

Climate Emergency Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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Efficient Buildings

Has the council completed extensive retrofit work on any of its significant buildings to make them low carbon?

The Carbon Management Programme funded by a £13m Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme ([PSDS](#)) grant was completed on 30 June 2022 and is projected to deliver circa 1,600 tCo2e / 20% reduction in the Councils operational buildings baseline emission.

The funding has produced carbon savings across a range of 61 operational buildings including Council offices, leisure centres, libraries, schools, community centres and nurseries.

We have installed a wide variety of energy conservation measures such as pipework insulation, BEMS (Building Energy Management System) optimisation, draught proofing, EC fan replacements, Heat Pumps, Solar PV and LED lighting upgrades, delivered through 135 projects.

Are the council's operations powered by renewable energy?

Our current electricity tariff is a blended zero carbon product offered by EDF Energy, electricity supplied from a combination of 50% renewable and 50% zero carbon.

Are the homes owned and managed by the council energy efficient?

We provide homes for 12,000 families across Westminster. We know that many people are worried about the rising cost of living in 2022, including rising energy bills and we want to provide as much [support](#) to our residents.

Our homes have an average EPC (energy performance certificate) rating of Band C, with around 70% in this band. We are committed to achieving an average EPC rating of Band B by 2040 which will require investment of over £200m. Work to achieve this has begun with over 450 homes upgraded in 2021 and 2022. Improving the energy efficiency of homes across Westminster will help reduce energy bills while reducing carbon emissions and working towards our net zero targets.

Does the council have a target to retrofit all council owned and managed homes?

We have used Parity Projects tool to cost the measures required to get to SAP B (Standard Assessment Procedure) and then to a net zero standard.
It will cost us approximately £218m but contingent on grant funding making up the bulk of this £218m. We have signed up to [Retrofit London Housing Action Plan](#) - our target is 2030 for SAP C.

Is the council actively enforcing Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards of homes in the private rented sector?

In 2022, we launched a new combined funding support and enforcement approach to improve minimum energy efficiency standards (MEES) in the Private Rented Sector (PRS). Our MEES Enforcement Pilot was successfully completed in September 2022. 28 properties were brought into compliance, making energy efficiency improvements to achieve a minimum of EPC E or above. As a result of the improvements made, there will be an estimated 51.3 tonnes of CO₂ saved per year. We have begun work on a second pilot scheme, the MEES Plus Grant Pilot Scheme which will offer practical and financial support to landlords to make energy efficiency improvements to their properties.

Do I need planning permission to retrofit my home?

It depends on the retrofit measure and your building but there are lots of things you can do that don't need planning permission. These include any internal works, secondary glazing, draughtproofing, and even installing heat pumps and solar panels.
We provide lots of [useful guidance and 'how-to' guides](#) on our website for anyone looking to upgrade their property.

Does the council provide a service to support private homeowners to make their homes more energy efficient?

Citizens Advice Westminster offer specialist energy advice to Westminster residents as part of the Big Energy Saving Network. They can provide tips to help you check, switch and save on your energy bills, advice on how to resolve issues with your energy supplier, and support applying for energy grants, if eligible. They offer energy saving workshops and one-to-one appointments. [Book a free appointment](#), call 08082787834 or [find out more on the Citizens Advice Westminster website](#)

The Green Doctors offer free advice and support to reduce your energy bills if you have a low household income. They will:

- explain how to make your home energy efficient
- install energy saving devices
- offer impartial advice on switching energy providers to save money
- give you income support and debt advice
- connect you with other health services

To arrange a telephone consultation or home visit:

- call 0300 365 5003
- email GreenDoctorsLDN@groundwork.org.uk
- visit [Green Doctors London](#)

Energy Saving Show Home

We opened an [Energy Saving Show Home](#), a one-bedroom flat in Queen's Park in 2022, to demonstrate the process and benefits of home retrofit. The show home showcased energy saving measures including insulation, window improvements, an energy-efficient air source heat pump and solar panels with battery storage. The works reduced the energy required to heat the home by over half and are expected to virtually eliminate the need for electricity from the grid.

During summer 2022 we opened the home for tours, and received well over 250 visitors including council tenants, homeowners, landlords, and officers from London boroughs and housing associations. Feedback was overwhelming positive with attendees now more likely to insulate, undertake window improvements, install solar PV. The show home won the "Best Net Zero Carbon Initiative" award at the 2023 National Housing Maintenance Awards

Tours of the show home have now concluded, but a video and interactive case study will be published on our website in February 2023.

EcoFurb

We are a partner in and promote [EcoFurb](#), a home renovation service that helps homeowners plan energy efficiency improvements and give advice. The service can work with you on a whole house retrofit plan for your home and budget. You can find out more information [here](#).

Mayor's Warmer Homes Programme and Energy Company Obligation Scheme

We promote regional and national schemes such as The Mayor's [Warmer Homes Programme](#) and Ofgem's [Energy Company Obligation](#) (ECO) scheme.

If you receive benefits, you may be eligible for the ECO scheme. Please find out more information [here](#). You may also apply for the Warmer Homes programme if you meet the eligibility criteria.

The Solar Together scheme brings Westminster households together to get high-quality solar panels at a competitive price, helping you through the process and keeping you informed at every stage. Having solar panels can be an intelligent investment; you can reduce your energy costs and power your home with clean energy, reducing your impact on the environment. The scheme is currently closed however to [register your interest](#) please visit the ST Westminster site.

Home Energy Savings Hub

We are launching a home energy savings hub on our website in early 2023 to make energy saving advice and support more accessible for residents of all tenures.

Is the council part of a programme to support home retrofitting?

We established the Westminster Retrofit Taskforce at the end of 2022, bringing together industry experts, landowners, property managers, housing associations and resident representatives to develop solutions to the challenges faced in retrofitting Westminster's historic built environment. The first stakeholder workshop in October 2022 identified challenges to retrofit and possible solutions to unlock retrofit's potential to provide healthier, more sustainable buildings. The taskforce's retrofit roadmap and delivery plan will be released in early 2023.

We are also involved in London Council's [Retrofit London programme](#), a collaborative programme which will achieve mass home retrofitting to an average EPC level of B by 2030.

Is the council's area wide net zero target a strategic objective of the Local Plan?

Our [City Plan \(2021\)](#) sets out that all major development should be net zero carbon, with any shortfalls addressed through a carbon offset payment. This is a strategic policy in the Plan. The plan runs up to 2040 and reduction in carbon dioxide emissions across the local authority area is a Key Performance Indicator for the Plan.

Has the council committed to building all future council owned or managed housing to a high energy efficiency or operationally net-zero standard?

We are committed to achieving an average EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) rating of Band B by 2040 and net zero compliant. Our Climate Emergency Action Plan sets out our aim to build to Passivhaus standards or similar, where viable.

Does the council require new homes to make an improvement on the Part L building regulations?

As set out in our [Environment Supplementary Planning Document \(ESPD\)](#), we encourage all major development proposals to exceed the minimum onsite performance standards set out in the London Plan (33% improvement on Part L of the Building Regulations 2023) where possible.

Does the council require a fabric first approach for new development?

The energy hierarchy in the adopted London and City Plan policy promotes a fabric first approach. For major developments, the Be Lean targets (10% and 15% improvement over Building Regulations) of the Energy Hierarchy are required (Our [ESPD](#): Energy – Figure 9). This automatically means that Fabric Energy Efficiency will be better than that of a Building Regulation compliant building.

We are also developing a new retrofit-first policy to prioritise the retrofit and refurbishment of existing buildings to meet future needs over unnecessary demolition and redevelopment. Initial consultation ran in late 2022 and we are now considering the representations received. The next stage of formal consultation will likely take place towards the end of 2023.

Does the council set a requirement that all new homes to be built must be operationally (regulated) net zero?

New homes are not specifically singled out as required to be net zero. Instead, all major development is expected to be net zero (See policy 36 in our [City Plan](#)). Major development is defined as: greater than or equal to: – 10 residential units; or – 0.5 hectares site area (residential) or 1 hectare (non-residential); or – gross floorspace of 1,000 sq m (GIA)

Does the council require a higher level of water efficiency for all new homes?

This is a [policy](#) requirement within our City Plan. All new residential developments must show that they are capable of achieving maximum internal water use of 105 litres per person/day and additional 5 litres person/day for external water use.

Has the council removed minimum parking requirements for new residential homes across their area?

[The London Plan \(2021\)](#) requires that car-free developments should be the starting point for all development proposals in places that are well-connected by public transport. Car-free developments have no general parking but should still provide disabled persons parking (policy T6)

Does the council include a policy in the Local Plan to create 15/20 minute neighbourhoods?

Our adopted [City Plan](#) includes a policy which requires development to contribute to the London Plan's Healthy Streets approach to improve air quality, reduce congestion and make Westminster healthier, greener and more attractive to live, work or visit (see Policy 24 in our [City Plan](#)).

Does the Local Plan identify suitable areas for new solar energy, wind developments and district heat networks?

Our [Environment Supplementary Planning Document \(ESPD\)](#) includes a diagram showing where new heat networks are encouraged, and linking to the Mayor of London's heat map (see pages 82-84 in our [ESPD](#)). We are undertaking further work throughout 2023 on a Local Area Energy Plan that will help further inform the best sources of low carbon energy for the city.

Has the Council committed to avoiding new building developments on the functional flood plain?

Our City Plan sets out an avoidance to build on flood zones (see policy 35 in our [City Plan](#)). All developments should be safe for their lifetime from the risk of flooding.

Clean & Affordable Energy

Does the council have a scheme to allow residents to purchase renewable energy cheaply through collection buying?

The [Solar Together](#) scheme brings Westminster households together to get high-quality solar panels at a competitive price, helping you through the process and keeping you informed at every stage. Having solar panels can be an intelligent investment; you can reduce your energy costs and power your home with clean energy, reducing your impact on the environment. The scheme is currently closed however to register your interest please visit the [ST Westminster site](#).

Has the council supported local community renewable energy creation?

Our [carbon offset fund](#) secures funding from any developments which are unable to fully meet the carbon savings required at the development site. Payments to the fund are determined by the amount of residual carbon to be offset. The fund is then used by groups and organisations to finance carbon-saving projects elsewhere in Westminster. The Council is exploring working with Repowering London and community groups across Westminster to deliver community renewable energy projects.

What clean energy sources can Westminster make sure of?

There is the potential to use a lot more solar energy in Westminster, and we have recently installed large solar PV arrays on our social housing sites and corporate properties. Heat pumps are also likely to play a big role in Westminster's future energy supply and we are trialling these in some of our social homes. The built-up nature of Westminster also makes the area a good location for heat networks, which could supply low-carbon heat more efficiently to many buildings at once. We are currently developing a Local Area Energy Plan for Westminster, which will look at all the options and give us a clearer picture of which clean energy sources are likely to work best in different parts of the borough in the coming years.

Reduced Consumption & Waste

Does the council provide kerbside food waste recycling?

Our [kerbside service](#) will be rolled out to all suitable kerbside properties by the end of March 2023. Any property that is not suitable will be offered to use the on-street neighbourhood food waste bin service.

What is Westminster's recycling rate?

Our recycling rate is 24%, which is the second lowest in London.

What is Westminster doing to improve our recycling rate?

We are rolling out food waste recycling across the borough, which will mean less residual waste if everyone takes part. We are also consistently trialling new initiatives such as:

- Our [Waste Action Squad](#), formed of multiple council teams who are working together to keep our streets clean. The squad are regularly out talking to residents and businesses about fly-tipping and recycling, educating people on the service available and monitoring where problem areas are.
- Our ['In It to Win It'](#) rewards incentive scheme for our estates. The more your estate recycles, the more prizes you can win for your community. Every 3 months, we pay out £5,000 to the top performing estates.
- Re-design of our bins to encourage recycling (e.g. through visuals, different lids).
- Translation of recycling information into other languages, e.g. Arabic and Bengali.
- Working with short-term let providers and property managers to make them aware of their responsibilities.

Where can I collect recycling bags?

In regular drop-offs, at your [local library](#) or by ordering online [here](#).

Has the council embedded climate action and waste reduction into their procurement policies?

Our new [Responsible Procurement and Commissioning](#) (RPC) Strategy aims to support local climate action with one of the 12 objectives to "increase climate action to meet our 2040 net zero city target."

The council's procurement service also has specific actions under our [Climate Emergency Action Plan](#), which are reiterated in the RPC Strategy. These not only relate to incorporate climate considerations (both resilience and carbon reduction) but also parallel projects including baselining our scope 3 carbon footprint with carbon intensive contractors and planning the procurement of a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA).

Has the council reduced single use plastic in its buildings and events?

During Plastic Free July (2022) in City Hall, we introduced reusable coffee cups in our café run by Unity Works. We sold over 200 reusable coffee cups by the end of 2022. Council officers have been able to reduce the impact that disposable coffee cups have on the environment by reducing our plastic waste. Introducing the reusable coffee cups has created behaviour change in our office

building and we are looking at other ways we can reduce single use plastic in our buildings and events.

Has the council taken steps to support a circular economy locally?

The Council has recently joined the [UKGBC](#) (UK Green Building Council) as a paid member, to expand our network and best practice on circular economy. We have also hosted two cross-borough workshops on the topic for London local authorities, the first of their kind. In the past, Westminster has funded [Westminster Wheels](#) (bicycle repair shop which still runs in Church Street) and [Caulibox](#) – a re-usable scheme for food markets. We have also run an event around clothes swapping, up-cycling and repair for Circular Economy Week (see video [here](#)). We are in the process of setting up the [Library of Things](#) in Westminster, where residents will be able to borrow useful things for their homes and projects.

Sustainable Travel and Transport

What is Westminster doing to electrify its waste fleet?

In partnership with Veolia, we have electrified our street cleansing operation, meaning all mechanical street sweeping and washing vehicles are now electrically powered. We are also working on fully electrifying our waste collection fleet. This will result in a fleet of fully electric collection trucks, sweepers and electric bikes, and will be the largest operated by any local authority in the UK. This will help both save carbon emissions, supporting a reduction of 89% compared to a diesel-powered fleet, and allows for a much quieter operation which will help tackle issues in Westminster around noise nuisance.

What percentage of the council's fleet are electric vehicles?

Our data from financial year 21/22 shows that 27% of the Council's fleet are electric vehicles. Currently only 2% of our waste vehicles are electric, but we plan to increase this to 50% in July 2023 and then 100% by 2024/25.

What are the council doing to improve infrastructure for sustainable travel?

We have a number of programmes aimed at improving the infrastructure for sustainable travel including a programme of works to improve and connect the city to the London-wide Cycleways network (including 23km of new additional cycle lanes between 2024-26), expanding the roll-out of street improvements such as safer road crossings, new dropped kerbs and pavement repairs and expanding the rollout of safe cycle storage.

Has the council set up or supported a shared transport scheme that can be used across their whole area?

Bike share scheme

TfL operate the London Santander Cycles hire scheme. We have consistently supported this scheme and co-funded the cost of modest increase in new sites. We currently have [164 live stations](#) in Westminster for cycle hire.

Free cycle training service

Our free cycle training service is open to anyone who lives, works or studies in Westminster. We have committed to making cycling safe, enjoyable and practical. If you are interested in taking this course, please find out more information [here](#).

Cargo bike share scheme

Subject to final delivery steps we hope to introduce a cargo bike share trial at four locations in Spring 2024.

Trial London E-Scooter Rental scheme

We are part of the TfL and London Councils current E-Scooter Rental scheme. There are currently [68 bays](#) in Westminster at present.

TfL London Bus Network

In Westminster, we have one of the densest, best value for money, low carbon and safe bus networks of any global city. For many local trips, the bus network presents a really viable alternative to using the car, Taxi, Private Hire Vehicle in particular. Please visit [here](#) for more information.

Car Share Scheme

If you need to use a car, please do consider our Car Share Scheme that includes an increasing number of EV cars and vans. Our car club schemes are available to Westminster residents, businesses and visitors. Please visit [here](#) for more information.

Has the council supported the expansion of a public network of electric vehicle chargers?

There are currently 1830 charge points across the city, with plans to increase the number of charge points significantly over the next three months. The ratio of EV resident charge points to electric vehicles is 4:1 across all wards. Please find out more information and your local charge point [here](#).

Green & Resilient City

Does the council use peat free compost or soil in all landscaping and horticulture?

As of 2023, we do not use peat in landscaping or horticultural management.

Has the council banned the use of pesticides on all council owned and managed land?

We have banned the use of a harmful weedkiller called glyphosate on all Council land, including housing estates. This is one of the several methods to improve green spaces and encourage native wildlife to flourish in Westminster. Read more [here](#).

Has the council committed to mowing their green spaces less for wildlife?

We reduce the mowing height of the grass areas during the summer months, keeping the grass green. Growing can reduce the heat in the City's green spaces by between 2 and 3 degrees. We are also going to embrace the "no mow!" proposal in some of our less formal parks and gardens.

Does the council have a target to increase tree cover?

We have an action in our Climate Emergency Action Plan to maintain, plant and protect council trees to support a long-term increase in tree canopy cover, targeting a 10% increase of existing cover by 2050 (in line with Greater London Authority targets).

Have the council's parks been awarded Green Flag Status?

We currently have 24 green flags plus Paddington Rec. All three of our cemeteries outside Westminster also have Green Flag Status. You can find our list of Green Flag gardens [here](#).

Does the council require a higher biodiversity net gain commitment from new developments?

We do not currently mandate 10% BND (biodiversity net gain) in our City Plan or Environmental Supplementary Planning Document. However, we require all developments to achieve biodiversity net again “wherever feasible and appropriate”, that “losses of biodiversity through development should be avoided” and “biodiversity offsetting is a last resort”.

Collaboration and Engagement

Is the council working in partnership with schools to deliver climate action that young people can engage with?

We are working with Westminster schools to embed climate change in the curriculum and inspire sustainable behaviours. Following a successful pilot in the autumn term with one primary school, we partnered up with the organisation [Climate Ed](#) to deliver a climate education workshop programme (five one-hour sessions). We offered the workshops to all primary schools and the content was suitable for pupils in Year 5 and 6. In the 2021/22 school year, we delivered 32 workshop programmes in 23 primary schools. In total, 1243 young people attended the workshops. The young people learnt about climate change, its impacts and what we can all do individually to reduce our emissions.

We have also run a Climate Action Classrooms competition which gave schools and young people the chance to showcase how they’re taking action and helping to spread awareness of the climate emergency. We organised an event at Mayfair Library to celebrate the achievements of some of our primary school pupils.

Going forward, we are keen to help further empower young people across Westminster to take climate action through the introduction of volunteer Young Climate Champions. We are also exploring how we can work closely with Westminster schools to educate children on the benefits of climate action and increase their connection with nature through providing resources to teachers, staff and parents.

Is the council working in partnership with local businesses to encourage decarbonisation?

Sustainable City Charter

In 2022 we launched our [Sustainable City Charter](#), in partnership with Westminster Property Association (WPA) to support local businesses in reducing their environmental impact. The Charter contacts eight commitments for participants covering collaboration, energy, procurement, deliveries, construction, transport, waste, and implementation. The Charter is aimed at any organisation that owns or occupies non-domestic property in Westminster, and participants will be required to report annually on their progress in implementing the commitments and on their energy consumption in Westminster. The Charter will create a strong business partnership on climate change and establish a guiding framework for coordinated local action and the sharing of knowledge and expertise. So far, over 50 Westminster organisations have sign up to or expressed interest in the Charter, ranging from small businesses to major landowners.

Business Energy Saving scheme

This scheme is open to SMEs (see eligibility criteria [here](#)) to protect them from rising energy costs with a bespoke energy savings plan worth £500. The scheme is designed to help businesses through the current economic conditions, whilst supporting our net zero ambitions.

Climate Essentials for Business

Local businesses can apply online [here](#) for a free package of tools and support to help them work towards net zero emissions and a Fairer Environment, including an online carbon footprint calculator, action planner and 1-to-1 support.

Is the council working in partnership with cultural institutions and organisations to encourage decarbonisation within culture and arts?

Through the [Sustainable City Charter](#), the council is working in partnership with local cultural institutions and organisations to encourage decarbonisation. This is a business-led initiative which encourages organisations across the City, with a stake in non-domestic properties, to pledge to reduce carbon emissions across 8 key areas. Our iconic arts and cultural venues have been targeted with promotion of the scheme and encouraged to sign up to collectively join the journey to net zero. Of these locations, the Royal Opera House have led the way in becoming the first cultural organisation to become a full signatory of the Sustainable City Charter and join its climate partnership network. We have an event planned for spring 2023, to promote the Charter to Westminster Culture Network member organisations, as well as explore sector decarbonisation, and the role that arts, culture and heritage can play in wider societal climate action.

We have a placement student from City University of London who has joined the Climate Emergency team for three months to research and make recommendations on:

- the role arts/culture can play in engaging the Westminster community in local climate action.
- how Westminster City Council can utilise the borough's rich cultural capital to progress local climate action.
- how Westminster City Council can further engage arts/culture/heritage organisations in decarbonisation and the journey to net-zero.

Is the council working with external partners or other councils to seek to influence national governments on climate action, or to learn about and share best practice on council climate action?

We are involved in lobbying central government as part of the collective of London local authorities, London Councils. London Councils allows us to work together effectively with all boroughs and the City of London on a cross-party basis, to amplify our collective voice to government. We are also an active member of the [UK100](#) network, which lobbies government around the key role of local authorities in tackling the climate crisis and shares best practice amongst its members.

Does the council have an ongoing way for residents to influence the implementation of the council's Climate Action Plan?

We are establishing a Citizen's Climate Assembly in mid-2023, to put residents at the heart of climate policymaking. A representative group of residents will be selected through random stratified sampling and invited to be involved in an innovative model of deliberative democracy to inform climate decision-making within Westminster. Assembly recommendations will help inform future iterations of the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

We are also committed to utilising the Council's newly established [Resident Research Panel](#) to inform local climate action and decision-making.

Following the delivery of the Citizen's Climate Assembly, we intend to empower people in our community to take climate action by introducing 'Climate Champion' and 'Young Climate Champion' volunteer networks.

Our Climate Emergency Action Plan has been intentionally created as a live document, to develop alongside our increased knowledge of emission sources and identification of the most effective pathways to reduce them. Our ongoing engagement with Westminster stakeholders will feed into future iterations of the Plan so that the community continues to have a voice and active role in its implementation.

Does the council's ongoing engagement with residents include those most affected by climate change and climate action policy?

We have developed an [Environmental Justice Measure](#) (EJM), a new data mapping tool to help measure how people are differently impacted by their environment and climate change. It will measure success against our carbon net zero 2040 targets.

The EJM is based on some of the pillars of our Climate Emergency Action Plan and provides a framework for achieving environmental justice via:

- Efficient Buildings
- Sustainable Travel and Transport
- Green and Resilient City

Our EJM will help communicate and better understand how we can remove barriers to residents accessing green spaces, sustainable transport and recycling. We will be able to use this tool to inform a just approach to climate action.

Governance and Finance

Is the council reporting on its own greenhouse gas emissions?

In order to track progress against our net zero targets, we have begun monitoring emissions annually. The first step towards this was establishing an emissions baseline for the year 2018/2019, which involved identifying the sources of emissions across council activity. We broke the sources of emissions into three types:

1. *Scope 1* – direct emissions arising from Council activities, for example, fuel usage from Council owned vehicles
2. *Scope 2* – indirect emissions from the purchase of energy, for example, electricity generated at a site not owned or under control of the council
3. *Scope 3* – indirect emissions occurring anywhere within the council's supply chain, for example, fuel usage of external contractors

You can read more about our emissions reporting [here](#).

Have the council's own greenhouse gas emissions reduced?

Our council scope 1 and scope 2 emissions have reduced since 2019 by 3.2%.

Has the council's area wide carbon emissions decreased?

Our council wide emissions have reduced by 2.68% since 2019.

Does the council have a Cabinet member that has climate change explicitly in their remit?

Yes. [Cllr Matt Noble](#) is our Cabinet Member for Climate Action, Regeneration and Renters.

Have council officers and councillors received climate awareness training?

Overall, 153 staff, including senior managers have completed the Certified Carbon Management training through GEP consultants Ltd. The one-day training course provided staff and senior managers with an understanding of climate change, greenhouse gases, carbon, energy, and the local context for climate action within Westminster, so that they can help support the council's response to the climate emergency.

Outcomes: As a result of the course, staff and senior managers will be able to:

- Understand the context of climate change and our work on the climate emergency
- Identify sources of carbon within the council
- List the drivers for implementing carbon management measures
- List the information required to scope and complete a carbon footprint
- Understand how to calculate a basic carbon footprint
- Provide examples of how to reduce your organisation's emissions
- Identify key sources of guidance for future reference

We are just about to launch an e-learning module for all staff, senior managers, councillors and committee members on understanding Climate Emergency.

Has the council adopted a new governance or decision-making process to put tackling the climate emergency at the heart of every decision made?

We have our first Cabinet Member for Climate Action who is committed to driving rapid, more ambitious local action to tackle climate change. We have incorporated carbon impact as a requirement into all Cabinet decision papers.

We have also developed an internal Carbon Impact Evaluation Toolkit, which is used by project managers and departments to determine the carbon impact of upcoming capital projects. All bids for the council's annual Capital Programme must be accompanied by calculations of the lifetime carbon emissions associated with the proposed capital investment.

Has the council launched a Climate Bond?

The Council signed the Green Finance Institute's 'Local Climate Bond pledge' in [summer 2022](#). We will be launching a Local Climate Bond in 2023, which will be a new source of funding for local green projects.

Has the council raised income for climate action from property development?

Since 2016, we have been securing for carbon offsetting from new developments through planning obligations to ensure that new development is acceptable in planning terms by fully addressing its associated carbon footprint. Our priority is to encourage net zero development through planning policy and legislation however, where this is not possible, the funds collected will be directed towards community decarbonisation projects via our Carbon Offset Fund.

Has the council raised income for climate action from any other sources?

We have been successful in receiving grants in relation to climate action. Our Phase 1 Carbon Management programme was funded by a Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund. This funding has allowed us deliver energy saving improvements across 61 of our buildings and the work is expected to save around 1,600 tonnes of carbon.

Has the council passed a motion in support of divestment from all fossil fuels from the councils' pension funds?

Our Pension Fund is a responsible investor and favours engagement over divestment. No motion to divest has been passed. That said, please see our [Responsible Investment Statement](#) that outlines the position really well, soon to be updated.
The Pension Fund is moving £42m worth of investment into Paris-Aligned fund as part of wider aim to decarbonise our fund.