcomes.

**Urgency** – this is a climate emergency and we need to act now.

<sup>4</sup> Islam, S. and Winkel, J. (2017). Climate Change and Social Inequality

# 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.**

Achieving a zero carbon Camden will require people who live and work in the borough to do things differently. People will need to choose lower carbon goods, food and services; prioritise walking, cycling and public transport over private car use wherever possible; and change the way their homes and other buildings are heated and powered. People need clear information to help them understand what they can do to make a difference.

The action plan responds to this need by providing improved public information, collaborating with schools and community groups, and supporting community groups in the borough to help deliver wider action.

## KEY FACTS

Camden has a **diverse population**



Camden has a resident population of over **250,000**. It has a much higher number of daily visitors however with many people working, studying or visiting the borough.

**Camden has a thriving Voluntary and Community sector**

with many existing groups focussing on climate action projects and working across all areas of the borough.

**The Camden Citizens' Assembly**

**was the first of its kind in the UK.** Many areas have or are in the process of carrying out similar activities now including a national assembly.

**The borough has a transient population**



**Around 10%** of the borough are students who may only be living here during their studies, and on average each year **26%** of the population changes.

**At the end of 2019,**

**Think & Do**

**was launched in Kentish Town.** This community-led project aimed to give people in Camden the chance to take part in, run and grow activities that get people more involved in tackling the climate crisis.

## THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN WILL DELIVER THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS OVER THE NEXT 5 YEARS. WE WILL REVIEW ACTIONS ANNUALLY AND ADD TO THEM AS MORE PROJECTS, FUNDING AND OPPORTUNITIES ARISE.

### IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

- 1** 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.
- 2** In 2020, extend the pilot “Think and Do” climate pop-up in Kentish Town to other locations and institutions so that as many people as possible can access free and high quality information about climate action.
- 3** In 2020-21, design and deliver a public information campaign on the climate crisis focusing on how individuals can reduce their carbon footprint.
- 4** In 2020, work with groups based at Think and Do and other institutions to support climate activity focusing on the theme of “climate justice”. Build resulting projects in to future iterations of the Climate Action Plan.
- 5** From 2020, improve the way the Council communicates about how programmes such as our transport and housing investment work helps to address the climate crisis.
- 6** From 2020, seek funding opportunities to support community-led climate action, which results in borough-wide emissions reductions.
- 7** In 2020, deliver an education programme for elected members with focused sessions for the planning and Culture and Environment scrutiny committees.
- 8** In 2020, publish a Reduction and Recycling Plan setting out a strategy for driving down waste production in the borough.
- 9** Support delivery of the ‘Refill Station Camden’ project offering residents a refill resource to help tackle single-use packaging, aiming to have a locally-run enterprise by the end of 2022.

### PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT

- 1** By 2021, ensure council staff have access to an education programme about the climate crisis, enabling front-line staff to give advice to residents.
- 2** By 2021, develop a programme with the Voluntary and Community Sector to support groups who deliver outcomes, which tackle the climate emergency.
- 3** 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.
- 4** 2021-22, expand on the public information campaign to create a programme of high quality information events accessible to schools and the community with expert speakers and expand the programme of events for businesses through the Camden Climate Change Alliance.

## PLACES

CAMDEN'S PUBLIC SPACES WILL ENCOURAGE AND ENABLE HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL CHOICES AND PROMOTE BIODIVERSITY.

A zero carbon Camden means that we need to radically change our public spaces and the way we use them. Our busy roads must become safer, less polluted and more people-friendly. Cycling lanes and safe walking routes will have to multiply and any remaining vehicles will need to be fully electric with zero exhaust emissions. Private car use will need to be kept to a minimum and our streets will have to offer more green spaces for people and wildlife. The benefits will go beyond climate – Camden will become a healthier place to live.

Many of the actions within this area are linked to and complemented by other Camden policies. The **Camden Transport Strategy** sets out our ambitious plans for changing how people move around the borough, and a new Biodiversity Action plan will be delivered in 2020 as a comprehensive strategy for protecting and enhancing natural environments in Camden.

### KEY FACTS

Only  
**14%**

of Camden direct carbon emissions come from transport. This reflects the high quality public transport links in the borough.

Camden's Green space team manages **76 parks and over 300 green spaces across the borough**. Camden is also home to world-famous parks such as Regent's Park and Hampstead Heath.



In 2020, Camden was awarded the '**Tree Cities of the World**' designation by The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).



Transport is a major contributor to poor air quality in the borough.

Approximately

**50%**

of **NOx emissions**

come from road transport and a quarter of particulates. Tackling transport carbon dioxide emissions will have an added benefit of improving air quality, and helping to deliver on our commitment to **achieve WHO standards by 2030**. More information is available in our **Clean Air Action Plan**.

**Camden is constantly evolving**

with many **major regeneration and development sites in the borough**.

King Cross has changed beyond recognition over the last decade and major new regeneration is planned around Euston and Kentish Town.



## THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN WILL DELIVER THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS OVER THE NEXT 5 YEARS. WE WILL REVIEW ACTIONS ANNUALLY AND ADD TO THEM AS MORE PROJECTS, FUNDING AND OPPORTUNITIES ARISE.

### IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

- 1** Continue to regularly review and amend parking permits and prices to reflect the climate emergency, and roll out electric vehicle (EV) charging points across Camden in line with our EV Action Plan.
- 2** Increase the number of segregated cycle routes in Camden as identified in the Camden Transport Strategy.
- 3** In 2020, develop a new Biodiversity Action Plan for Camden in consultation with the community.
- 4** 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.
- 5** From 2020, ensure all new planning frameworks require developments to be zero carbon (as per London Plan definition) and target reductions in the embodied carbon emissions of the development.
- 6** 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.
- 7** From 2020, trial the closure of Camden High Street to traffic around the market with a view to a permanent closure.
- 8** In 2020 begin a programme to switch all street lighting to 100% LED by 2023.
- 9** In 2020, successfully deliver the Camley Street Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SuDS) project and continue to identify funding opportunities to improve Camden's climate change resilience.

### PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT

- 1** Progress a Workplace Parking Levy by 2023 to encourage low-carbon transport choices, subject to the outcome of the current feasibility study.
- 2** Review and amend Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) hours of control to restrict non-essential motor vehicle trips with priority CPZ areas reviewed by 2023.
- 3** In collaboration with other local organisations and private land owners, increase the number of trees planted in Camden annually in line with Camden's Tree Policy.
- 4** Extend nature conservation volunteers programmes to support with the maintenance of existing and new green space.
- 5** Lead the delivery of transformational low emission transport projects in Holborn, Camden Town, Kentish Town and Frognal by 2023.
- 6** By 2021, introduce planning policy to require all major developments to improve the biodiversity value of their sites.
- 7** Increase the number of street closures around schools through the Healthy School Streets programme.
- 8** By 2022, create a "Parklets" programme that enables residents to transform parking spaces into mini parks.
- 9** By 2023, in conjunction with other London boroughs, publish a climate adaptation and resilience strategy.

# BUILDINGS

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 direct 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 with gas will become the key challenge in the journey to a zero carbon Camden.

To help solve this we need to improve the energy efficiency of buildings to reduce heating demand, and replace gas heating systems with low carbon alternatives such as air or ground source heat pumps.

We will also need to increase the amount of energy produced from renewable sources to help the move to lower carbon electricity. While the potential for large-scale renewable energy in Camden is limited, there is still significant potential for solar and air source systems for 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.

## KEY FACTS

As the electricity grid decarbonises, by 2030 the emissions associated with heating and hot water using a gas boiler could be up to...



% of a household's emissions.

**Retrofitting buildings** can be challenging due to the age of the housing stock and the high proportion of flats. Over half of Camden is a designated Conservation area.

**Camden Council owns** over 30,000 homes in the borough. More council homes are also being built through the Community Investment Programme.

**Camden's Community Investment Programme** has already been delivering exemplary sustainable developments such as Agar Grove which has been built to Passivhaus standards.



There are over

**100,000**



homes in Camden.

Approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  are flats, and over half of them were built more than 100 years ago.

As well as homes, around two-thirds of carbon dioxide emissions in Camden come from "**non-domestic**" buildings such as offices, schools, universities, and shops - the 3rd highest proportion in London.

**CO<sub>2</sub>**

**Just over 10%** of homes in Camden are in fuel poverty. **Delivering energy efficiency improvements** will reduce this issue as they become more affordable to heat and power.



## THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN WILL DELIVER THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS OVER THE NEXT 5 YEARS. WE WILL REVIEW ACTIONS ANNUALLY AND ADD TO THEM AS MORE PROJECTS, FUNDING AND OPPORTUNITIES ARISE.

### IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

- 1** In 2020, deliver a Retrofit Summit for residents, businesses and community groups to develop our understanding of the retrofit challenge.
- 2** In 2020, establish a panel of experts and local stakeholders to design a new retrofit policy and programme for Camden addressing the competing priorities of issues such as energy efficiency, heritage and other Local Plan priorities. Any policy development would inform and be informed by emerging regional work on retrofit.
- 3** From 2020, require all major developments in Camden to be zero carbon (London Plan definition).
- 4** From 2020, require all major developments in Camden to calculate whole life carbon emissions to include all operational and embodied carbon.
- 5** From 2020, require all Camden led major development under our Community Investment Programme to be zero carbon (London Plan definition).
- 6** By 2021, introduce a new requirement for all future Community Investment Programme development to include a lifecycle carbon impact assessment (retrofit versus new-build) as part of the pre-feasibility appraisal.
- 7** 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.
- 8** 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.
- 9** In 2020-21, collaborate with private landlords and housing associations develop a programme to ensure all rented homes in the borough (including council housing stock) out-perform the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards defined by government.
- 10** In 2020, deliver a low cost solar panels programme for residents in Camden through Solar Together and explore other group-purchasing schemes to support building retrofit.
- 11** In 2020, write to other large building owners in Camden and ask them to review their Climate Action Plans in response to the climate emergency and offer support to improve them through the Camden Climate Change Alliance.

### PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT

- 1** In 2020-21, create a public database of all renewable energy installations in Camden.
- 2** In 2021, subject to funding, pilot a fossil-fuel free heating project at a council housing estate to develop our understanding and inform a costed strategy to remove fossil-fuel heating systems from council buildings by 2030.
- 3** 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.
- 4** Over 2021-22, through the Camden Climate Change Alliance, develop awareness across privately rented business premises about the benefits of meeting the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards as defined by government.
- 5** Over 2021-22 complete a feasibility study into the retrofit opportunities on non-domestic council buildings including schools.
- 6** By 2022, launch a new retrofit programme for Camden.
- 7** Over 2022-23, support a local community energy group to deliver a pilot low-carbon heating project.
- 8** By 2025, review the Council's Local Plan Policy on Climate change mitigation, namely the existing zero carbon target and energy efficiency across a range of developments.
- 9** By 2025, develop a carbon-offsetting scheme for local developments, residents and businesses to offset their residual emissions. The scheme will require participants to have done all that they can to reduce direct and indirect emissions before looking to offset.

# ORGANISATIONS

**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 60% of direct carbon emissions, and their environmental impact increases further when carbon emissions associated with the goods they buy or use are included.

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.

The Camden Climate Change Alliance was established in 2008 to work with business to make a positive impact on the environment, and this remains a key opportunity for further collaboration and engagement to tackle the climate crisis.

## KEY FACTS

### Camden Climate Change Alliance



Year on year Climate Change Alliance members have reported carbon dioxide reductions. Commercial and industrial carbon dioxide emissions are now



As well as the Council there are many large organisations based in the borough. **Collaborating and agreeing a shared approach** with other large organisations such as universities, hospitals and private businesses will help to create the biggest impact possible.



### University College London and University of London

are targeting a zero carbon estate by

**2030**



## THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN WILL DELIVER THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS OVER THE NEXT 5 YEARS. WE WILL REVIEW ACTIONS ANNUALLY AND ADD TO THEM AS MORE PROJECTS, FUNDING AND OPPORTUNITIES ARISE.

### IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

- 1** Create new governance, with citizen participation, to monitor progress and support the delivery of the Climate Action Plan for Camden. Recruitment for this panel will begin in 2020.
- 2** Amend the Council's Constitution in 2020 to require all Council decisions to protect and improve the natural environment, and mitigate climate change.
- 3** In 2020, through the Camden Climate Change Alliance, develop a Zero Carbon pledge for local organisations.
- 4** Create a new Sustainable Procurement Policy and procedure for all Council purchases over £100,000
- 5** In 2020, switch the Council's corporate estate and schools to green electricity, and look at further ways to reduce the emissions associated with our energy supplies through renewable energy.
- 6** From 2020, ensure all council decision-making includes an assessment of the decision's environmental impact.

### PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT

- 1** By 2022, define a low carbon supply chain rating project for local businesses in the Camden Climate Change Alliance to help inform consumer decisions.
- 2** In 2021, extend the citizen governance to scrutinise the climate progress of other major institutions in Camden, subject to their agreement.
- 3** Work with other London Councils and local authorities to agree a London-wide lobbying position to Government on the climate and ecological crisis.
- 4** Make 5 Pancras Square single-use plastic free by 2020 and all other sites by 2021, including schools and all Council events.
- 5** Make Camden's vehicle fleet 100% low/zero emission by 2022 and ensure Contractors' fleet vehicles comply with Camden's Green Vehicle Fleet Procurement Policy.
- 6** Introduce meat-free days across Council catering contracts from 2020, including schools.
- 7** Grow and develop the Camden Climate Change Alliance environmental business network as a platform for engaging and collaborating with businesses.
- 8** Provide an annual update on the divestment of Camden's pension fund to ensure transparency.
- 9** 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 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Camden.
- 10** In 2021-22 through the Camden Climate Change Alliance, collaborate with major estates and organisations in the borough to promote circular economy opportunities focusing on measurement and the development of projects.

## MONITORING AND REPORTING

This Climate Action Plan will be the first of two, ahead of the zero carbon target date of 2030. Whilst the action plan contains activities up to 2025, it is intended to be a live document, with new activities added annually.

An annual progress update will be published to share progress on the actions completed. The update will include new actions developed in response to completed feasibility work or new regional or national policy.

Annual reports will be supplemented by updates continuously throughout the year to communicate how we are tackling the climate crisis. These updates will be shared through social media channels, our website and the Camden magazine. Improving the way we communicate about the climate crisis is a key component of the Climate Action Plan.

The plan will also be supported by new governance, with internal officer and external citizen review panels established in 2020 review and consider progress.

## FUNDING AND FINANCE

Achieving a zero carbon target by 2030 is a major challenge for the borough with serious financial investment required. Our technical emissions modelling concluded that almost £1 billion of additional investment would be required to achieve significant carbon dioxide emissions reduction. These levels of investment are far in excess of current Council budgets.

Identifying and unlocking innovative finance solutions will be critical to the success of the Climate Action Plan. The Climate Action Plan therefore commits to:

- **Explore innovative financing options.** Investigate opportunities for initiatives such as crowdfunding, community share offers and climate bonds as a way to unlock capital investment for climate projects.
- **Work together to expand our purchasing power.** Explore group-purchasing opportunities with other local authorities, and for Camden residents and organisations. These schemes would make initiatives more affordable, attract an improved supply chain, and unlock delivery at scale.

- **Continuously review grant funding and subsidy opportunities.** Within our own projects and supporting community-led action, continue to target and apply for financial support from government and other third parties. Where we feel there is a strong need for further support, communicate this through a lobbying position with other local authorities.

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

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# **TACKLING THE CLIMATE CRISIS**