Newham Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change.

Report

Contents

Executive Summary

The Newham Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change brought together 36 randomly selected residents from the London Borough of Newham for three evenings and a weekend in February 2020 to develop recommendations in response to the question: "How can the council and residents work together to reach the aspiration of being carbon zero by 2050 at the latest?"

Assembly members developed six themes to frame their recommendations to the Council. They did this after 14 presentations from a variety of local and national experts. The content of the presentations covered the current position on climate change, the aspirational goal within the 2050 timeframe, and suggested practical ways in which the question could be answered locally. Under each theme they drafted a general message and several specific recommendations which required 80% support in a final voting round to be accepted. 21 of the 24 specific recommendations received this level of support.

The six themes and general messages for each were:

1. Education, Awareness, Action: The Council, residents and communities are educated about the climate emergency and are clear about what we all need to do.

2. Technology and Energy: Invest in technologies to create sustainable energy (underpinned by the formula – continuous knowledge + action = wellbeing + more time on the planet).

3. Moving Around (transport and travel): Switch Newham towards a cleaner, greener, healthier journey.

4. Food and Recycling: Newham will reduce food waste and food miles and aspire to recycle 100%.

5. Environment and Outdoor space: Newham Council with residents will transform the environment to produce a greener, more pleasant, healthier place where people will want to live, work and settle.

6. Buildings and houses: Take greater leadership and responsibility in how residential homes and businesses become more energy efficient.

The assembly also came up with some specific messages regarding accountability to citizens and the need to monitor and follow through with action on the progress towards carbon zero.

Following the citizens' assembly, the messages and recommendations of the assembly will be presented to the council by assembly members and a final detailed response to the recommendations will be given in due course.*

*Given the uncertainties of the present reality of the Coronavirus pandemic.

The Final Recommendations in Full –

Below are the final recommendations of the Citizens Assembly created on Sunday 23 February 2020:

Theme 1 Education, Awareness, Action

General Message:

The Council, residents and communities are educated about the climate emergency and are clear about what we all need to do.

Support **91.2%**

Specific Recommendations:

1. The council shares a briefing pack which outlines the climate emergency and includes actionable advice.

   Support **91%**

2. The council holds events to invite 'heads of', leaders and key influencers who can pass on the message to more people.

   Support **91%**

3. The council makes data on emissions so that residents and the council can monitor progress and hold each other to account.

   Support **82%**

4. The council should leverage the capabilities of local institutions to educate and raise awareness while collaborating with each other to reach our goals.

   Support **94%**

Theme 2 Technology and Energy

General Message:

Invest in technologies to create sustainable energy (underpinned by the formula – continuous knowledge + action = wellbeing + more time on the planet).

Support **88.3%**

Specific Recommendations:

1. Initiate a housing retrofit programme to enable Council residents to receive it (free) and an optional payment plan for home owners at 0% interest, grants or subsidies, to cover insulation, glazing and boilers.

   Support **94%**

2. Harness and generate renewable power by exploring wind farms, water usage (tidal barrage), and power generation (energy coops).

   Support **97%**

3. Commence a solar panel scheme to reduce energy costs by making grants available for individuals, subsidies for commercial properties, and mandate it for new builds.

   Support **97%**

4. Research new and cost effective technologies to draw on best practice from other places e.g. action to increase electric car use. Work with local universities and other boroughs to explore a variety of new actions that could be taken forward.

   Support **97%**

Theme 3 Moving Around (transport and travel)

General Message:

Switch Newham towards a cleaner, greener, healthier journey.

Support **88.3%**

Specific Recommendations:

1. Introduce a free park and ride scheme for schools (using electric buses) along with car sharing schemes and walking buses.

   Support **91%**

2. Introduce free parking across the borough for e-vehicles.

   Support **88%**

3. Businesses and council to apply for grants to provide e-charging points in accessible areas across the borough.

   Support **100%**

4. Improve existing cycle lanes and walkways make them safer for use e.g. road surface, lighting and cut back vegetation enabling greater individual and group use.

   Support **94%**

Theme 4 Food and Recycling

General Message:

Newham will reduce food waste and food miles and aspire to recycle 100%.

Support **85.3%**

Specific Recommendations:

1. Council to drive the availability of affordable, locally grown food to reduce food miles using only biodegradable wrapping.

   Support **85%**

2. Council to work in partnership with local shops and supermarkets to reduce food waste. To implement the distribution of surplus food to those who need it.

   Support **97%**

3. Council to recycle 100% of domestic and commercial waste no later than 2030 and to stop burning recycled materials, food waste etc.

   Support **97%**

4. Recommendation 4 didn't reach 80% threshold to be accepted.

Theme 5 Environment and Outdoor Space

General Message:

Newham council with residents will transform the environment to produce a greener, more pleasant, healthier place where people will want to live, work and settle.

Support **91.2%**

Specific Recommendations:

1. Recommendations 1 didn't reach the 80% threshold to be accepted.

2. Recommendations 2 didn't reach the 80% threshold to be accepted.

3. Newham council to prioritise how recycling contributes to the borough's energy/CO2 production policies and to incentivise (not penalise) resident involvement.

Support **97%**

4. Newham council planning decisions all to support biodiversity, cleaner air, 'greening' as a central priority. All new buildings to initiate green standards.

Support **94%**

Theme 6 Buildings and Houses

General Message:

Take greater leadership and responsibility in how residential homes and businesses become more energy efficient.

Support **94.3%**

Specific Recommendations:

1. Create a council level finance strategy to meet demands of Newham residents to fund all changes (e.g. introduction of ground source heat pumps, solar panels, boiler replacement, wind turbine investing by 2021. Residents pay back based on savings made (via council tax bill) so repayments linked to property. (like student loans).

   Support **82%**

2. In 2020 create (by sortition method) a residents committee to partner, govern and oversee implementation of recommendations (to minimise corruption, increase efficiency and quality of decisions so they are not rashly made).

   Support **91%**

3. Introduce policies and planning for deep retrofit of all existing buildings and infrastructure to be completed by 2030 to be carbon neutral e.g. roofing spaces – introduce more greenery and solar panels and rainwater collection.

   Support **97%**

4. Overhaul council's policy to maximise use of abandoned buildings and brownfield sites for residential housing and community use e.g. Old East Ham Fire Station, Old East Ham Police Station, East Ham Job Centre and 700 homes demolished in Beckton/ Canning Town which are still empty after 7 years.

   Support **91%**

Roles and Inputs

The Newham Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change took place during February 2020. Thirty six citizens randomly selected through a process of sortition contributed 25.5 hours of their time in assembly meetings.

The meetings took place over three evenings and one weekend to consider the question:

> **How can the council and residents work together to reach the aspiration of being carbon zero by 2050 at the latest?**

The other roles that supported the process are illustrated and described below.

Stakeholder Oversight Group

Citizen Assembly Members

Independent Evaluator

Some wider community input - POLIS

Newham Council

Expert Speakers

The London Borough of Newham Council

The Council called for a Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change following its Climate Emergency declaration. They welcomed a process of citizen participation that would assist the council in developing its Climate Emergency Action Plan. The outputs from Citizen Assemblies are recommendations written by citizens in a careful and collaborative manner for the Council to consider incorporating into its approach to delivering change. There may be occasions when recommendations are not accepted. In all circumstances the Council provides a full and detailed response to the recommendations and how it intends to take them forward.

The Council awarded **MutualGain** the contract to be the coordinating organisation for the Assembly. MutualGain is an independent public participation organisation who designed the assembly, invited a pool of experts to present, recruited and lead the facilitation team for the assembly, and managed the overall process. The Coordinating Organisation is the main point of contact for assembly members. MutualGain's social purpose is....

> ....to promote greater participation and active citizenship within our democracy and increase social capital, for the mutual benefit of all.

Newham Citizens' Assembly produced a total of 24 recommendations - 21 received over 80% of support from the assembly as a whole and were presented to the Mayor in the final meeting.

Citizen Assembly Members

The members of the citizens' assembly were recruited as a representative group of people living in the Borough of Newham by the Sortition Foundation, a not-for-profit company that promotes the use of randomly selected groups of people in decision-making.

Newham's Citizen Assembly commenced with 43 citizens agreeing to be part of the process. Over the duration of the assembly personal circumstances prevented seven from continuing their participation, with a final set of 36 assembly members providing recommendations.

An invitation letter was sent to 8,000 households in the borough at the end of December 2019. Households that received the invitation were able to register their interest in participating: 292 people responded. From that pool of respondents a final 43 members were selected on 13 January 2020 as a representative sample of Newham's population aged 16 years and over in terms of:

- Gender.
- Age.
- Ethnicity.
- Profession.
- Where in the borough they live.
- Attitudes to climate change.

Assembly members were given a £250 gesture of goodwill to thank them for the commitment and time they offered. Of the final 43 members chosen 38 began the assembly and 36 completed all the sessions.

The annex includes a table comparing the demographics of the citizens' assembly to the local population in terms of the stratification criteria and information providing the first names of the assembly members and where they come from in the borough.

Stakeholder Oversight Group

The Citizens' Assembly was overseen by a Stakeholder Oversight Group consisting of people representing a cross section of local interests in the borough. The group's role was to see:

- That the assembly design and delivery is fair.
- That the final recommendations of the assembly can be trusted as being the result of an impartial and balanced process.

The group members were:

- Susanne Rauprich - One Newham - (Community and Voluntary Organisations Network).
- James Jukwey - Newham Citizens UK - (Civil Society Organisation).
- Mike Bold - Extinction Rebellion Newham - (Environmental Movement).
- Professor Darryl Newport - University of East London, Sustainability Research Institute.
- Kelvin Abdul Kareem Jones - Newham United Dialogue - (Interfaith Network).

The Oversight Group provided feedback on key aspects of the assembly's design, including:

- The question on which assembly members are asked to give their views;
- Who was invited to give evidence and what they were asked to cover;
- The written briefings created for assembly members.

This group met on four occasions. The first time with council officers to shape the question for the assembly to consider, then before the assembly started, during it and after its completion.

Independent Evaluator

As well as assembly members providing feedback on the whole process at the end of the assembly an independent academic reviewer Patricia Mockler from Queens University, Department of Political Studies, Ontario, Canada has overseen the process, and will provide feedback on the assembly and its design. She has also been conducting research on the project regarding the effects on public and political participation for the randomly selected members who have participated in the assembly. The final evaluation will be produced and available in mid April.

Expert Speakers and Local Interests Presenters

Experts gave presentations on the subject of Climate Change and how they perceived the challenge ahead. They were asked to construct their presentations to address the following questions:

1. Who are you and what is your perspective on the Climate Change Emergency?

2. What are people saying about your perspective on the Climate Change Emergency and how would you respond to those who are critiquing you?

3. If you were in charge of the Council, what three recommendations would you be making to ensure you make a positive difference to the lives of those living and working in Newham?

MutualGain sourced all the experts on the advice from the oversight group and assembly members. The assembly was given the opportunity after each session to request speakers on any topics they felt were missing that they felt would improve their ability to respond to the assembly question. In addition, the independent evaluator emailed assembly members for mid term feedback which informed the selection of speakers for the final session.

There were also presenters who responded to a call out on the Climate Change Assembly webpage for any local groups or individuals that wished to present evidence for the assembly to consider. The final list of speakers is set out below.

Thurs 6 Feb Climate Change - What it is, what a council can do.		Thurs 13 Feb What Newham Council is planning to do, different perspectives for action.		Sat 22 Feb Local perspectives and things local residents and community can do.	
Topic	Presenter	Topic	Presenter	Group	Presenter
Climate Change What it is. The impacts Situation in Newham. Carbon emissions and getting to zero carbon	Dr James Bradley, Lecturer in Environmental Science, Queen Mary University of London	**Newham Council's response so far**	Councillor Mas Patel, Commissioner for Air quality and Climate Change – Newham Council	**Solar and Technological Solutions**	Peter Cross - Treadlighter

Thurs 6 Feb Climate Change - What it is, what a council can do.		Thurs 13 Feb What Newham Council is planning to do, different perspectives for action.		Sat 22 Feb Local perspectives and things local residents and community can do.	
Topic	Presenter	Topic	Presenter	Group	Presenter
What can be done by a council?	Roz Bulleid Head of Policy, Green Alliance	**Psychology and Climate Change** Inaction/ action and behaviour change	Professor Kate Jeffery, Cognitive Neuroscience, University College London	**Fossil Free Newham** **Faith Perspectives on Climate**	Jenny Duvall Brother Samuel - Friary of St Francis
Co-benefits in tackling Climate Change	Dr Neil Jennings, Grantham Institute, Imperial College London	**Fair Transition & Green New Deal**	Daniel Willis, Policy and campaigns manager, Global Justice Now	**Buildings & Construction in Newham**	Dr Heba El Sharkawy – UEL
National picture and Newham's place in it	Henry Irvine Aether Consultancy	**Local & global context**	Judy Ling Wong Black Environmental Network	**Climate you Change** **Newham Green Business Forum**	Celia Wain Heapy Nnenna Anyanwu
Opportunity to request further expertise				Written Statement from **London City Airport**	

Wider Engagement in the Borough

Recommendations, ideas and statements from wider engagement in Newham on the issue of Climate Change were summarised and incorporated into a speaker slot on the final session.

Assembly members were given time to read through all of these for later possible inclusion in final recommendations.
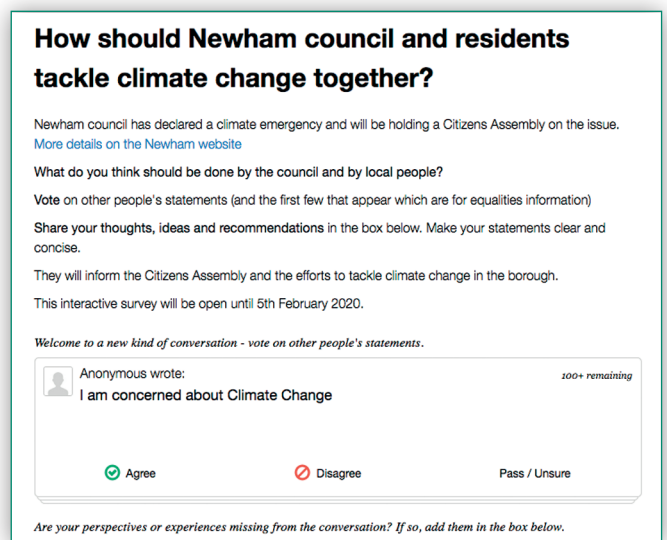
The data to inform that session was taken from the following citizen engagement exercises:

Climate Now Forum

More than 60 residents attended the borough's first ever Newham Climate Now! Open Forum in September 2019 to look at how they could help tackle the ongoing climate emergency.

Youth Climate Assembly

Also in September 2019 over 100 young people contributed their views on the climate emergency, and what can be done to tackle it. The event focussed on discussions around the climate emergency and allowed young people aged from 10 to 25 years the chance to deliver their thoughts on the subject to the Full Council.

How should Newham council and residents tackle climate change together?

Newham council has declared a climate emergency and will be holding a Citizens Assembly on the issue. More details on the Newham website

What do you think should be done by the council and by local people?

Vote on other people's statements (and the first few that appear which are for equalities information)

Share your thoughts, ideas and recommendations in the box below. Make your statements clear and concise.

They will inform the Citizens Assembly and the efforts to tackle climate change in the borough.

This interactive survey will be open until 5th February 2020.

Welcome to a new kind of conversation - vote on other people's statements.

Anonymous wrote: *100+ remaining*
I am concerned about Climate Change

⊘ Agree   ⊘ Disagree   Pass / Unsure

Are your perspectives or experiences missing from the conversation? If so, add them in the box below.
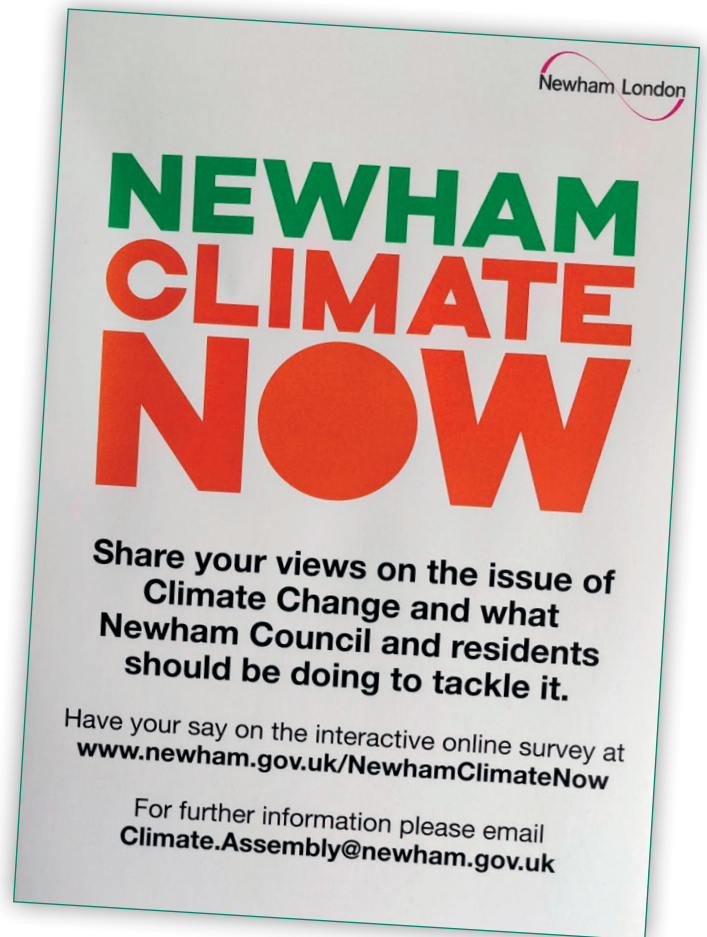
Polis

For those residents who hadn't been selected to attend this assembly we offered an opportunity to capture their voices through an online platform called Polis which was advertised through Newham Climate Now leaflets in libraries, social media posts and inclusion in e-bulletins.

The three ways in which residents could contribute to the platform were:

- Voting on other people's statements (select agree, disagree or pass/unsure).
- Adding to the conversation by submitting their own opinion for others to vote on it.
- Sharing the link to the conversation with friends and neighbours in Newham.

The voting on each statement enables Polis to show majority, consensus views and to create groupings of people who voted similarly. A report and analysis of the results of the online engagement is found in the annex section.

Citizens Assembly Sessions

Preparing for Participation in the Assembly

As part of the OnBoarding process all assembly members were sent a briefing pack which confirmed all the details that had been shared over the phone. They were asked to complete some preparation in advance of the first information session that involved watching the BBC documentary by David Attenborough.

Information Session

This session was designed as a welcome session: an opportunity for assembly members to get to know each other and the team, and to ask questions about the process. The group was reminded of the question that they have to answer, and showed a film about critical thinking to support them with their questioning process. They were talked through the various tools they have at their disposal to capture thinking, maintain the tempo of speakers and raise questions for speakers and the team.

After each session we gauged the temperature of the group and created a wordle:

Expert Sessions

Assembly members attended two (3 hour) evening sessions one week apart - 6th and 13th February. Four experts in each session each completed a template prior to the assembly which was also available online in a shared webspace for assembly members to access in between meetings. On the first morning of the deliberation weekend they also heard from an additional six local speakers who offered their take on solutions.

Speakers presented their perspectives in five and ten minute slots which were followed by small facilitated group discussions to raise key questions for each speaker. They formed an initial panel where the key questions from assembly members were asked. With the responses to hand further facilitated dialogue took place as the speakers moved between each table to provide more in depth contribution based on the needs of each group. In the second session MutualGain sourced two speakers who couldn't be present in person but who were pleased to be invited to speak and asked if they could do so through a filmed interview which was agreed. The questions that were raised in relation to their presentation were taken back to each presenter and they were filmed providing their answers, and those films shared with the assembly at the next session

From the outset of the process there was discussion and debate about the impact of London City Airport on Newham residents and climate change more generally. The Council shared its Air Quality Plan with assembly members, and MutualGain approached numerous local businesses, including the airport, to see if they were interested in presenting to the assembly. The airport was unable to provide a speaker, and instead shared a statement that they asked to be read out in their absence. The possibility of submitting statements was something that MutualGain had put in place along with the request to present. City Airport was the only business to avail of this. In the session that followed the local presentations there was opportunity for presenters to discuss and answer questions at each table. This gave them the chance to share their own perspectives and the pros and cons of whatever had been presented previously.

The feeling in the room after the first two speaker sessions was as follows:

Expert Session x 1

Weekend of Deliberation

Day One

After hearing from 14 speakers and digesting the variety of perspectives presented, day one of deliberations was spent forming a vision of the borough based on what they had heard. Assembly members worked in small groups to discuss and design a preferred future creating and illustrating their vision. After hearing the rationale for each illustration, they voted for their preferred vision to take them forward in to the recommendation stage:

As newham residents we come together to create a healthy borough, support each other, make Newham beautiful, and make Newham the eco friendly borough of London.

With a vision in mind the group began to consider what that might mean from a variety of perspectives within Newham using a short role play exercise.

The day ended with the group agreeing the overarching themes that they felt most accurately reflected the areas of discussions that they had been having. They did this by looking at the long list of recommendations and clustering those into themes to guide them on day two.

Agreed Themes

- Education, Awareness and Action.
- Moving Around.
- Food and recycling.
- Building and houses.
- Environment and outdoor spaces.
- Technology and energy.

An Underlying Theme

As the discussions and debates began to unfold about the themes, there was a series of messages that assembly members felt strongly about, but did not necessarily relate to a climate emergency theme: they reflected the desire of assembly members to be listened to at a detailed and serious level.

The question they had to answer was clearly about what residents and the Council could do to address the climate emergency but members felt that there was a risk that this process was a way of focusing unfairly on the residents, without the Council "leading by example". One of the points raised as an indication of a potential mistrust of the motivation for the assembly was the Council's recycling contract: residents described the current recycling contract having a potentially huge impact on the climate emergency as it was alleged that the current arrangements removed residents recycling and then burned it all. They spoke about the Council using the financial implications as a reason for not ending the contract and said that residents will also have financial implications of making change and as a result they would want to see firm commitment from the Council to lead by example in these instances.

Priority areas for Council policy teams to focus on should be housing/homes; school management; economic benefits; council buildings, and as a result their recommendations reflect that position.

In order to ensure the climate emergency, and this citizen assembly, is taken seriously the group asked that there is a specific recommendation included to ensure the Council continues with their commitment to participation and that an opportunity is created for this group (or a group) to continue to monitor their progress.

The final exercise of the day was to create some useful points to be mindful of as they proceeded to create their final recommendations. The following were the points the assembly came up with.

Assessing Recommendations: Things to be mindful of

- Remembering from the stakeholder exercise what others may think of a recommendation and **ensuring that the recommendation would be acceptable to the majority**.
- Look for solutions that **do not put the cost wholly onto the individual**.
- Think whether recommendations are **realistic and can we control/influence** – should not just be giving our concerns to the Council.
- Recommendations should be **practical**.
- Look for **quick wins** – how long it takes to implement a recommendation takes to encourage people.
- **How much in terms of emissions are reduced** by the recommendation.
- Impact of pets/people with pets should think about climate change more (this particularly referred to a point that one speaker raised in relation to a pet dog being more harmful than a 4x4 car).

Day Two

In preparation for day two the team compiled a long list of all the recommendations created throughout the whole process and put them into the relevant themes. Each theme, the headline message for the theme, and the long list of recommendations was printed in large A0 format using a colour coding system that enabled assembly members to see where the recommendation had come from.

The day started with the group using a version of dot voting to process what recommendations caused most concern and which they thought were great. They illustrated this using heart and lightning stickers to enable the whole group to view first thoughts. With an initial indication of what the whole group liked/disliked they began to work in smaller facilitated groups to deliberate the next iteration of recommendations. With a short list produced out of that process the group used a carousel process to view the next iteration. As they did so they left comments using post it notes to challenge and improve on the first iteration of the days recommendations.

The original authors of the recommendation in each theme discussed comments and refined their final recommendations which were shared with the whole group before a final vote on recommendations took place (see appendix Y for an example of the voting form used).

Theme 1 - (Tick the boxes to show how much you support or oppose the following)

General Message for Theme 1

Strongly support 👍👍	Support 👍	Neither support nor oppose	Oppose 👎	Strongly Oppose 👎👎

Theme 1 - Specific Recommendations	Support 👍	Oppose 👎	Reasoning (Write notes here to explain why you support or oppose anything in this theme)
1			
2			
3			
4			

The day closed after the group presented their findings by theme to the Mayor of Newham, who thanked them for their time and effort and shared further information about how the Council were also considering similar themes.

Assembly Recommendations

Results from Newham Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change

This section details the final recommendations and shares some of the dialogue that took place as they were crafted.

The journey to a final set of recommendations:

After each speaker, assembly members were given an opportunity to share potential recommendations for future review in the final sessions. ALL recommendations collected throughout the process were re presented to assembly members on the final day of deliberations. In addition to the recommendations that they collected, they were also provided with recommendations that had been expressed by the speakers, those collected online through 'Polis', and from the recent Climate Now forum and Youth Climate Assembly (not the same type of assembly as this).

This report takes the reader through initial thinking about that selection of recommendations before describing the final recommendations and their rationale.

Theme 1 Education, Awareness, Action

General Message:

The Council, residents and communities are educated about the climate emergency and are clear about what we all need to do.

Support **94.3%**

Strongly support	Support	Neither support nor oppose	Oppose	Strongly Oppose
64.7%	26.5%	8.8%	0%	0%

In formulating this theme it was clear that awareness and education was important, but there was a risk for the group that this might not go far enough in initiating action. They felt that to rely on education and awareness raising without a strong focus on the actions needed as a result, the point may be missed by those receiving the messages and result in wasted resources. The group felt it was necessary for awareness to focus on real action, hence the three words for this theme.

In general the overlap between the themes made the challenge feel quite complex for many assembly members. They felt making changes in one area could easily create greater emissions in another – not only offsetting the environmental benefits but possibly creating new challenges in wider society. It was felt that it was difficult to make good choices without being able to see all of the trade-offs.

This dot voting exercise showed the assembly to be against the idea of encouraging local protest on the issue. There was also disagreement with the statement put forward on Pol.is that *"2050 is way too late."* They felt this was anxiety provoking, encouraging disconnection and could delay things further. Conversely some did say that focusing on 2050 makes it sound like we have 30 years to act when we don't and so the emergency must be better articulated.

Education and awareness recommendations that focus on young people tended to meet with disapproval. *"However this recommendation Education programmes on Climate Action for 18+ (older people being those who are the least informed)"* received much support with the group being mindful that young people are the group who are driving this movement and behavioural change is needed from those who are less aware of the implications and actions required.

The idea of posters and leaflets being put up in youth clubs received a large number of lightning strikes which could have stemmed from a similar perception that it's not the younger demographic that need to be targeted.

The statement from the online platform *"Newham could use this opportunity to be a leading borough for change, there's literally nothing to lose! People have to be forced to change"* was also very unpopular. The idea of people being forced to change was something that was met with resistance in numerous conversations.

In terms of awareness raising there was widespread agreement on the necessity for:

• Connecting with religious communities and faith leaders.
• Education on what is energy efficient and what is not.
• Partnering with UEL and Birkbeck Uni to research and evaluate initiatives.
• Having conversations about climate change as widely as possible. Holding many more forums, events and assemblies on the issue of climate change with residents creating their own action groups. It was felt that discussing the issues was very important.

Rationale for the final recommendations

Recommendation 1 The council shares a briefing pack which outlines the climate emergency and includes actionable advice.	**91%**	**9%**

It was generally felt that this was a good idea and that the briefing pack could include an invitation to watch the BBC David Attenborough programme that had been part of the Citizens' Assembly preparatory homework. Some concerns were raised over the language of Climate Emergency and that this could create anxiety and panic which might not help people access the creativity needed to create a borough residents aspire to live in.

Recommendation 2 The council holds events to invite 'heads of', leaders and key influencers who can pass on the message to more people.	**91%**	**9%**

The idea of doing outreach particularly through faith communities was raised by both Councillor Patel and Brother Samuel in the presentations to the assembly. These recommendations resonated with the assembly as they felt communities in Newham value faith and tend to listen to their faith leaders.

It was felt that if the Council facilitated more opportunities for residents to come together in meaningful ways then at some point they would be able to come together through their own initiatives to address the problems and concerns.

Recommendation 3 The council makes data on emissions so that residents and the council can monitor progress and hold each other to account.	**82%**	**18%**

This was seen as important to progressively make good choices and understand the trade-offs.

Recommendation 4		
The council should leverage the capabilities of local institutions to educate and raise awareness while collaborating with each other to reach our goals.	91%	9%

Discussions included the idea of partnering with educational institutions such as UEL and Birkbeck as being particularly useful. The idea of collaboration across sections of the community arose in different expert presentations and it was felt that the community could be more motivated and better organised in changing things by sharing, learning and doing things together.

Theme 2 Technology and Energy

General Message:

Invest in technologies to create sustainable energy. This is underpinned by the formula: continuous knowledge + action = wellbeing and more time on the planet.

Support **88.3%**

Strongly support	Support	Neither support nor oppose	Oppose	Strongly Oppose
61.8%	26.5%	8.8%	0%	2.9%

This theme came from much thinking throughout the assembly meetings about the way in which technology can be instrumental in helping us address climate change. The group was keen to acknowledge the pace of change in technology and reluctant therefore to be wedded to a specific technology in their recommendations, unless they had heard about the need to utilise it. As part of their thinking they felt it important to adopt a formula to address the technological possibilities which is part of their description of the theme:

continuous knowledge (generated from science and practice) + action (the council and residents responding positively to that knowledge) = wellbeing (improved quality of life) and more time on the planet.

This theme started as separate themes incorporating a variety of recommendations covering technology, energy and council policy and planning. However, in the deliberations about theme and what the themes meant for local people the three merged to become Technology and Energy.

When the group reviewed the long list of recommendations the most populated with lightning strikes, and therefore **cause for concern**, was one that was originally put forward by assembly members themselves:

Councils to switch off lighting in public spaces and buildings with low use.

This attracted the most in-depth conversation arising from the long list of the recommendations – only one participant supported this, everyone else expressed worries about safety and crime which is maybe just one example of some of the hard choices ultimately required in terms of the trade-offs needed to reach our collective aspirations.

Sticking with the theme of lighting, the group also placed a high number of lightning stickers on the recommendation put forward by the youth assembly:

Non energy saving lightbulbs should be banished and those who still use them should be fined.

The Council fining residents in any area of life was generally unsupported in this assembly - the group preferred a more supportive and encouraging approach to behavioural change in Newham. They had particular concerns about reduced lighting in streets due to the feeling of being unsafe.

Neither of these recommendations were taken forward in the final deliberations due to the case being made by assembly members and the subsequent strength of feeling against them.

The initial recommendations that were **liked** included the following (in order):

- Replace old street lights with more efficient LED and solar technologies.
- Increase the number of wind farms.
- Councils to help residents improve energy performance of older properties by providing a payment plan with low/zero interest. Council to cover the cost for retrofit and owners to pay annual payment which is equivalent to the amount saved each year.

The final recommendations within this theme emerged out of much debate about the untapped use of technology to help make the emergency changes needed with the most positive impact on residents.

Recommendation 1		
Initiate a housing retrofit programme to enable Council residents to receive it free and an optional payment plan for home owners at 0% interest, grants or subsidies, to cover insulation, glazing and boilers.	94%	6%

This idea was raised in the expert sessions and in assembly dialogue. One expert presenter, Roz Bulleid, spoke about mass producing the retrofits off site and being able to swiftly retrofit a mass of properties and not to do so incrementally. Whilst this was acknowledged as an expense for the council there were suggestions made that grants could be applied for to enable the realisation of the recommendation.

Assembly members felt that many residents within Newham would not have the funds to be able to retrofit their homes even if they were convinced of the need to (which still has some way to go - see theme one). It is important, therefore, for the Council to act as leaders (leading by example and retrofitting their properties with the urgency that underlies this assembly), and by acting as enablers, by ensuring that property owners are able to upgrade boilers, windows, and insulation easily through grants from the Council that are interest free.

Recommendation 2		
Harness and generate renewable power by exploring wind farms, water usage (tidal barrage), and power generation (energy coops).	97%	3%

Many recommendations from the long list influenced this final recommendation although not explicit in the final wording; from the council developing its own clean energy generation, to using open data to enable the storing and purchasing of energy in peak and off peak times, to divesting the £28m from the Council pension fund. There was significant support for government schemes that help make the changes required and therefore it was felt that the Council should explore how it might do that for local residents.

The group was conscious of the questions they were being asked to answer and the need to think about residents and council recommendations. As a result they explored the potential for creating local energy coops and how local people could undertake group purchase of renewables.

Recommendation 3		
Commence a solar panel scheme to reduce energy costs by making grants available for individuals, subsidies for commercial properties, and mandate it for new builds.	97%	3%

The same narrative and debate about the cost to local residents, and potential grants available, informed this recommendation too. There was a view that solar panels are now widely available and the council could work proactively with suppliers to secure a persuasive deal to the various stakeholders in the borough: individuals wishing to make a change would be offered the opportunity to do so through a grant process; commercial properties might secure a subsidy as an incentive to install the panels, and the Council could mandate all new builds to use them.

Recommendation 4		
Research new and cost effective technologies to draw on best practice from other places e.g action to increase electric car use. Work with local universities and other boroughs to explore a variety of new actions that could be taken forward.	97%	3%

The speed at which change is needed and the speed at which technology evolves, led the group to be specific in a recommendation for the Council to continually work in partnership with universities and technology companies to learn from trials and bring cutting edge technologies to the borough.

Theme 3 Moving Around (transport and travel)

General Message: Switch Newham towards a cleaner, greener, healthier journey.				
Strongly support	**Support**	**Neither support nor oppose**	**Oppose**	**Strongly Oppose**
55.9%	32.4%	8.8%	0%	2.9%

Support **88.3%**

This theme started as travel and transport and later became 'moving around' because the group felt it encompassed more than just travel and transport, and was fundamentally about how we move around the borough with ease mindful of the impact of our movement on the climate.

The group illustrated their initial passion for or against specific recommendations using hearts and lightning strikes. The recommendation that received the most concern within this theme was put forward online:

Parking charges for everyone in Newham.

This was closely followed by two other online recommendations that **caused concern**, to:

1. Close City Airport and use land to grow food for local people.
2. Introduce higher parking charges for high emission vehicles.

These did not make it to the final recommendations as there was a clear distrust and dislike of the Council imposing punitive measures on low income families.

The recommendation that was **liked most** was put forward by the assembly members:

E-bus to drop off/pick up kids for school runs where there is high congestion on small roads.

Two other assembly member recommendations were **liked** equally:

- Public transport should be cheaper to encourage people to leave their cars at home.
- Incentives for using electric cars eg cheaper parking etc.

One of the expert recommendations was also liked equally with those listed above:

Working with TfL, target the areas of the borough with highest levels of air pollution for transport interventions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions while improving peoples' health e.g. electric bus routes, increased provision of cycle paths, more EV charging stations, changing the Council's own car fleet to electric vehicles.

Recommendation 1 Introduce a free park and ride scheme for schools (using electric buses) along with car sharing schemes and walking buses.	91%	9%

The school run was discussed at a number of levels:

- The pollution it causes.
- The contribution it makes to childhood obesity.
- The danger of erratic parking to get children into the school especially when late.
- The lack of social interaction on route to school.

The popularity of this theme remained consistent throughout deliberations which is reflected in the high percentage of people voting for it. The debate focused around the desire to move away from a focus on electric vehicles and to consider a broader range of lifestyle changes that reduce travelling by vehicle such as walking and cycling. Accepting that these behaviours are challenging to change, the group felt that the Council should lead by example and offer a free park and ride scheme for children travelling across the borough to schools (taking a number of cars off the road and demonstrating the Council commitment to electric vehicles when they are needed). They wanted the council to consider ways to incentivise local people to develop walking buses or at least a car sharing scheme. One way of kick starting this process might be to seed fund an initial set up of locally owned ideas.

The group recognised that park and ride may be expensive to set up and difficult to deliver and that investing in alternatives like better public transport may get a better outcome. However that depended on TfL relationships which were outside the control of this group in making recommendations.

Recommendation 2 Introduce free parking across the borough for e-vehicles.	88%	12%

There was recognition that many Newham residents liked using their cars and were reluctant to change them for electric cars until they were convinced there were sufficient electric charging points. This led to a discussion about how local people could be incentivised to switch to electric cars and the resulting recommendation that electric vehicles should be free to park initially in order to encourage that shift to take place. The group spoke about the need for parking charges to be waived specifically for those having to stop and charge their cars. However, there were a number of critiques of this recommendation that focused on:

Safety: electric cars are as dangerous as other fuels and so accidents won't be reduced.

Privilege: electric vehicles favour those who can afford to buy a new car. The group felt that the people of Newham would not be able to afford E vehicles, however, it was recognised that in the future there may not be a choice with petrol and diesel vehicles being unavailable. With that in mind they hoped to reach a tipping point where people would give greater consideration to purchasing E vehicles if there was an incentive, such a free parking. They wanted to try to reach that tipping point.

Evidence: is there any evidence that higher parking charges impact on car purchase behaviours? It was felt that higher parking charges could raise income for the council but have no impact on car use/purchases; where is the evidence that the land would be better used for parking spaces than greening spaces that grow local food? Was a key challenge to the above.

Recommendation 3		
Businesses and council to apply for grants to provide e-charging points in accessible areas across the borough.	100%	0%

This recommendation was made in relation to communities expecting the Council to use their position and influence to attract financing from other sources where there are grants available. Liaison with Transport for London, the car manufacturers, fuel companies, central government transport departments, philanthropic organisations seeking climate solutions, and global initiatives could contribute to the way in which the Council ensures it implements this recommendation without it having to use local finances.

The business element of this recommendation came from the wider group believing that this is not just a Council issue and that businesses could apply for grants to enable customers to shop whilst not negatively contributing to the climate emergency.

Recommendation 4		
Improve existing cycle lanes and walkways make them safer for use e.g road surface, lighting and cut back vegetation enabling greater individual and group use.	100%	0%

In the visioning exercise conducted the day previously assembly members were keen to have clean green streets that encourage walking and cycling and lower car use. A point that may need emphasising was that people wanted to use cycle lanes, but they are not swept or kept clean resulting in punctures and damage to bikes. In terms of walkways, again people were happy to walk but felt unsafe due to poor lighting and overgrown vegetation. Both sections look unkempt and unattractive.

Safety is often the reason quoted for not walking and cycling at present, and so this recommendation goes some way to encourage residents to feel safer when using the walkways and cycle routes in the borough. There was a lot of debate about the implementation of car free days - this got a lot of initial support, but when the group started to think about it in more depth they felt that the problem would be pushed to a different area or neighbouring borough. The big message in those debates was to work with TfL to improve the quality and experience of using public transport to make it an attractive alternative to car use.

Theme 4 Food and Recycling

General Message:

Newham will reduce food waste and food miles and aspire to recycle 100%.

Support **85.3%**

Strongly support	Support	Neither support nor oppose	Oppose	Strongly Oppose
50%	35.3%	14.7%	0%	0%

The issue of food was one that many assembly members were struck by. The statistics they heard from one presenter about food waste being a major contributor to carbon emissions seemed to make an impression. In the theme generation stage the assembly decided that the two issues of food and recycling should become one of the assembly's themes.

The recommendation regarding the closure of City Airport was seen as totally impractical.

Close city airport and use land to grow food for local people.

As was an online food exchange platform.

Create an online platform where people can exchange excess food.

Recommendations that promoted the reduction of meat consumption received mixed responses from the assembly. People felt it should not be a policy issue and that people don't want to be told how to eat. For example the following recommendation received a large number of lightning stickers:

The meat industry is a huge cause of carbon emissions. It is time to switch to being vegan, vegetarian or eating meat very rarely.

However there was mixed feeling over the issue and the two recommendations below were much more popular helping to form one of the final recommendations.

- Reduce the proportion of meat available from catering and at public events, while conducting campaigns to promote plant based diets.
- Encourage less meat consumption.

There was much discussion around the issue of the council's recycling contract and the following recommendations received a large number of heart stickers.

- The council should withdraw from the recycling contract it's in.
- Stop burning recycling.

The issues of working with supermarkets and local business to reduce food waste and reducing food miles with locally grown produce were also popular and were incorporated into the final recommendations.

Newham will reduce food waste and food miles and aspire to recycle 100%.

For this headline message (and recommendation 3) there was a lot of discussion about being aspirational and ambitious and going for 100% vs being practical and perhaps having a lower target. This discussion was taken with frequent reference to the slide that was put up from the final session of the previous day when assembly members were asked to come up with a set of "things we need to take into account when making our final recommendations." In the end the aspirational won out.

Recommendation 1 Council to drive the availability of affordable, locally grown food to reduce food miles using only biodegradable wrapping.	85%	15%

Recommendation 2 Council to work in partnership with local shops and supermarkets to reduce food waste. To implement the distribution of surplus food to those who need it.	97%	3%

The first two recommendations were included as popular recommendations that were adapted from recommendations that had arisen from one of the expert presenters and the assembly member's own thinking.

Recommendation 3 Council to recycle 100% of domestic and commercial waste no later than 2030 and to stop burning recycled materials, food waste etc.	97%	3%

The issue of the council being stuck in a contract where the recycled waste is incinerated came up multiple times in the online survey and in the assembly. Some people expressed anger on this point and felt that the Council was cheating its residents by doing recycling but not doing it properly. Assembly members questioned why the council can't review and end this contract if this is an emergency.

Most of the discussion on the wording of this recommendation was centred around the "recycle 100%" as perhaps being unrealistic and that it should be tempered by inclusion of a time frame. The year 2030 was chosen as an ambitious timeframe to aim for and was accepted by the group in the final formulation.

Recommendation 4	70% DIDN'T MAKE THE THRESHOLD OF 80%	30%
Council institutions including schools should be predominantly plant based by introducing a five year programme to limit non vegetarian options to once a week.		

A majority of the group felt very strongly about the recommendation to introduce a plant-based diet four out of five days a week for schools and other Council institutions. The conversation referred back to the presentations on the first session about the contribution to greenhouse gases of meat production. In the discussions regarding this recommendation feelings were not unanimous but nobody strongly objected.

When it came to the final voting this recommendation received 70% support but didn't make the threshold to be put forward as a final recommendation.

Theme 5 Environment and Outdoor spaces

General Message:
Newham council with residents will transform the environment to produce a greener, more pleasant, healthier place where people will want to live, work and settle.

Support **91.2%**

Strongly support	Support	Neither support nor oppose	Oppose	Strongly Oppose
64.7%	26.5%	8.8%	0%	0%

This theme was initially suggested as 'Environment'. It was suggested that outdoor spaces be added to include planning and everything not covered by the buildings theme.

Recommendations that emerged as unpopular included:

Switching off lights where not needed.

The idea of switching off public lights made people feel unsafe: there was agreement on the need for street lights. However there were questions regarding the necessity of shops and offices etc keeping their lights on.

Punitive recommendations such as residents facing consequences if they do not recycle correctly were seen as unfair especially to poorer residents.

In general the recommendations connected to greening received popular feedback.

Planting more trees, or planting a new one for every tree taken down, preventing the removal of trees, creation of more green spaces, pocket parks, green screens and vertical gardens.

- Encouraging wild pollinators and food growing in gardens.
- Greening micro grants.

The need to address local risks such as air quality and high flooding risks were seen as **very important**. Air quality action such as increased monitoring also made it into the final recommendation.

The following also received a large number of 'hearts' in the rating round of recommendations:

- More community rain gardens.
- Factoring in environmental considerations into all council services.
- Safe, green play spaces away from pollution.
- Considering alternatives to cement based building which creates high CO2 emissions.

The rationale for the final recommendations is set out below:

Recommendation 1	76%	24%
Improve Newham's air quality by installing pollution monitors across the borough and by protecting trees, expanding green spaces and not allowing new buildings in existing public parks.	DIDN'T MAKE THE THRESHOLD OF 80%	

Some of the detail that went into this recommendation included:

- Installing air quality monitors across the borough to make visible pollution levels in key places (e.g. school/road junctions).
- Installing enough electric charge points.
- Increasing 'greening' of environment through encouraging moss-walls/roof/planting more bedding around existing trees.
- Protect all existing public park spaces from building development.
- Issue TPOs (Tree Protection Orders) on more existing trees AND prioritise NOT cutting down trees for new developments without local resident consent.

Some of the considerations the assembly members asked themselves regarding **Air Quality Monitors** were: "Is this cost effective?", " What's the benefit?" ,"To what end? Can the individual do anything with this info? Are they able to change their choices?", "will people remember from 5 months ago what the air quality meter said? What is the function of Air Quality meters?".

There was also the idea of meters with traffic light indicators for red amber green depending on the severity of the air quality.

For the other aspects of this recommendation the tree protection idea was popular.

Recommendation 2	76%	
Newham council to produce a water strategy to initiate, encourage and support existing householders/tenants to harvest and recycle water.	DIDN'T MAKE THE THRESHOLD OF 80%	24%

In response to this issue the questions that emerged were as follows: " What infrastructure is required?", "Needs to be action orientated", "How many people will this help?" It was thought the benefits would include: conserving water and reducing the water bill. There were suggestions that water harvesting would include toilets, gardens, washing machines etc.

In the final voting there were a number of reservations such as "Is there a shortage of water?!" that meant that the recommendation didn't receive the required 80% of votes to pass as a final recommendation to Newham council.

Recommendation 3 Newham council to prioritise how recycling contributes to the borough's energy/ CO_2 production policies and to incentivise (not penalise) resident involvement.	97%	13%

Considerations that emerged on this issue were to only incinerate recycled waste if this is a positive "waste-to-energy" climate action. It should NOT be treated only as a cost issue. There should be financial rewards and incentives for recycling rather than punitive actions for not recycling.

Recommendation 4 Newham council planning decisions all to support biodiversity, cleaner air, 'greening' as a central priority. All new buildings to initiate green standards.	94%	6%

This recommendation was popular and met with general approval.

Theme 6 Buildings and houses

General Message:				
Take greater leadership and responsibility in how residential homes and businesses become more energy efficient.				
Strongly support	Support	Neither support nor oppose	Oppose	Strongly Oppose
58.8%	35.3%	5.9%	0%	0%

Support **94.3%**

This theme started as housing/homes with some elements in a Council planning and policy theme. The view from the group when creating their final themes was that we shouldn't just be looking at homes and houses, but should be looking at all the buildings in the borough, specifically those owned by the council.

The long list of recommendations in this theme spanned: the use and re use of empty properties in the borough to accommodate the housing problem; the council leading by example in their properties to demonstrate good practice with climate friendly buildings. It encompassed deliberation about repurposing brownfield sites, retrofitting properties, making solar panels a requirement of building extensions, and reducing council tax for solar panel use and green homes.

The rationale for the final recommendations is set out below:

As the conversations unfolded there was a clear mis and/or distrust of the Council's intention with this assembly: members felt that it could be disingenuous, and that the relationship between Council and residents is one where residents feel they are:

> " Treated as a source of income rather than the council being the source of services. "

The group spent much of their time discussing the impact of planning requirements, describing a potential tussle between making necessary changes and the impact those changes might have on staying in one's home: there was fear that planning regulations requiring 'green' inclusion could mean someone would need to move house to accommodate family. This moved on to a conversation about affordability and how one neighbour can do things because they can afford the changes to pass regulatory requirements and another couldn't, therefore discriminating against those with less disposable income.

One of the initial recommendations was to create an initiative to 'de pave' front gardens to make space for local food growing, trees and greening. The suggestion was to provide a £200 grant for this. However, when the group discussed this they felt that:

> **Grass in front of homes will create more litter. I have to clear in front of our area every week.**

There was a strong sense from the group that the individual is the one who is being relied upon to make the changes when it should be led by central and local government. They felt that the "government [included LBN in this] is more interested in politics than solving problems" and that the "Government should be running and not walking because the emphasis has been on us". They argued that "residents do expect Newham to set up infrastructure, find best suppliers and do the leg work so it is less individual-based and economies of scale can be secured: utilities should be bearing brunt of the cost and residents pay back in affordable chunks like student loans similar ambition." One resident thinks the law has changed so local government can go on the open market to borrow money or their pension fund can invest in renewable energy (hence recommendation about creating a council level financial strategy).

With this in mind they reflected on where they did have agency and discussed how they might have more impact through controlling food waste (as one speaker said that food waste accounted for 20% of global emissions rather than aviation which was 3% of emissions).

Recommendation 1		
Create a council level finance strategy to meet demands of Newham residents to fund all changes (e.g. introduction of ground source heat pumps, solar panels, boiler replacement, wind turbine investing by 2021. Repayments stay linked to property even if someone moves home (like student loans).	82%	18%

The sheer scale and pace of change of what is required led this group to agree on the recommendation for a council level finance strategy to support a fair and positive relationship between residents and the Council. They wanted the Council to explore a repayment system that operates more like a student loan to avoid immediate struggles to repay, and takes into account income of the household.

Recommendation 2		
In 2020 create (by sortition method) a residents committee to partner, govern and oversee implementation of recommendations (to minimise corruption, increase efficiency and quality of decisions so they are not rashly made).	91%	9%

This recommendation reflects an appetite to continue with the relationship building between residents and the Council: the group felt that it was vital to continue to monitor the recommendations from the process and play an active part in ensuring transparency of the implementation. This was considered to be an important element of building trust with the Council and ensuring that their fears of the Council preferring punitive measures to address this issue were unfounded.

Recommendation 3		
Introduce policies and planning for deep retrofit of all existing buildings and infrastructure to be completed by 2030 to be carbon neutral e.g. roofing spaces – introduce more greenery and solar panels and rainwater collection.	97%	3%

This recommendation was popular with the group and is replicated in theme 2, recommendation 1. However, this version is specific about rainwater collection and puts a date of 2030 on the completion of the retrofit.

Recommendation 4 Overhaul council's policy to maximise use of abandoned buildings and brownfield sites for residential housing and community use e.g. Old East Ham Fire Station, Old East Ham Police Station, East Ham Job Centre and 700 homes demolished in Beckton/Canning Town which are still empty after 7 years.	91%	9%

There were strong feelings expressed in this group about the apparent abandonment of public service buildings. Whilst the group recognised that some are not Council owned buildings they did feel that there should be a public service commitment to better use those buildings and make them habitable using new green technologies. The group felt that the council could and should influence its partners to pursue this, citing a few examples of where to start.

Concluding Statements Regarding Accountability

Each group also produced a final statement regarding accountability and how they would like to see things continued after this process. This was something that emerged as being important when creating the six themes. This was the assembly's seventh theme. The statements were very similar and are outlined below:

We want Newham Council to keep residents informed about all final recommendations, increase collaboration with best practice in other boroughs and introduce governance and accountability that prevents fraud and corruption.

Committed members of the community should be appointed to oversee the ongoing development and progress of the work by the Council and community to get to net carbon zero.

The Climate Assembly should be re-convened in a year's time to receive feedback from the Council on progress.

The Council to collaborate with its neighbouring boroughs to maximise economies of scale and efficiencies.

Annex

1 - Link to Materials

All slides presentations and materials from the citizens' assembly are available at:
https://www.mutualgain.org/newham-citizen-assembly/

2 - The Assembly Members

The final 36 assembly members were:

First Name	Post Code	First Name	Post Code
Farrah	E13	Ngoc	E12
Anuj	E6	Augustine	E15
Wahid	E6	Clementin	E6
Goda	E6	Ancuta	E16
Preferred anonymity	E15	Sudheesh	E6
Raj	E12	Rahila	E12
Clement	E12	Karim	E6
Farhana	E13	Robert	E7
Mina	E13	Adiba	E6
Preferred anonymity	E7	Ivana	E6
Zara	E13	Velislava	E7
John	E7	Zakir	E15
Sadia	E12	George	E6
Preferred anonymity	E16	Alisha	E6
Kiran	E6	Mustapha	E16
Qadeer	E15	Thomas	E16
Nazirah	E12	Marina	E16
Barbara	E12	Michelangelo	E15

How were the assembly members recruited?

The recruitment process was conducted by the Sortition Foundation, an expert organisation in the random selection of citizens for deliberative democracy forums.

An invitation letter signed by the Mayor of Newham was sent to 8,000 households in the borough at the end of December 2019. Households that received the invitation were able to register their interest in participating: 292 people responded. From that pool of respondents a final 43 members were selected on 13 January 2020 as a representative sample of Newham's population. Selection was matched against data for Newham from the Office of National Statistics. Below is a table of the stratification criteria:

Category	Stratified selection criteria (to match the representative proportion of each group or area)
1. Gender the person identifies as	• Male • Female • Non-binary
2. Age	• 16-29 • 30-44 • 45-59 • 60+
3. Ethnicity	• Asian or Asian British • White • Black or African or Caribbean or Black British Mixed or multiple ethnic groups

continued

Category	Stratified selection criteria (to match the representative proportion of each group or area)
4. Profession	• Professional occupations and technicians: Managers, directors, senior officials, scientists, engineers, health, teaching, legal, business, media, information technology and other professionals and technicians. • Service occupations: Administrative, secretarial, caring and leisure services; sales, customer services, hairdressing, housekeeping. • Skilled trades: Agriculture, metal, vehicle, electrical, construction, building, textile, printing, hospitality trades. • Operators and elementary occupations: Process, plant, machine, construction, transport operatives; elementary process, couriers, cleaning, sales, storage and other services. • Not in the labour force (Retired) • Not in the labour force (Other): Student, unemployed, caring responsibilities, long-term disability; any other reason for not being in the labour force.
5. Attitudes towards climate change (matched against national attitudes to climate change from IPSOS MORI survey Aug 2019)	• Concerned • Not Concerned
6. Where in the borough they live	• Area 1: Forest Gate North and South, Manor Park, Little Ilford, East Ham North • Area 2: Stratford, West Ham, Plaistow North & South • Area 3: East Ham Central, East Ham South, Wall End, Green St East & West, Boleyn • Area 4: Canning Town North & South, Custom House, Beckton, Royal Docks

Assembly members were given a £250 gesture of goodwill to thank them for the commitment and time they offered. Of the final 43 members chosen, 38 began the assembly and 36 completed all the sessions.

The table below shows the demographics of the citizens' assembly (right hand column) compared to the census statistics for the borough of Newham's population (left hand column).

Anecdotal observations from councillors, officers and the oversight group were that the diversity of the assembly membership really did feel like a microcosm of Newham's population in the room.

Sortition Results for Newham Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change –
Sortition Foundation February 2020

	CENSUS	RESPONDENTS	SELECTED (FINAL CONFIRMED)
GENDER	Female 47.2% / Male 52.8%	Male 42.5% / Female 57.5%	Female 48.8% / Male 51.2%
AGE	60+ 13.7% / 16-29 31.6% / 45-59 19.9% / 30-44 34.7%	60+ 15.8% / 16-29 21.2% / 45-59 23.6% / 30-44 39.4%	60+ 14.0% / 16-29 30.2% / 45-59 20.9% / 30-44 34.9%
GEOGRAPHY	Area 4 24.2% / Area 1 23.7% / Area 3 28.6% / Area 2 23.6%	Area 4 25.4% / Area 1 23.0% / Area 3 23.4% / Area 2 28.2%	Area 4 23.3% / Area 1 23.3% / Area 3 30.2% / Area 2 23.3%
OCCUPATION	Not in 35.4% / Professi 25.4% / Operator 15.8% / Service 15.9% / Skilled 7.5%	Not in 31.8% / Professi 42.8% / Operator 2.7% / Service 19.5% / Skilled 3.1%	Not in 37.2% / Professi 23.3% / Operator 14.0% / Service 18.6% / Skilled 7.0%
Climate concern level	Not 15.1% / Concern 84.9%	Not 3.1% / Concern 96.9%	Not 11.6% / Concern 88.4%
ETHNICITY	Mixed or 5.0% / White 27.0% / Black or 18.0% / Asian or 46.0%	Other 7.2% / Mixed or 6.2% / Black or 25.0% / White 36.6% / Asian or 25.0%	Other 7.0% / Mixed or 4.7% / Black or 14.0% / White 30.2% / Asian or 44.2%

The Online Engagement

Polis

Polis is an online survey platform used to help identify the different ways a large group of people think about a certain topic. It was chosen to enable a larger number of residents to participate in the discussion on Climate Change particularly since the Citizens Assembly wasn't an open invitation event. Users' vote on statements and create their own when they feel their opinion is not represented.
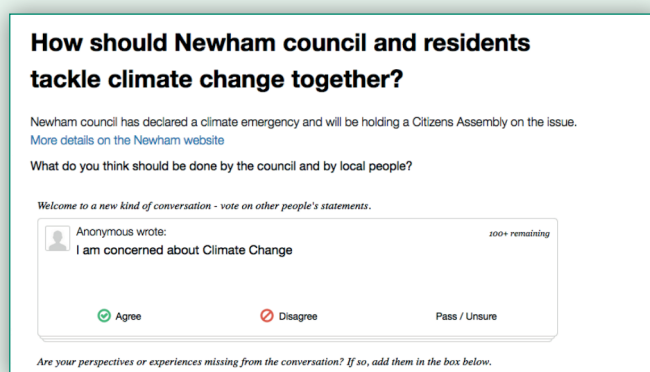
The survey was run from 15th January to 6th February 2020 and was publicised via social media, the Newham Mag and leaflets in local libraries.

The purpose of the platform was to create recommendations from the local community that could be fed into the assembly and considered alongside the other inputs.

Polis survey participants could agree, disagree, or pass on these statements. Polis would then serve up the next statement. At any point, participants could also put statements of their own into the queue.

The question residents responded to was similar to the assembly question: "How should Newham council and residents tackle climate change together?"

The full automatically generated report with all the results can be found in the assembly materials at www.mutualgain.org/newham-citizen-assembly/.

Over 23 days, 244 people participated. 307 statements were submitted and eventually in the moderation process 159 became part of the survey. Comments were not included for voting that were:

- Too similar to other comments already made.
- Not relevant to the subject.
- Hyperlocal – too specific to a particular location.

On average, participants voted on just under 57 statements each, resulting in a total of 13,813 votes cast.

244
people voted

13,813
votes were cast

307
statements were submitted

56.61
votes per voter on average

208
people grouped

2.79
statements per author on average
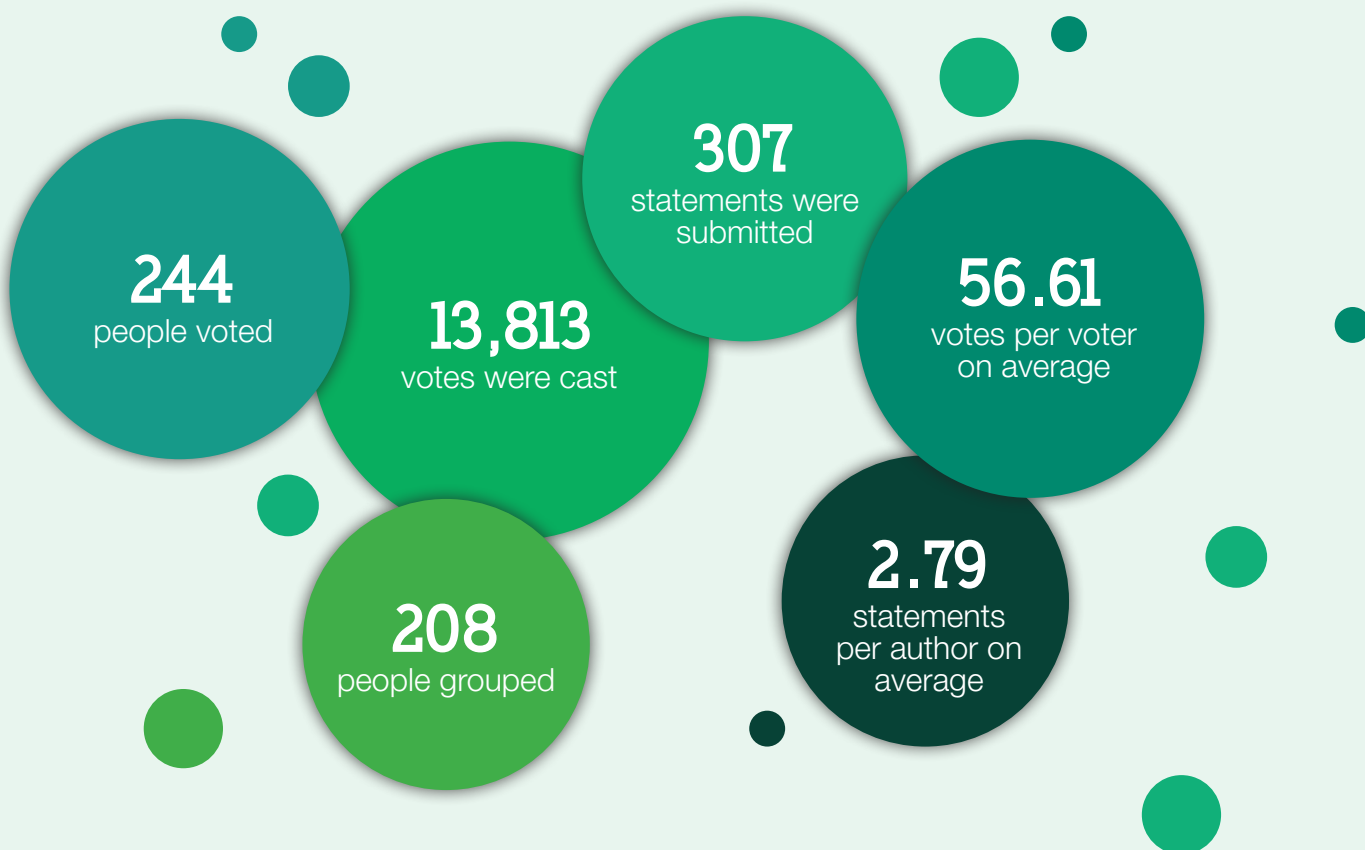
This online process does have limitations. First, although the engagement was sent out to a wide range of local networks, there was no attempt to ensure a randomised participant pool, as with the sortition process for the assembly. Therefore there is a possibility that residents who are already active or concerned by the issue of Climate Change would take the time to participate online. Those that may have other concerns or less capacity to participate may have been less likely to take part.

The collection of metadata on Polis shows the online participants were not representative of Newham's population in many respects. See table below:

Demographic	Polis respondents	Compared to actual Newham population
Aged between 16 and 29 years	16%	25%
Aged between 30 to 44 years	44%	27%
Aged between 45 to 59 years	20%	15%
Aged over 59 years old	7%	11%
White British or any other White background	48%	27%
Asian or Asian British	19%	46%
Black or African or Carribean or Black British	10%	18%
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	16%	5%
Didn't respond	7%	-
Concerned about climate change	87%	85% (UK population - no figures available for Newham)

Second, not all participants saw the same statements. Polis serves up statements via an algorithm that favours both the most recently-submitted statements and those that already demonstrate high levels of engagement (i.e. few 'passes'). In practice, however, statements submitted early in the process were more likely to win this sorting process and be seen by the most people. With over 150 statements in the queue, most people saw only some of the statements.

What this survey did provide is approximately 150 mini opinion polls on what some of Newham's residents are thinking on the issue of Climate Change.

The Results

Majority opinions

These were the statements which had the highest degrees of consensus (either agreement or disagreement).

- Ask people to walk their children to school and back as the car exhaust is harming young children's (and parents' and pedestrians') lungs.

  92% agree

- Newham Council should plant areas of wildflowers to improve biodiversity and wellbeing.

  92% agree

- Newham should plant more trees along Newham Way - A13, where pollution is high and a lot of residents live.

  91% agree

- Newham should improve recycling. There should be more recycling bins (plastic, glass, paper, organic) and education programmes to improve.

  91% agree

- Council to lead by example in all their work and property management by using ethical and eco-friendly materials, solar, non-fossil fuel etc.

  90% agree

- I think Newham residents are doing enough to tackle the climate emergency.

  79% disagree

- I think Newham Council is doing enough to tackle the climate emergency.

  75% disagree

- Climate Change is over exaggerated. In Newham we should be focusing more on things like poverty, homelessness, knife crime etc.

  75% disagree

Clusters of opinions

Polis also uses algorithms to identify and create groupings that show similarities between people and their voting patterns and preferences. It can, therefore, make sense of complex data and map out different opinion groups within a community. Polis often identifies numerous distinct clusters of opinion but in the case of this engagement on Climate Change two main groups emerged.

Group A

This group was clustered due to (amongst other factors) its members' high level of disagreement with the following statements:

- Encourage local protest on the climate crisis. Extinction Rebellion's methods are disruptive, but that's the point. They are not terrorists.
- The meat industry is a huge cause of carbon emissions. It is time to switch to being vegan, vegetarian or eating meat very rarely.
- Close City Airport and use land to grow food for local people.

The group's voting patterns differed from Group B.

Group B

This group was clustered due to (amongst other factors) its high level of support for the following statements:

- Newham has to encourage reusing. 2nd hand markets should be organised, so citizens exchange or buy cheaper second hand items instead of new.
- Set up challenges for innovative solutions to recycle waste into stuff people want - same goods but ethically produced, not cause earth harm.
- Newham Council should work with other councils in the UK and abroad to establish best practice on response to climate emergency.
- Encourage residents to avoid single use plastic products as much as possible, campaign for local stores to sell more loose/bulk products.

The Polis report shows the voting scores for Group A was often quite different from Group B. Very broadly speaking, Group B could be seen as quite concerned about Climate Change and more prone to an activist stance.

Group A was also concerned but less in favour of activism and vegetarianism/veganism. Group A was smaller in number - only 29 - whilst B was comprised of 179 participants.

Interestingly, some of those statements that characterised Group B were less favourably regarded by the Citizens' Assembly itself which placed lightning stickers next to them. So it would seem that the digital engagement wasn't necessarily representative of people in the borough, though larger and more diverse samples would be necessary to be certain of this.

## Polis volunteer day in East Ham

In order to mitigate the bias that may have emerged from those who are more likely to participate in online digital platforms, MutualGain conducted a survey with random passers-by in East Ham Leisure Centre, East Ham Library and High Street North on Tuesday 28 January from 11 to 4pm. This was conducted with the assistance of three Active Newham volunteers. Each volunteer had an iPad and asked random Newham residents to vote on the statements and submit their own statements.

The Polis report was checked before and after this exercise to see if it made any significant difference to the voting patterns. The main difference noted after speaking to 28 people locally was a drop in 6% of White respondents in the metadata. However there was no significant change in voting patterns. Broadly speaking they were the same as those who self-selected to participate online. Again larger samples would be necessary for conclusive data on the difference between online participants and random passers-by in the community.

Voting on the Recommendations

Ballot Papers

Each resident received a voting sheet which was broken down into six themes with their recommendations on (see snapshot below) which went on to inform the remainder of the deliberations. This enabled the assembly members to vote secretly and anonymously on the recommendations and give their reasoning for their votes where they wished to.
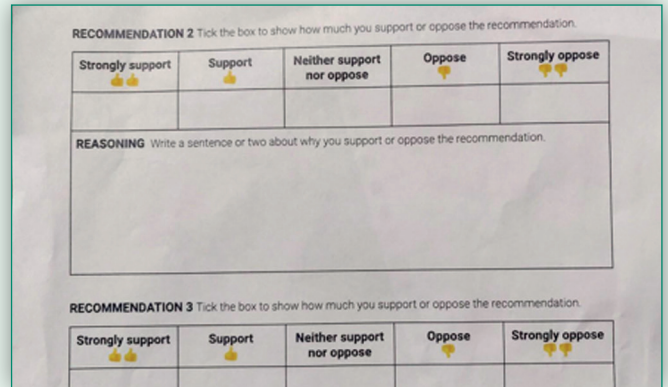
See the various responses on reasoning in the tables below.

Theme 1 Education, Awareness, Action

General Message:

The Council, residents and communities are educated about the climate emergency and are clear about what we all need to do.

Support **91.2%**

Strongly support	Support	Neither support nor oppose	Oppose	Strongly Oppose
64.7%	26.5%	8.8%	0%	0%

Reasoning on individual voting sheets (general points for theme)

- It's important that everyone comes onboard.
- Needs to be easy to understand. Use social media.
- Every effort to educate the public is important.
- Run education sessions and community discussions. Publicise health effects. Promote how great the Green Way is.
- I'm in agreement with this as I think education is the key in terms of where the community are involved.
- Give ways to connect with the community and to produce knowledge and create a more eco-knowledgeable community.
- We must have awareness in general (not just on the issue but the action being taken). This unified message must then be spread far and wide.
- Sensible ideas and accessible too.
- I think the council should focus on passing the message to all active and non-active citizens. Promoting active citizenship.
- But they may not be engaged with by residents – e.g. access to English language.

Specific Recommendations	Support	Oppose	Notes on Reasoning (why they voted the way they did on each recommendation)
1. The council shares a briefing pack which outlines the climate emergency and includes actionable advice	91%	9%	• People being more aware would help participation. • This could create anxiety and panic. • A clear plan. • Good way of informing.
2. The council holds events to invite 'heads of', leaders and key influencers who can pass on the message to more people.	91%	9%	• Most people listen to their religious leaders. • Will help reach more people. • Effective way to raise awareness. • People will listen.
3. The council makes public data on emissions so that residents and the council can monitor progress and hold each other to account.	82%	18%	• Statistics helps people to analyse information. • Not clear on how data will be conducted. • Honest and transparent.
4. The council should leverage the capabilities of local institutions to educate and raise awareness while collaborating with each other to reach our goals.	94%	6%	• Most of this research is done with higher education institutes so it is imperative.

Theme 2 Technology and Energy

General Message:

Invest in technologies to create sustainable energy (underpinned by the formula – continuous knowledge + action = wellbeing + more time on the planet).

Support **88.3%**

Strongly support	Support	Neither support nor oppose	Oppose	Strongly Oppose
61.8%	26.5%	8.8%	0%	2.9%

Reasoning on individual voting sheets (general points for theme)

- These are the most interconnected ideas.
- Worthwhile idea.
- I strongly support these recommendations created by my team with great feedback from other groups.
- I agree with the recommendations and I strongly support all 4. I believe this can be achieved in the next few years.
- I support all the ideas suggested as I feel everything can be achieved easily by the council. All residents and business will benefit.
- I think the council should focus on actions that have a strong effect on the Newham territory.

Specific Recommendations	Support	Oppose	Notes on Reasoning (why they voted the way they did on each recommendation)
1. Initiate a housing retrofit programme to enable council residents to receive it (free) and an optional payment plan for home owners at 0% interest, grants or subsidies, to cover insulation, glazing and boilers.	94%	6%	• Not all families can afford the cost so council help is needed. • Use S.M.A.R.T technology (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, timely) – 5. Payment plan for immediate action – within 3 months. • A good idea that can benefit all residents and be cost effective • Oppose. This will be too costly. • Very detailed explanation! • Seems too expensive altogether.
2. Harness and generate renewable power by exploring wind farms, water usage (tidal barrage), and power generation (energy coops).	97%	3%	• This helps to create a cleaner environment. • Will create jobs locally. • Is this within budget, achievable? Efficient spend?
3. Commence a solar panel scheme to reduce energy costs by making grants available for individuals, subsidies for commercial properties, and mandate it for new builds.	97%	3%	• This is necessary for our future. • Some properties will not be suitable for solar but could benefit from other technology such as heat pumps. • Shouldn't just focus on solar panels. • Will generate lots of low cost energy. • Will persuade people.
4. Research new and cost effective technologies to draw on best practice from other places (e.g. action to increase electric car use). Work with local universities and other boroughs to explore a variety of new actions that could be taken forward.	94%	6%	• Most of this research is done with higher education institutes so it is imperative.

Theme 3 Moving Around (transport and travel)

General Message:

Switch Newham towards a cleaner, greener, healthier journey.

Strongly support	Support	Neither support nor oppose	Oppose	Strongly Oppose
55.9%	32.4%	8.8%	0%	2.9%

Reasoning on individual voting sheets (general points for theme)

- Switch to eco to make Newham and world carbon zero.
- I agree with the recommendations and I strongly support all four. I believe this can be achieved in the next few years.
- I have agreed with all the recommendations as I feel that travel plays a vital role in the reduction of carbon gases produced in the borough.
- All great ideas here.
- These are things that can be done.
- Transport is a major factor. Some of the ideas mentioned will definitely enable a better environment.

Specific Recommendations	Support	Oppose	Notes on Reasoning (why they voted the way they did on each recommendation)
1. Introduce a free park and ride scheme for schools (using electric buses) along with car sharing schemes and walking buses.	91%	9%	• I think this is possible and easy to do. • Would be good to have a timeframe for this: when it will be implemented and completed. • Sounds like it tackles a clear problem, one that is already spoken about by councillors. • Reducing school congestion will have a huge impact on cars and the roads. • Reduce school run congestion. • Will reduce school traffic.
2. Introduce free parking across the borough for e-vehicles.	88%	12%	• Will encourage purchase of e-vehicles. • Good way to encourage more people into e cars but only for say 1st year of owning because become impractical long term when more people own e-cars.
3. Businesses and council to apply for grants to provide e-charging points in accessible areas across the borough.	100%	0%	• No charging points currently.
4. Improve existing cycle lanes and walkways make them safer for use (e.g road surface, lighting and cut back vegetation enabling greater individual and group use).	94%	6%	• I oppose. Improving cycle lanes invariably means restricted car flow and access which leads to congestion. A car emits the most CO2 when idle in traffic. • I think the council should focus its energy on this very important point. • Encourage cycling and walking.

Theme 4 Food and Recycling

General Message:

Newham will reduce food waste and food miles and aspire to recycle 100%.

Support **85.3%**

Strongly support	Support	Neither support nor oppose	Oppose	Strongly Oppose
50%	35.3%	14.7%	0%	0%

Reasoning on individual voting sheets (general points for theme)

- Food is so salient. It should be discussed in its own terms.
- I support all these recommendations as they can reduce carbon emissions.

Specific Recommendations	Support	Oppose	Notes on Reasoning (why they voted the way they did on each recommendation)
1. Council to drive the availability of affordable, locally grown food to reduce food miles using only biodegradable wrapping.	85%	15%	• The council leading the way to reduce emissions and cut costs. • Also should reduce/eliminate packaging waste. • This would help clean up the area. We need it. • I oppose. A soil study should be done first. • Biodegradable packaging could be tricky. • Oppose. Unachievable. • Realistic ideas. • Will reduce food miles and car emissions.
2. Council to work in partnership with local shops and supermarkets to reduce food waste. To implement the distribution of surplus food to those who need it.	97%	3%	• There are more people who need this food. • This can be done by introducing food banks near the supermarket. • Good way for council and business to work together to achieve goals. • I don't think this point is achievable as this would require a national change for supermarkets and some suppliers. • Cuts waste.
3. Council to recycle 100% of domestic and commercial waste no later than 2030 and to stop burning recycled materials, food waste etc.	97%	3%	• It is very important in achieving zero emissions. • Current record is poor.

Specific Recommendations	Support	Oppose	Notes on Reasoning (why they voted the way they did on each recommendation)
4. Council institutions including schools should be predominantly plant-based, by introducing a five year programme to limit non-vegetarian options to once a week.	70% Didn't reach 80% threshold to be accepted	30%	• To reduce obesity in our children. • I don't agree with this point as I feel that a vegan diet isn't healthy for growing children. • The way this is marketed is crucial. It could start with simply removing beef and lamb at first so families who want some meat to remain are eased into the transition towards a greater plant based diet. • One day a week is too little. It should be 2 or 3. • People can always bring their own food if they oppose. • Good idea. • Some parents may not be happy with this, more a personal choice.

Theme 5 Environment and Outdoor spaces

General Message:

Newham Council with residents will transform the environment to produce a greener, more pleasant, healthier place where people will want to live, work and settle.

Support **91.2%**

Strongly support	Support	Neither support nor oppose	Oppose	Strongly Oppose
64.7%	26.5%	8.8%	0%	0%

Reasoning on individual voting sheets (general points for theme)

• Collaborative efforts are needed.
• If we get these facilities and action the opportunity will bring [about] a new Newham borough.
• Transform in headline suggests a total change, but lots of borough may remain the same.

Specific Recommendations	Support	Oppose	Notes on Reasoning (why they voted the way they did on each recommendation)
1. Improve Newham's air quality by installing pollution monitors across the borough and by protecting trees, expanding green spaces and not allowing new buildings in existing public parks.	76% Didn't reach 80% threshold to be accepted	24%	• People seeing what they are contributing to helps to be more responsible. • Will identify high pollution. • Pollution monitors won't reduce pollution. There should be more fundamental shifts in carbon capture policies. • I oppose this because I don't believe it will solve the problem of air pollution. It can only make people want to leave the borough. • Protecting what we have seems vital. The symbolism of removing green spaces is almost as influential as the actual bad it will do (i.e. it will discourage residents from the process. • What would be the point of this? Waste of money and opportunities. What would people do with the knowledge? • Is there a need to install monitors? This could be done by experts manually. Focus more on public spaces for kids and family camping. • I don't think this action is going to change the current situation. • Doesn't seem useful. • Pollution monitors are a useless investment if unable to change behaviour.

Specific Recommendations	Support	Oppose	Notes on Reasoning (why they voted the way they did on each recommendation)
2. Newham council to produce a water strategy to initiate, encourage and support existing householders/tenants to harvest and recycle water	76% Didn't reach 80% threshold to be accepted	24%	• Water bill going up, water conservation makes sense. • Needs a time frame. • Doesn't seem useful. • Is there a water shortage? What is the point? • Doesn't help all residents. • Saves water.
3. Newham council to prioritise how recycling contributes to the borough's energy/CO2 production policies and to incentivise (not penalise) resident involvement	97%	3%	• People would not collaborate if they feel trapped. No penalties. • I am strongly in support for the council to prioritise their recycling methods. • The council is burning waste, which I feel contradicts their mission to reduce carbon. • Support but need more clarity on how this is to be done – reduces waste.
4. Newham Council planning decisions all to support biodiversity, cleaner air, 'greening' as a central priority. All new buildings to initiate green standards.	94%	6%	• Realistic recommendation.

Theme 6 Buildings and Houses

General Message:

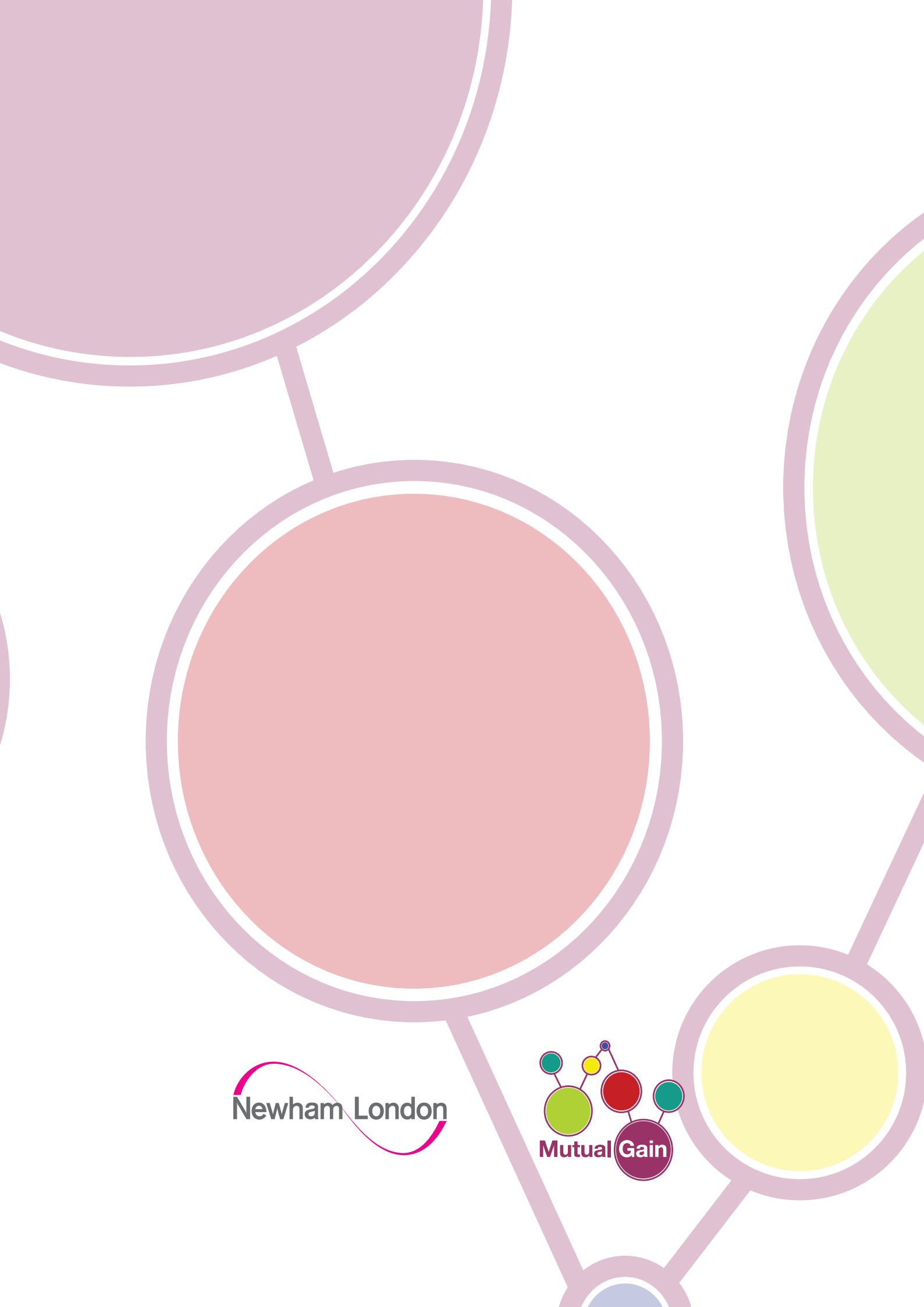Take greater leadership and responsibility in how residential homes and businesses become more energy efficient.

Support **94.3%**

Strongly support	Support	Neither support nor oppose	Oppose	Strongly Oppose
58.8%	35.3%	5.9%	0%	0%

Reasoning on individual voting sheets (general points for theme)

- Long term sustainable goals.
- Great recommendations dealing with how council overhauls its policies and makes changes to its strategies to further improve climate issue.
- I think there is a demand for quick and clear actions that take into account the law but at the same time do not generate unnecessary bureaucracy.
- These recommendations seem realistic and practical.

Specific Recommendations	Support	Oppose	Notes on Reasoning (why they voted the way they did on each recommendation)
1. Create a council-level finance strategy to meet demands of Newham residents to fund all changes (e.g. introduction of ground source heat pumps, solar panels, boiler replacement, wind turbine investing by 2021). Residents pay back based on savings made (via Council Tax bill) so repayments linked to property (like student loans)	82%	18%	• A finance strategy is required so that the funds are allocated and distributed accordingly. • I oppose. Sounds too bureaucratic to be of any use. • "Fund all changes" is not a very possible way. Can raise funds from public and NGOs. • Makes it more affordable for all.
2. 2020 create (by sortition method) a residents' committee to partner, govern and oversee implementation of recommendations (to minimise corruption, increase efficiency and quality of decisions, so they are not rashly made.)	97%	3%	• Will reduce energy loss.
3. Introduce policies and planning for deep retrofit of all existing buildings and infrastructure to be completed by 2030 to be carbon neutral (e.g. roofing spaces – introduce more greenery and solar panels and rainwater collection)	97%	3%	• Will reduce energy loss
4. Overhaul council's policy to maximise use of abandoned buildings and brownfield sites for residential housing and community use (e.g. Old East Ham Fire Station, Old East Ham Police Station, East Ham Job centre and 700 homes demolished in Beckton/Canning Town which are still empty after 7 years)	91%	9%	• There are high levels of homelessness. Please give spaces to them. • The point requires clarity. • Oppose. Often not council owned.