ZERO CARBON CITY

2040

WESTMINSTER CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

DISCOVER THE PLAN

ZERO CARBON 2040

Westminster Climate Action

City of Westminster

Contents

Foreword

Now, more than ever before, we understand the devastating consequences of climate change and the urgent need to take action to prevent them. As a city firmly on the world stage, I believe we have a moral duty to help tackle this global challenge and to safeguard everything that is unique about our vibrant and iconic city from the immediate threats that climate change poses.

I don't underestimate the scale of this challenge; government figures show that Westminster generated over 2.2 million tonnes of greenhouse gases in 2017, the highest of any local authority area in London. In response, we have set an emissions target for the city to become net zero by 2040 and engaged our city partners, communities, and residents to better understand the changes required to meet it.

In presenting this Climate Emergency Action Plan, I hope we can establish a framework for collective action on climate change across Westminster that is inclusive, innovative, and reflects the scale and urgency with which we must all act. We have developed a comprehensive set of actions, designed to drive forward carbon reduction activity across the city working in partnership. It will be essential that we refine the approach together, as we learn about what works best through ongoing and meaningful engagement. We are fully committed to working with you all to achieve this and to playing our part by becoming a net zero council by 2030.

Cllr Rachael Robathan

Leader – Westminster City Council

Executive Summary

This Climate Emergency Action Plan for Westminster sets out a framework for collective action on climate change to achieve the ambitious target of achieving net zero emissions across the borough by 2040.

In doing so, it seeks to harness the significant benefits of climate action to the health and wellbeing of our communities, economy, and natural environment. The Plan aims to accelerate carbon emission reductions and associated improvements in air quality across the city, through a comprehensive set of actions across five themes:

- Efficient buildings
- Clean and affordable energy
- Sustainable travel and transport
- Reduced consumption and waste; and
- Green and resilient city

The themes and the proposed actions within them have been prioritised based on available evidence of sources of carbon emissions in Westminster. The actions reflect views we have gathered from our engagement to date with residents, community representatives, organisations, and other stakeholders.

The Action Plan framework we have set out seeks to respond ambitiously to the climate emergency in a manner that is inclusive, holistic, credible, and innovative. This is just the start, and we don't have all the solutions yet. As such, this is intended to be a living document that will need to evolve rapidly as we broaden our engagement, learn from early implementation, and improve our evidence on how to reduce emissions most effectively in partnership with stakeholders across the city.

Introduction

In 2018, a special report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)[1] warned that urgent action was needed to cut greenhouse gas emissions and limit global warming to 1.5°C, to avoid the most catastrophic impacts of climate change.

In response, 191 countries formally approved the Paris Agreement[2], targeting net zero by 2050, and committing them to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees, and preferably to 1.5°C, compared to pre-industrial levels.

In September 2019, Westminster City Council declared a climate emergency, setting a target for the City of Westminster to achieve net zero emissions by 2040 – ten years in advance of the Paris Agreement target.

In August 2021, the IPCC's latest assessment report[3] confirmed that without immediate, rapid, and large-scale reductions in emissions, limiting warming to 1.5°C or even 2°C will be beyond reach.

This Climate Emergency Action Plan sets out the scale of the net zero 2040 challenge for Westminster and proposes a framework for collective action to deliver this, structured around three pillars[4].

Challenges and opportunities

- Climate impacts and the co-benefits of climate action
- Westminster's emissions baseline
- Meeting net zero 2040
- Carbon management hierarchy

Commitment and collaboration

- A net zero vision for Westminster
- Commitments and guiding principles
- Enabling climate action
- Consultation
- Ongoing engagement and collaboration

Accelerating delivery

- Evidence-driven approach
- Priority emissions goals and actions
- Finance and funding
- Monitoring and evaluation

Challenges and opportunities

Why we need to act

We now know that the levels of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere are higher than at any point in recent history, and that this increase is directly linked to human activity, mainly the burning of fossil fuels.

Human-induced climate change is already affecting every region of the world – and its effects, including extreme heat and more frequent, intense storms, have been felt here in Westminster. Delivering the rapid cuts in greenhouse gases needed to avoid more severe impacts of climate change will be the biggest challenge of our generation.

Key facts: Why this is important

INCREASING TEMPERATURES

Since 1970, global surface temperature has increased faster than in any other 50-year period over at least the last 2,000 years[5]

EXCESSIVE CARBON DIOXIDE

In 2019 atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations were higher than at any time in at least two million years[6]

WARMEST ON RECORD

2020 was one of the three warmest years on record – with 2016 and 2019 completing the top three[7]

EXTREMELY HOT SUMMERS

"What we now think of as an extremely hot summer, where people are dying of heat stress and it is extvremely uncomfortable in homes, hospitals and much of transport, that is likely to be a typical summer by the middle of the century and will be a cool summer in the 2080s."

Lord John Krebs, Chair of the Adaptation Sub-Committee to the Committee on Climate Change[8]

Climate targets and policies

Paris Climate Agreement (2015)

International treaty to limit global warming to well below

2 degrees

and preferably to

1.5 degrees

Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels.

UK Climate Change Act (amended 2019)

Sets legal targets for the UK to achieve

net zero emissions by 2050

Westminster Climate Emergency Declaration (2019)

Sets targets for Westminster City Council to achieve net zero emissions

by 2030

and for the City of Westminster to follow

by 2040

United Nations Human Rights Council (2021)

In 2021

the United Nations Human Rights Council recognises, for the first time, that having a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a

human right[9]

The impacts of climate change

Climate change impacts will be felt both globally and locally and will disproportionately affect the most vulnerable members of our community.

Rising global temperatures will lead to:

Rising sea levels and increased local flood risk

More extreme local weather events
including storms and flash flooding, causing damage to buildings and infrastructure

Increased risks to health and wellbeing
(extreme heat, worsening local air pollution, introduction of new pests and diseases)

More frequent and severe heatwaves

Local water shortages and increased energy demand for cooling

Threats to local biodiversity, including the loss of native trees and wildlife

Co-benefits of climate change

There are many associated economic, social and health benefits to reducing carbon emissions, strengthening the case for climate action.

Examples of these benefits are:

Sustainable and more affordable energy and water
with reduced fuel poverty

A cleaner, resource efficient city
with reduced waste and air pollution

A safer, healthier more resilient city
providing improved quality of life to residents

Better homes and offices and an efficient, cleaner transport network

Better jobs, a more inclusive economy, and enhanced green skills and education

Safeguarding greener spaces for people and nature within the city

Local green goods and services, improved food security and broader environmental choices

Co-Benefits between Air Quality and Carbon Reduction

Westminster is widely regarded as having the worst air pollution in the UK, mainly due to our location in the heart of London. The two main pollutants of concern are nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) and particulate matter, which impact on everyone's local health and wellbeing, and remain a high priority for the council and its residents.

Although NO_2 and particulate matter are not considered greenhouse gases (and therefore do not directly contribute to climate change) they tend to be emitted by many of the same processes, such as fuel combustion for transport and gas used for cooking and heating homes and buildings. Westminster's Air Quality Action Plan (2019-2024) and Climate Emergency Action Plan are closely interlinked and together provide considerable opportunity for eliminating local sources of emissions. Progress in one plan will always mutually benefit actions in the other. These will continue to be reviewed and updated to reflect emerging policies and guidance, including advanced understanding of the public health implications of exposure to poor air quality, the new World Health Organisation pollution targets and post-Covid 19 pandemic recovery efforts.

> "Westminster's Air Quality Action Plan and Climate Action Plan are closely interlinked"

Emissions covered in the Action Plan

We have included different types of emissions sources in our baseline assessment for this plan. Some are associated with our own (direct) activities and others relate to the actions of others (indirect). The Action Plan covers Westminster City Council emissions across Scope 1, 2 and limited Scope 3. Citywide emissions are for Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions only.

Scope 1

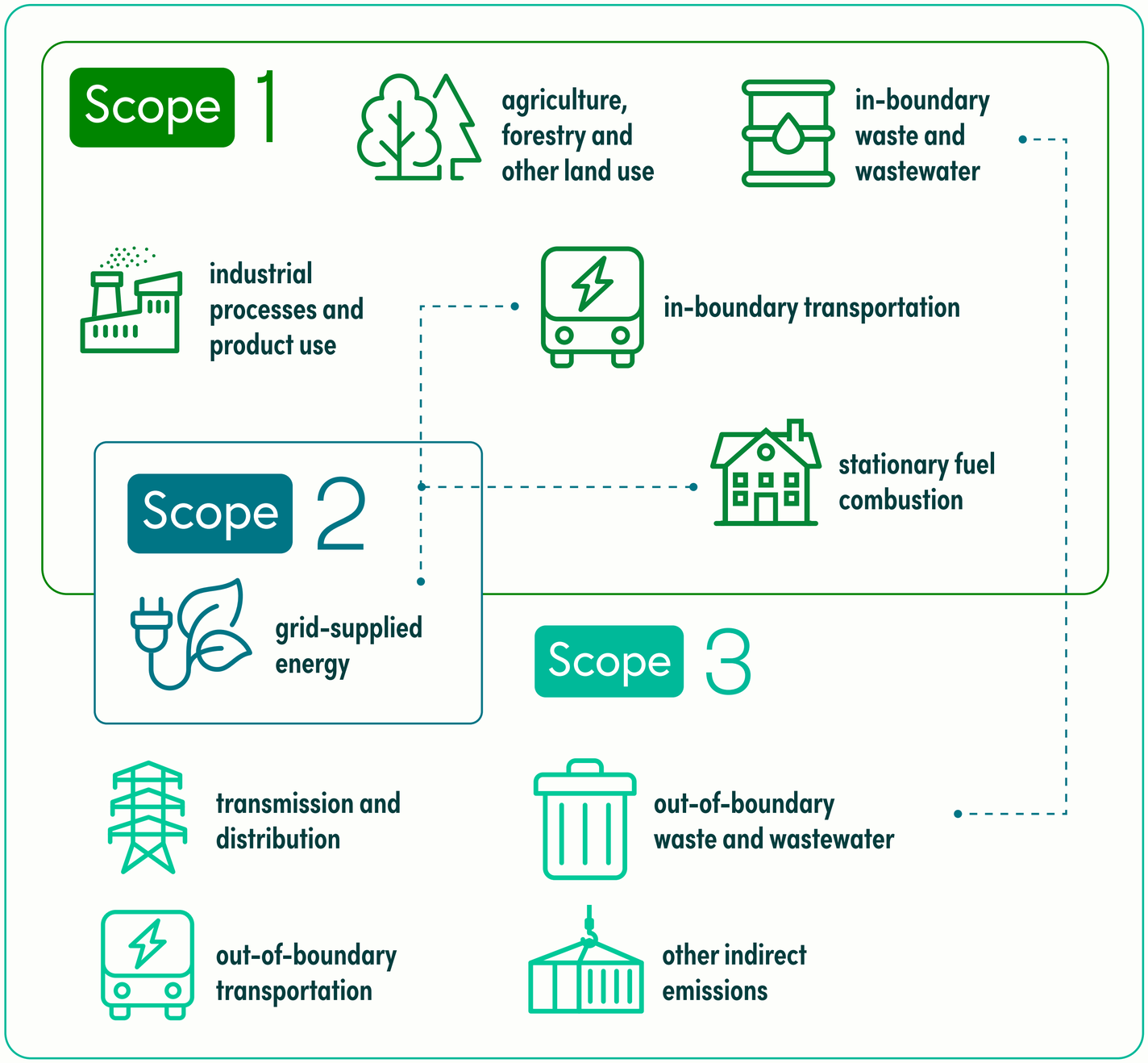
Emissions directly owned or controlled by an organisation or consumer. This is typically the combustion of gas for heating or fuel use by vehicles in Westminster.

Scope 2

Emissions linked to the consumption of electricity by an organisation or consumer. The electricity (and associated emissions) is generated outside of Westminster, but the user is within the city, so the indirect emissions are attributed here.

Scope 3

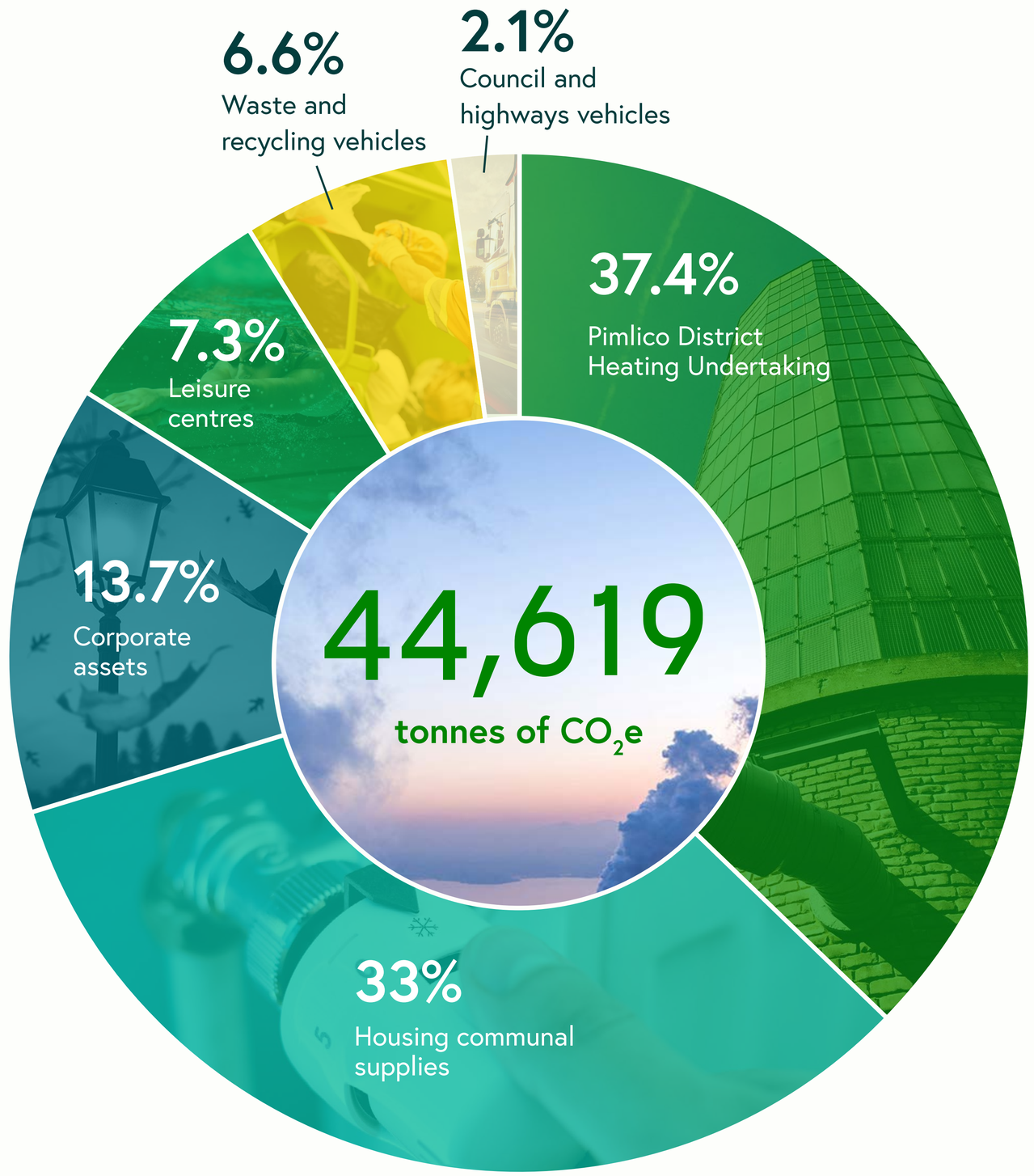
Indirect emissions relating to an organisation or consumer's activities, but that are outside of their control. This can include purchased goods, services, food, waste and travel outside of the city. Measuring and calculating Scope 3 emissions is an extensive and complex process.



Westminster City Council Emissions

In support of Westminster's Climate Emergency Action Plan, the City Council has set an ambitious target to become net zero by 2030.

We generated almost 45,000 tonnes of carbon from our buildings and activities in our baseline year from April 2018 to March 2019.



Our action towards net zero 2030

11% reduction in our carbon intensity (t/CO_2e per full time employee) across our estate and operations since 2018/19 from

23.72 → 21.03 tonnes

100% renewable electricity → purchased for council-owned sites and housing **since 2020**

committed

to electrify our waste servicing vehicle fleet, powered by energy from the city's own waste

12km

of new cycle lanes added around the city

Rolled out carbon literacy training to over

50 staff

and added climate action to staff inductions and performance frameworks

100 social homes retrofitted to be more energy efficient, healthier and more affordable to heat **by March 2022**

Facilitated the creation of a **micro-distribution hub** at Park Lane Car Park to support

0 emission deliveries

£13m

planned investment in energy efficiency upgrades to our corporate property by **March 2022**

delivered

more than **1,000** electric vehicle charging points across the city

Embedding carbon impact analysis in our capital bid process from **2022 onwards**, ensuring all proposals assess their carbon contribution.

98% LED street lighting replacement programme is 98% complete, replacing over **14,000** **streetlights**, saving **50%** on energy consumption

11% reduction in our total carbon emissions over the last **2 years**

£110m committed from council Pension Fund to invest in **renewable energy infrastructure**

Reduced the carbon footprint of our equities by **60%** and exploring routes to further reduce our future investment activities, in line with our **Responsible Investment Statement**

Our progress in cutting council emissions since 2018

So far, the council has achieved an 11.6% reduction in emissions across its estate and operations since 2019.

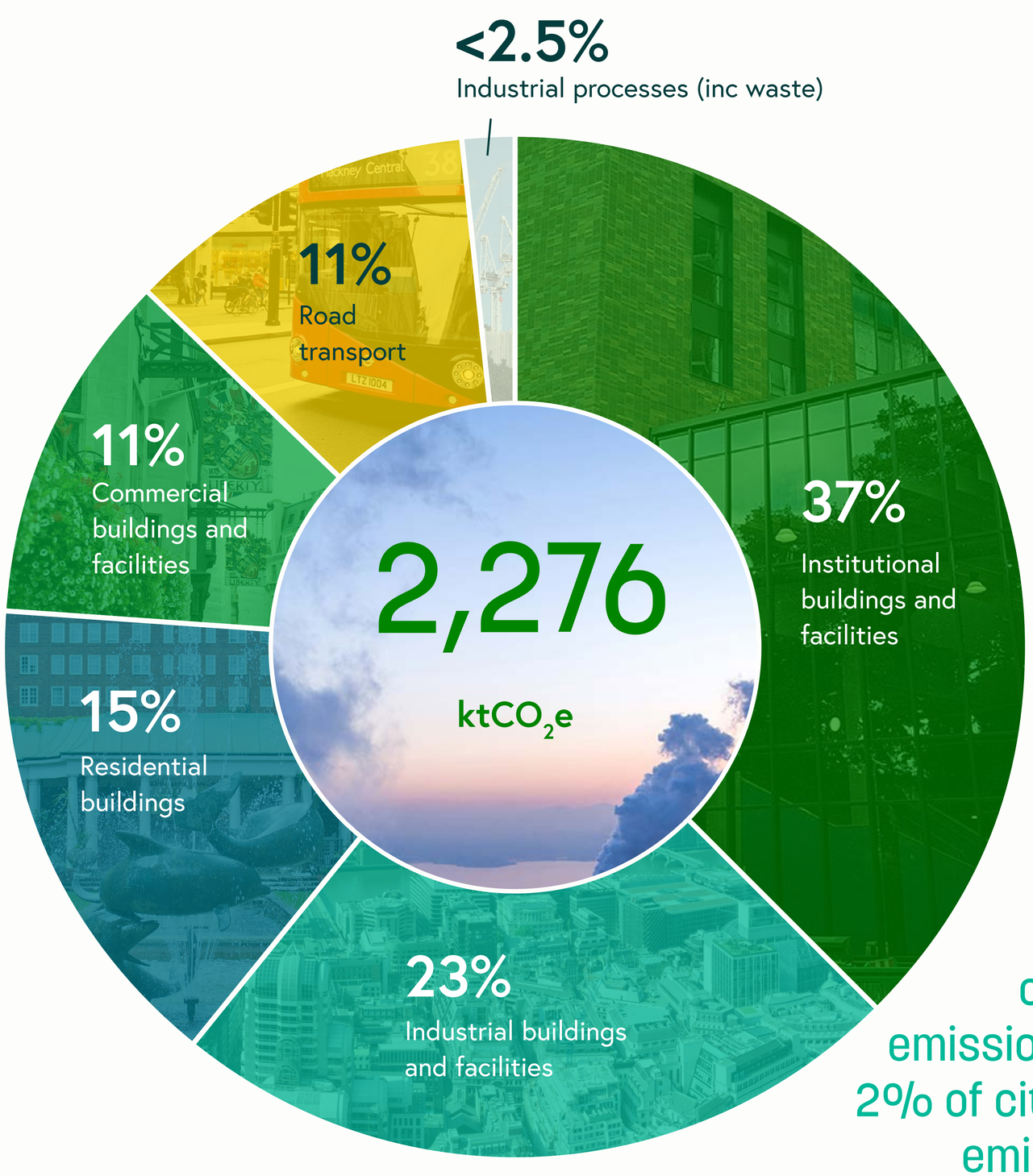
We now need to accelerate this reduction and cut our emissions by 8.3% (3,700 tonnes CO_2e) each year to meet our 2030 net zero target.

Citywide emissions

The City of Westminster has some of the highest carbon emissions by local authority area in the UK, producing over two million tonnes in 2017.

This is largely a reflection of its densely built environment, with 86% of Westminster's emissions produced from the energy used in our homes, hospitals, shops, offices, hotels and other buildings.

2017 emissions
= the weight of
146,000
Big Bens

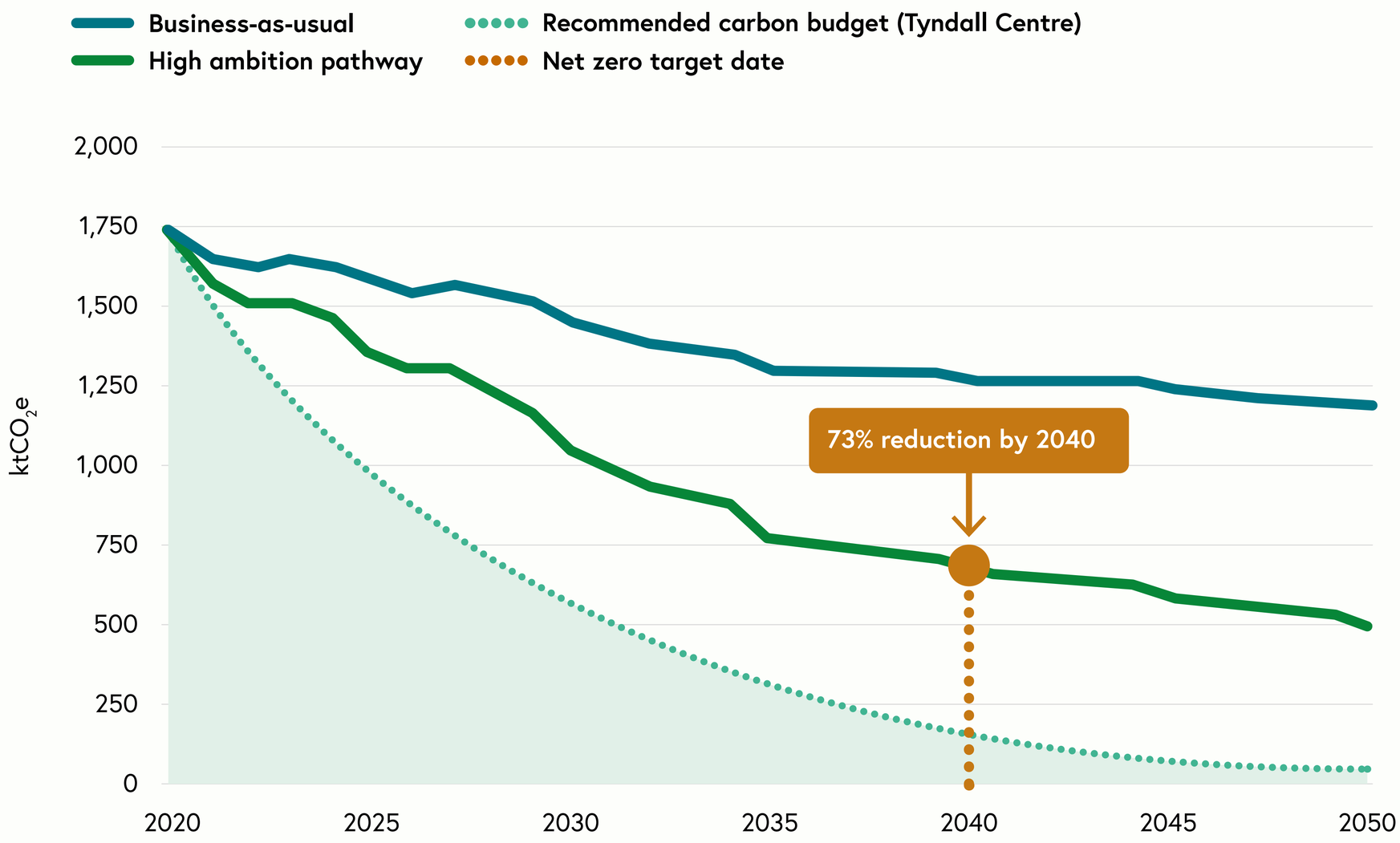


council emissions are 2% of citywide emissions

Achieving net zero 2040

To achieve Westminster's net zero 2040 target, the city will need to save over 91,000 tonnes of carbon annually. This is roughly equivalent to eliminating the council's entire carbon footprint more than twice-over, every year.

Citywide emissions modelling indicates that by taking a high ambition pathway, Westminster could cut emissions by 57% (totalling just over one million tonnes of carbon) by 2030, and 73% by 2040. The remaining proportion of emissions (around 600,000 tonnes) will be extremely challenging to eliminate without further innovation, national legislation, and support, and may need to be offset. Even our high ambition pathway exceeds the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research's recommended carbon budget in line with the Paris Climate Agreement.



Achieving net zero 2040

By breaking down the analysis according to emissions sources, we can start to get a better sense of the specific changes that we need to deliver in Westminster to meet this pace and scale of emissions reductions.

To achieve net zero 2040, our modelling predicts that Westminster will need:

- to deliver extensive 'deep' energy efficiency retrofit improvements in around 64,000 homes
- the majority (70%) of homes and commercial buildings (60%) to be electrically heated by 2040, with gas-fired boilers phased out
- to cut travel by non-sustainable modes by a quarter and switch almost entirely (94%) to electric vehicles
- to cut total waste by 40% and increase recycling rates to around 64%
- for any residual emissions to be offset

Prioritising our activity to have the greatest emissions impact

Achieving our net zero 2040 goal will require ambitious action at scale across all sectors.

However, to ensure we can maximise our impact, the Climate Emergency Action Plan will aim to prioritise actions that eliminate emissions, followed by those that reduce or substitute emissions. Offsetting will only be used where all other options have been explored first, in line with the principles of the **carbon management hierarchy**[10], set out below.

1 Avoid / eliminate

Wherever possible, steps should be taken to avoid or eliminate the release of emissions at source and across the lifecycle by:

- Influencing business planning and decision making
- Considering the need and purpose of any proposal
- Exploring alternative approaches that avoid the production of emissions

2 Reduce

Existing activity should seek to limit emissions at source by:

- Delivering real and relative reductions in carbon and energy use
- Promoting efficiency in operation, processes, fleet, or energy management
- Innovating and/or optimising new approaches to cut emissions

3 Substitute

Existing activities should seek to substitute carbon intensive activities with those that have a lower carbon impact by:

- Adopting renewable or low carbon technologies
- Reducing carbon intensity of use and purchased energy
- Prioritising products/services with lower embodied or embedded emissions

4 Offset

Where all other steps of the hierarchy have been explored, and only as a last resort, any unavoidable residual emissions should be offset by:

- Investment in carbon saving activities elsewhere to save an equivalent amount of emissions by way of compensation.

Source: Adapted from IEMA Greenhouse Gas Management Hierarchy (2020)

Commitment and collaboration

This is a Climate Emergency Action Plan for Westminster.

It represents a framework for collective action on climate change, where all parts of our society can contribute or be considered in a truly inclusive approach. As a council we are fully committed to working together with our diverse residents, communities, businesses, and organisations to achieve this.

Vision

To work in partnership with all organisations and everyone who lives, works, studies or visits Westminster to tackle the climate crisis urgently.

Our aim: to achieve a net zero carbon city by 2040; a greener, cleaner, and healthier Westminster, where residents, communities, businesses and visitors can thrive and are resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Underpinning Commitments

Westminster's Climate Emergency Action Plan framework will:

Credible

- be evidence-based to inform the most impactful and cost-effective approach to achieving net zero by 2040
- be delivered in accordance with the carbon management hierarchy, with offsetting used only as a last resort
- be monitored and regularly reviewed to ensure our approach is on track and consistent with our next zero 2040 emissions reduction pathway

Innovative

- identify and embrace new insights, approaches, and technology
- work with and learn from other organisations that can demonstrate best practice in tackling climate change
- adopt 'Smart City' solutions to the climate emergency in keeping with Westminster's status as a global city and centre of innovation

Holistic

- seek to maximise the delivery of social, environmental, and economic co-benefits across Westminster
- work in tandem with Westminster's Air Quality Action Plan, supporting improvements to air quality and alleviation of air pollution alongside greenhouse gas emissions reductions

Inclusive

- foster collaboration between residents, businesses, and partners to collectively deliver emissions reductions across all aspects of the city
- be open and transparent in tackling the climate emergency
- establish a model for ongoing, meaningful community engagement and participation, which recognises the full diversity of our local population
- deliver a climate resilient city that safeguards the most vulnerable members of our community from the impacts of climate change

Enabling climate action

Nationally, local authorities are directly responsible for around 2% of total UK emissions, but they can influence up to 40% of emissions through their activities and powers.

The City Council's emissions amount to 2% of Westminster's annual total and we have committed to delivering a net zero carbon council by 2030. We have changed how we operate: embedding climate considerations into every decision we make, assessing opportunities to drive down emissions from our buildings and activities and investing in low carbon technologies and practices.

In addition to this, we have carefully considered the range of powers and levers at our disposal to advance climate action across the borough and beyond it. This assessment across all our activities, functions, and services, has underpinned the development of the actions proposed in this plan.

This Climate Emergency Action Plan for Westminster encompasses a range of interrelated council policies that collectively drive environmental improvements city wide, supporting the Greener and Cleaner ambition set out in our City for All vision.

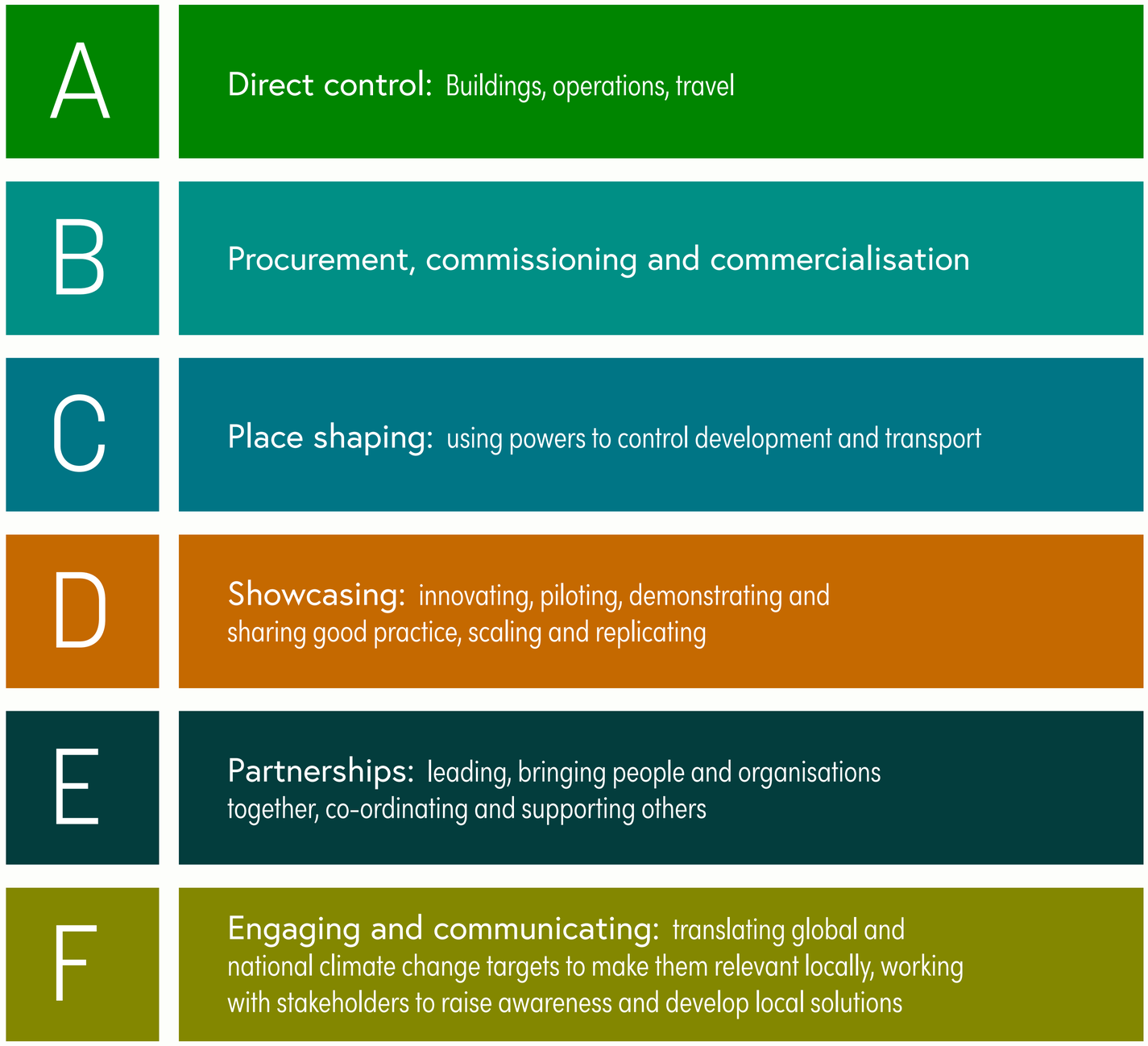


Figure: Powers and levers of influence for the council on climate action

The Climate Emergency Action Plan encompasses a range of interrelated council policies that collectively drive environmental improvements across Westminster, supporting the Greener and Cleaner ambition set out in our City for All vision[11].

Climate Emergency Action Plan

City Plan

The City Plan 2019-2040 is the statutory development plan for Westminster, setting out our vision and strategy for the development of the city. The City Plan contains policies that will be used in determining planning applications, including strict low-carbon and sustainability requirements for developers to cut the environmental impact of new development

A Partnership Approach to Open Spaces and Biodiversity

A Partnership Approach to Open Spaces and Biodiversity sets out the Council's approach to maintaining and improving green spaces across the city acknowledging the input needed from all landowners across the city to make significant ecological improvements.

Code of Construction Practice

Westminster's Code of Construction Practice sets out the standards and procedures to which developers and contractors must adhere to when undertaking construction of major projects, including waste management principles for Westminster development sites. Westminster requires the largest strategic development schemes and other major development schemes and all basements development schemes to sign up to the Code of Construction Practice.

Freight, Servicing and Deliveries Strategy

Our Freight, Servicing and Deliveries Action Plan 2020-204012 aims to reduce the numbers of vehicle movements and their emissions across the city, consistent with our net zero 2040 target. The FSD Action Plan aims to cut the number of FSD vehicles by 80% by 2040, and for all remaining trips to be made by zero tailpipe emission vehicles by 2040.

Air Quality Action Plan

Air Quality Strategy & Action Plan 2019-24[13] sets out our actions to cut levels of air pollution and support cleaner travel in Westminster.

Carbon Offset Fund

Carbon Offset Fund drives greater emissions reductions at new development sites and helps support the delivery of carbon saving projects across Westminster. Over £800,000 of funding has been allocated so far to support local climate projects.

CleanTech Strategy

Our Smart City programme is helping us to identify new ideas and innovative Clean Tech approaches to underpin our climate action and drive a green economic recovery of the city. Our emerging CleanTech Strategy will help to deliver some of these aims.

Environment Supplementary Planning Document

The Environmental Supplementary Planning Document (ESPD) will provide further detail and guidance on the City Plan's environment policies, supporting our aspirations to create a greener, cleaner, and healthier city. It gives details on how developers can meet high sustainability standards covering issues such as air quality, local environmental impacts, green infrastructure, flood risk, energy, and waste.

Figure: Interlinking city council policies that seek to drive environmental improvements

Engagement and Consultation so Far

The action plan has been informed by and developed in consultation with business, resident and community stakeholders throughout 2020/21, while responding to the evidence-based recommendations set out in our 'Co-creating a Climate Action Plan for a Zero Carbon City'.

During summer 2021, more than 350 people provided feedback to the draft recommendations set out in the co-creation document across a series of face-to-face and online engagement events and an online survey.

Feedback from respondents to the survey indicated the below top five highest priorities for Westminster City Council in tackling climate change:

1 Encourage walking and cycling through traffic free zones and facilities like cycle storage

2 Support residents to improve the energy efficiency of their homes and reduce energy use

3 Westminster City Council, landlords and homeowners to retrofit buildings to improve their energy performance and increase renewable energy

4 Ensure that new development meets net zero carbon standards

5 Increase the use of electric vehicles through, for example, more charging points

Broader feedback reflected the need for the Climate Action Plan to:

1 Emphasise the urgency and speed of action required to tackle the climate emergency

2 Ensure the avoidance of new emissions, in addition to cutting existing emissions

3 Engage, empower and bring together communities, the voluntary and community sector, businesses, and the public sector to deliver collective action

Building a Climate and Air Quality Alliance

Westminster is a diverse and vibrant city. We know from our climate change engagement and consultation events that 88% of respondents consider tackling climate change as either an 'extremely important' or 'very important' issue, and many of the businesses and organisations we have engaged with see this as a fundamental aspect of their business planning and corporate responsibility.

We want to ensure this Climate Emergency Action Plan evolves over time, and that all parts of Westminster's society have the opportunity to shape it and meaningfully contribute to tackling the climate emergency, whilst also ensuring we achieve air quality co-benefits. We therefore want to foster a strong participatory approach based on:

- Westminster's stakeholders working together and with the council in strong and **impactful collaboration** on climate change
- Ongoing engagement and involvement **throughout the lifetime** of the Plan
- Representation of the full range of our **diverse stakeholders** and their social and economic circumstances, including the most vulnerable, from across the borough
- **Embedding climate** conversations into all of our existing groups and networks, drawing on their local experiences, expertise, and leadership
- A **flexible approach** using different channels of communication and engagement to accommodate different audiences, needs and circumstances

Our priority is to establish a diverse Climate and Air Quality Alliance to shape the approach, support and drive local action and review our overall progress.

Accelerating delivery

Climate Emergency Action Plan priorities

We have identified key outcome priorities and goals based on an assessment of Westminster's emissions sources, stakeholder feedback and the opportunities for delivering the greatest levels of emissions savings.

Efficient Buildings

Priority: Improve building efficiency and deliver energy cost savings

Goal 1: Maximise the retrofitting of buildings to cut their energy demand.

Goal 2: New developments achieve best practice standards to minimise their whole life carbon and air quality impact.

Goal 3: Residents and businesses reduce their energy use and save money.

Goal 4: Organisations take clear and ambitious action to reduce the carbon emissions associated with their buildings and activities.

Clean and Affordable Energy

Priority: Increase availability, affordability and use of low and zero carbon energy

Goal 1: Harness opportunities for the local generation and distribution of renewable energy.

Goal 2: Empower homeowners, tenants, and landlords to use energy from low and zero carbon sources.

Reduced Consumption and Waste

Priority: Reduce waste, increase recycling, and promote sustainable consumption

Goal 1: Adopt sustainable purchasing practices and products.

Goal 2: Drive reductions in waste and a step change in rates of recycling.

Goal 3: Fully embed resource efficiency and the re-use of materials as part of a thriving low carbon circular economy. Enhance the low carbon economy and expand local green skills and jobs

Sustainable Travel and Transport

Priority: Cut transport-based sources of emissions and air pollution

Goal 1: Cut vehicle trips and increase sustainable and active travel.

Goal 2: Accelerate the transition to electric vehicles across Westminster.

Goal 3: Freight and deliveries are consolidated and streamlined to reduce on-road emissions.

Goal 4: Reduce Westminster's contribution to travel emissions outside of the city.

Green and Resilient City

Priority: Enhance the natural environment and ensure the city is resilient to climate change impacts

Goal 1: Protect and enhance Westminster's green space.

Goal 2: Safeguard Westminster from the impacts of climate change.

Efficient Buildings

Context

Westminster is a densely populated area with 114 people per hectare – almost double the London average.

The city is home to 121,000 residential properties and some 55,000 businesses, ranging from large multi-national organisations to small and micro businesses. Collectively, Westminster's buildings account for 86% of emissions – by far the most significant source in the city.

Decarbonising Westminster's built environment will be the most significant challenge to overcome if we are to successfully deliver our net zero 2040 ambitions.

Emissions from buildings account for 86% of the city's total with households accounting for 15%

There are 56 different conservation areas covering 78% of Westminster

There are 11,000 listed buildings across Westminster

There are 121,000 domestic households in Westminster, of which 39% are owner-occupied, 43% are private rented and 18% are social rented

(2019 data)

Approximately half of all Westminster's domestic properties were built pre-1900

Up to 50% of a building's emissions over its lifetime can be from embodied emissions (e.g., construction, demolition, and disposal)

> "Westminster is home to nearly one-sixth of London's jobs, and with the highest economic output of any UK local authority area, Westminster's economy is critical to the nation's economic wellbeing"

Home to nearly one-sixth of London's jobs, and with the highest economic output of any UK local authority area, Westminster's economy is critical to the nation's economic wellbeing

Westminster City Council currently owns or operates over 400 buildings and assets – split between operational buildings and a wider investment portfolio operated on a commercial basis

Goals	Action	Milestone	Carbon saving potential	Relative cost impact
Maximise the retrofitting of buildings to cut their energy demand.	By 2040, upgrade our social housing estate, targeting an average Energy Performance Certificate Band B rating.	2025 and beyond	Higher	£££+
	By 2022, cut emissions from our corporate estate by retrofitting up to 70 properties, targeting 20% emissions reductions.	Pre 2025	Higher	£££
	Complete detailed surveys and develop a low carbon strategy for the upgrade of Westminster's 10 community schools.	Pre 2025	Medium	££
	In 2022, pilot a new combined funding support and enforcement approach to improve minimum energy efficiency standards (MEES) in the Private Rented Sector.	Pre 2025	Higher	££
	Set up a task force with industry experts to develop solutions to the challenges of retrofitting Westminster's historic buildings to net zero.	Pre 2025	Higher	£
	Work with local organisations, landowners, and partners to better understand Westminster's built environment emissions and develop a comprehensive programme of support, advice and guidance dedicated to driving large-scale retrofitting.	Pre 2025	Higher	£
	Collaborate with London boroughs to deliver the Retrofit London Action Plan as part of London Councils' citywide Climate Programme.	Pre 2025	Higher	£
	Lobby central Government for further resource to support wholescale retrofitting of Westminster's buildings.	Pre 2025	Medium	£

Goals	Action	Milestone	Carbon saving potential	Relative cost impact
New developments achieve best practice standards to minimise their whole life carbon and air quality impact	Target Passivhaus or equivalent standards for all new council-led developments, where viable.	Pre 2025	Higher	£££
	By 2026, update key planning policies in our City Plan with stronger requirements for new developments, including prioritising whole-life carbon and circular economy statements.	2025 and beyond	Higher	£
	Implement our new Environment Supplementary Planning Document (ESPD), which requires major new developments to be built to net zero standards. Review the ESPD in 2022 to identify opportunities to go even further.	Pre 2025	Higher	£
	In 2022, publish our new Planning Obligations SPD and guidance on Section 106 offsetting payments, raising the local cost of carbon to incentivise on-site emissions savings rather than emissions offsetting in new developments.	Pre 2025	Higher	£
	Invest in our staff to build capacity and capability on the climate agenda, becoming a recognised net zero leader across Town Planning and wider built environment services.	Pre 2025	Medium	£
Residents and businesses reduce their energy use and save money	Promote the use of smart technologies and digital tools to improve data and understanding of energy saving opportunities for residents and organisations.	Pre 2025	Lower	£
	In 2022, establish a dedicated online platform for residents to provide information and advice on climate change, energy efficiency and wider sustainability opportunities.	Pre 2025	Medium	££
	By 2023, launch an expanded 'Green Homes' advice service to provide direct support to residents, prioritising the vulnerable and those in fuel poverty, to help improve the energy efficiency of their homes and cut energy costs.	Pre 2025	Higher	££

Goals	Action	Milestone	Carbon saving potential	Relative cost impact
Organisations take clear and ambitious action to reduce the emissions associated with their buildings and activities	Work in partnership with organisations to drive demonstrable climate action through sustainable practices and investment, building on the council's Responsible Business Network and partnership working with landowners and developers, Business Improvement Districts, and wider stakeholders [cross-cutting action across all emissions themes].	Pre 2025	Medium	£
	Develop and implement a Westminster Sustainable City Charter to promote city–wide business commitments to reducing carbon through operational activities and to reporting [cross-cutting action across all emissions themes].	Pre 2025	Medium	£
	Monitor and publicly report on Westminster City Council's corporate emissions performance each year.	Pre 2025	Lower	£

Westminster Property Association (WPA), Zero-Carbon Westminster[14]

The Westminster Property Association is a group representing over 240 organisations with interests in Westminster's built environment, including landowners, contractors, architects, and investors. In 2020 the group published Zero Carbon Westminster, which recommends actions that WPA members, including the council, urgently need to take to reduce substantially emissions from buildings. The WPA is now carrying out further research on best practice for retrofitting heritage buildings.

New Development Case Study: St Mary's Hospital

Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust has recently formally submitted its strategic outline case for the full redevelopment of St Mary's Hospital in Paddington. The hospital has been a leading provider of clinical care, education, and research for over 175 years. However, key parts of the St Mary's estate date back to 1845 and most of its facilities are at least 70 years old. The new development will aim to be net zero carbon in both its buildings and operations, as part of the wider NHS commitment to net zero carbon by 2040 for scope 1 and 2 emissions and 2045 for scope 3 emissions.

Ecofurb[15]: low carbon home renovation model

Ecofurb is a wrap-around sustainable home retrofit programme, delivered by Parity Projects and RetrofitWorks. The scheme is open to any homeowners and landlords in London and offers a home survey to advise on how to best reduce emissions within a specified budget. Ecofurb will also act as a liaison with trusted contractors to ensure the works are delivered to a high standard. In addition, Ecofurb offers a free Plan Builder on its website, which can be used to view basic information about any home in London and to get initial suggestions on the best eco-retrofit options. See **www.ecofurb.com**

Clean and Affordable Energy

Context

Historically, the use of renewable energy technologies in Westminster has been low – less than 0.03% of Westminster's electricity consumption was met by in-borough renewable energy in 2017.

However the high energy demand of its dense built environment makes the city a prime location for local (decentralised) energy networks and offers significant potential for emissions savings through the expansion of alternative, clean energy sources.

Westminster's total installed capacity of renewable energy (2,396kW) is less than half the inner London average, and six times less than the Greater London average

The Mayor of London has set a target for 15% of London's energy to be supplied from renewable, local sources by 2030 – including 1GW of installed solar by 2030 and 2GW by 2050

PDHU – the UKs first district heat network built in 1950 – is more efficient than individual gas boilers but currently emits 16,688 tonnes of carbon annually. We are exploring options to reduce this impact

> Westminster is home to the UK's first district heat network, the Pimlico District Heating Undertaking (PDHU), built in 1950

The south of Westminster alone has a heat demand of 260 GWh of heat per year

Goals	Action	Milestone	Carbon saving potential	Relative cost impact
Harness opportunities for the local generation and distribution of renewable energy	From 2025, prohibit new installations of fossil fuel energy systems in our council-owned housing and corporate operational buildings (where feasible and within the constraints of the building).	2025 and beyond	Higher	££
	In 2022, develop and agree a Clean Energy Strategy for the Pimlico District Heating Undertaking (PDHU), and for our social housing estate by 2023.	Pre 2025	Higher	££
	By 2030, deliver our PDHU and social housing estate Clean Energy Strategies, achieving significant carbon savings.	2025 and beyond	Higher	£££+
	Deliver viable on-site renewable energy generation across our operational buildings and assets.	Pre 2025	Higher	££
	Identify any viable roof-space (council or community-owned) that can be used for community-owned solar powered renewable energy generation.	Pre 2025	Medium	£
	Identify opportunities to increase council investment in renewable energy generation through the use of Power Purchase Agreements for our corporate energy supply.	Pre 2025	Higher	££
	Mobilise our council pension fund to increase investment in renewable energy infrastructure, targeting £110 million investment by the end of 2022.	Pre 2025	Higher	£££+
	By 2023, undertake a feasibility assessment of clean and renewable energy opportunities across Westminster to inform a Local Area Energy Plan, enabling local low carbon energy expansion.	Pre 2025	Higher	£
	Drive innovation in emissions reduction activity and our approach through delivery of the council's Smart City CleanTech Strategy.	Pre 2025	Medium	£

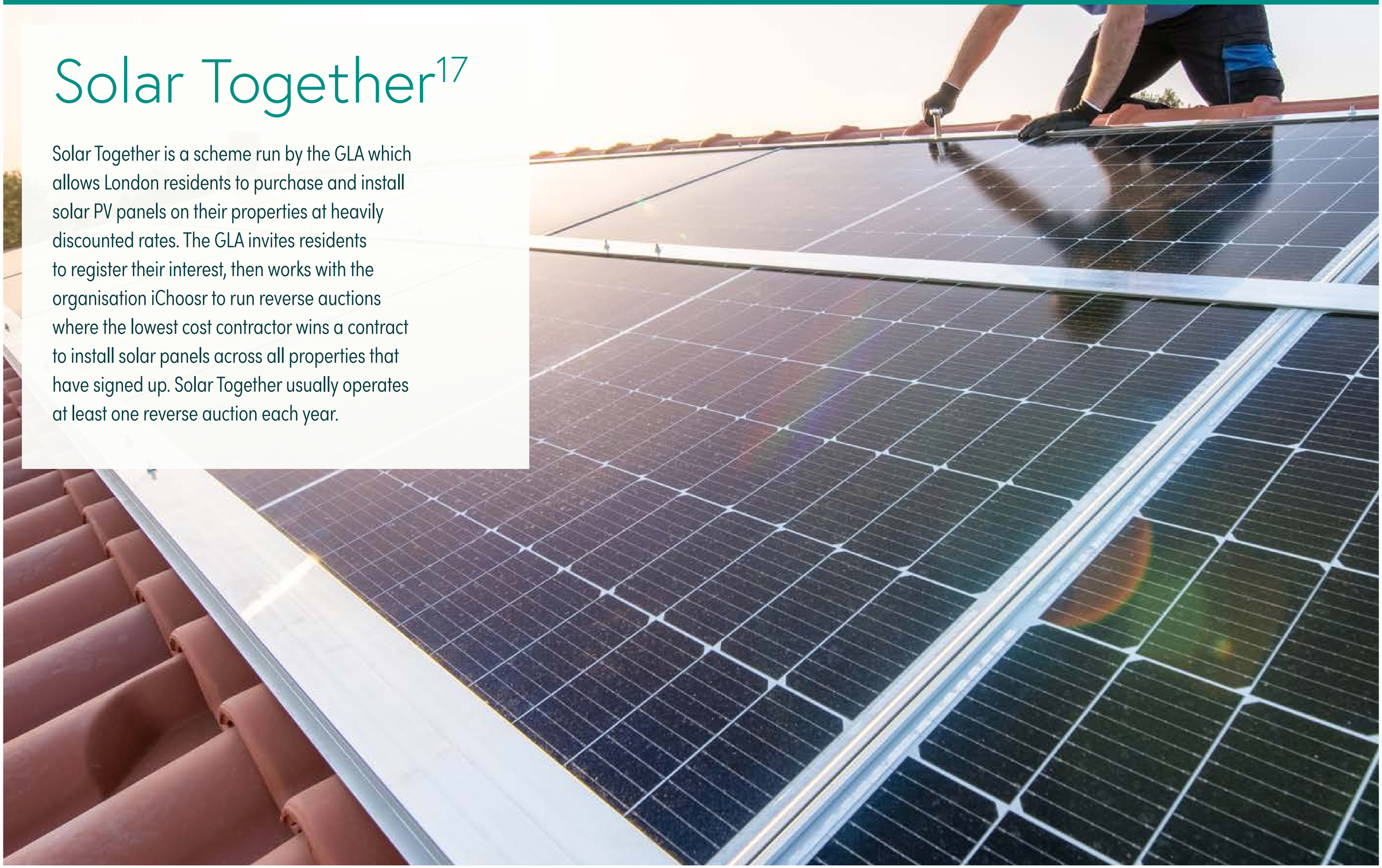
Goals	Action	Milestone	Carbon saving potential	Relative cost impact
	Maintain strategic partnerships with leading academic institutions (including Kings College London, University College London, and Imperial College London) and international partners ensuring access to leading climate change, air quality and environmental research, analysis, and expertise.	Pre 2025	Lower	£
Empower homeowners, tenants, and landlords to use energy from low and zero carbon sources	Lobby Government to mobilise funding for the decarbonisation and expansion of local low carbon heat networks, enabling a transition from natural gas to low carbon (electrified) heat sources.	Pre 2025	Higher	£
	Mobilise funding and support to enable residents, organisations, and local communities to install and use renewable energy technologies.	Pre 2025	Medium	££

Repowering London[16]

Repowering London is a not-for-profit organisation that supports communities to come together to install renewable energy infrastructure (usually solar PV panels) on public buildings. Repowering use a model that allows residents to buy low-cost shares in the new energy infrastructure and to receive a return on their investment, with leftover funds being channelled into a Community Fund which can be spent on local needs. Repowering also deliver green skills training for young people aged 16 to 19.

Solar Together[17]

Solar Together is a scheme run by the GLA which allows London residents to purchase and install solar PV panels on their properties at heavily discounted rates. The GLA invites residents to register their interest, then works with the organisation iChoosr to run reverse auctions where the lowest cost contractor wins a contract to install solar panels across all properties that have signed up. Solar Together usually operates at least one reverse auction each year.



Sustainable Travel and Transport

Context

Over 250,000 tonnes of CO_2e are produced by transport in Westminster – around 12% of the city's total emissions.

On-road transport is the largest source, as well as presenting significant health risks as a major contributor to local air pollution. The reduction and greening of motorised transport offers a clear opportunity for achieving environmental and health co-benefits.

Road-based transport accounts for 11% of total emissions across the city of Westminster

On average in 2017, 10% of travel mileage in Westminster was made by walking and cycling, 44% by tube and rail, 12% by bus, and 33% by road vehicle

Westminster has a high proportion of freight, servicing, and delivery (FSD) vehicles on its roads, making up about 30% of total vehicles on the road on an average morning in 2020

From October 2021, all of Westminster became part of the new expanded Ultra-Low Emission Zone[18] administered by TfL

Westminster benefits from excellent access to public transport, including 32 underground stations, four river bus terminals and over 150 bus routes

The Council's new FSD Action Plan aims to reduce the number of FSD vehicles on Westminster's roads by 80% and for all remaining trips to be made by zero tailpipe emission vehicles by 2040

"Road-based transport accounts for 11% of total emissions across the city of Westminster"

To help achieve emissions reductions from transport, we will adopt policies that promote the following overall travel hierarchy:

Walking

Cycling / electric bikes

Public transport

Visitors, residents and workers use active or public transport as their first choice for travel

Car sharing

The majority of Westminster residents choose not to own cars, and instead use car clubs where they cannot complete a journey by public transport

Electric vehicles

Those that need to own a car (e.g., for mobility or for work) transition their vehicle as soon as possible to an electric model

Goals	Action	Milestone	Carbon saving potential	Relative cost impact
Cut vehicle trips and increase sustainable and active travel	Provide cross-borough leadership on sustainable travel innovation by delivering the 'Low Carbon Transport' programme of London Councils' citywide Climate Programme, in partnership with the Royal Borough of Kingston.	Pre 2025	Lower	£
	Enhance and implement our new Air Quality Strategy and Action Plan by 2024, delivering outcomes that strengthen climate and air quality co-benefits (e.g., school streets, Schools' Clean Air Fund, and Clean Air Villages)	Pre 2025	Medium	£
	Deliver a rolling programme of cycling improvements across the City to improve and connect to the London-wide Cycleways network (including 23km of new additional cycle lanes between 2024-26).	Pre 2025	Higher	££
	Promote all forms of healthy and active travel by: a) expanding the roll-out of street improvements (including new wayfinding signs, safer road crossings, new dropped kerbs, pavement repairs and new seating areas) between 2022-2026 b) increasing the availability of affordable secure cycle storage c) exploring and testing new innovations in sustainable transport (including evaluating our local e-scooter pilot and formalising our dock-less bike management approach in 2022) d) improving school grounds and infrastructure (e.g. cycling and scooter parking) in line with School Air Quality Audit recommendations.	Pre 2025	Higher	££

Goals	Action	Milestone	Carbon saving potential	Relative cost impact
Accelerate the transition to electric vehicles across Westminster	By 2022, expand the roll-out of EV charging infrastructure to 1,500 charge points in total across the city (including 30 additional rapid chargers for delivery vehicles), maintaining a long-term ratio of one EV charge point to 7-8 electric vehicles across all wards.	Pre 2025	Higher	£££
	In 2022 deliver charging infrastructure at our Landmann Way Depot to enable electrification of Westminster's waste fleet vehicles (powered by Westminster's own waste), upgrading the residential waste vehicle fleet (40 vehicles) to electric by 2022 and the remaining (commercial) waste fleet by 2025.	Pre 2025	Higher	££
	Expand the availability of and access to car clubs in the city, ensuring all car club vehicles are fully electric by 2030.	2025 and beyond	Higher	£
	Lobby vehicle manufacturers and central Government to address barriers to the take-up of electric vehicles and explore opportunities for collaborative working.	Pre 2025	Lower	£

Goals	Action	Milestone	Carbon saving potential	Relative cost impact
Freight and deliveries are consolidated and streamlined to reduce on-road emissions	In 2022, promote the adoption of zero tailpipe emissions vehicles for deliveries to and from licensed premises through the new Licensing Charter and our Licensing Policy.	Pre 2025	Lower	£
	Work with Government to develop legislation for commercial waste franchising/zoning and, subject to enabling legislation, review and rationalise commercial waste collections.	Pre 2025	Higher	£
	Deliver the ambitious actions set out in our Freight Servicing and Deliveries Strategy and Action Plan to help cut congestion and reduce carbon emissions, including: a) identifying further suitable sites in Westminster for consolidation centres and pick-up and drop-off points to reduce last-mile deliveries b) working with landowners and delivery companies to investigate transition of last mile deliveries to low emission transport modes.	Pre 2025	Higher	££
	In 2022, pilot eCargo bike share schemes across Westminster to promote best practice and incentivise wider take-up.	Pre 2025	Lower	£
Reduce Westminster's contribution to travel emissions outside of the city	Lobby Government to ensure the use of cleaner hybrid-powered trains at Marylebone Station, in line with the renewal of the rail franchise contract in 2022.	Pre 2025	Lower	£
	Work with Transport for London and stakeholders to influence the design and delivery of the Transport for London Central London Zero Emission Zone, planned for 2025-2030.	Pre 2025	Lower	£
	Encourage residents, employees, and visitors to prioritise sustainable travel modes for travel beyond the city of Westminster.	2025 and beyond	Lower	£

King Street Low-Carbon Roadworks[19]

In 2020 the council's Highways team delivered a low-carbon roadworks pilot in partnership with FM Conway, to replace paving on King Street near St James's Park. The project was able to reduce operational carbon emissions by 79% and embodied emissions by 50% against a comparator site by using electric small vehicles and machinery, powering the welfare site by electrical means, reducing paving thickness, and using HVO fuel to power the HGVs. Overall, the project saved 4 to 6 tonnes of carbon. The council is planning to replicate similar measures across several planned maintenance projects in 2021-22.

Grosvenor Estate Office Supplies Consolidation Scheme

Grosvenor have introduced a delivery consolidation service for deliveries to their head office. The service was set up with delivery provider Gnewt Cargo and Anglo Office Group. Under the scheme, all office supplies for the Grosvenor head office are delivered to a consolidation hub on an industrial estate in Bow. From here, Gnewt cargo make one daily delivery to the head office using an all-electric fleet.

Movement Strategy Cycle Lanes

In summer 2020 the Council launched its Movement Strategy to help residents and visitors move easily and safely around the city after the initial Covid-19 restrictions were eased. This included implementing 13km of new temporary cycle lanes across the borough and the Council is currently consulting with partners on which of these lanes can be kept as permanent measures.

Reduced Consumption and Waste

Context

The City of Westminster generates almost 200,000 tonnes of Local Authority Collected Waste per year (2018/19), with an above average amount of waste per person (354kg per year).

This council is responsible for collecting and disposing of this, but commercial waste is collected by a variety of private waste carriers. Cutting waste and increasing Westminster's low recycling rate remains a significant challenge.

Westminster's consumption emissions (those linked to purchased products and services rather than direct activities) have reduced by 21% from 2001 to 2018. However, the city's consumption emissions are still above the London average, and among the highest emissions per resident in the capital (fifth highest at 9.22 tonnes per person).

Westminster has the lowest recycling rate (c.22%) of all London local authorities and well below the national average of 43%

Around 20% of Westminster's waste is sent for re-use or recycling, with most of the recyclable waste treated at Southwark's Materials Recovery Facility

Most of Westminster's non-recyclable waste (~80%) is processed at the Southeast London Combined Heat and Power (SELCHP) which derives energy from waste to supply heat to nearby homes via a district heating connection

Virtually zero waste from Westminster is sent to landfill as of 2019

The GLA is targeting net self-sufficiency by 2026. Meaning London will have capacity to manage the equivalent of 100% of waste generated

The upcoming Environment Bill will set requirements for all businesses to recycle their waste by 2023

> "Virtually zero waste from Westminster is sent to landfill as of 2019"

Westminster's consumption emissions are higher than the London average, with the borough producing 5.4% more emissions than average from food & drink, 2.5% more from clothing and footwear and 8.6% more from alcoholic beverages and tobacco

Goals	Action	Milestone	Carbon saving potential	Relative cost impact
Adopt sustainable purchasing practices and products	In 2022, adopt and implement our new Responsible Procurement Strategy to cut supply chain emissions, prioritising those from our top 10 highest-spend contracts, and bring together suppliers, partners, and our business community to share our learning and promote the approach.	Pre 2025	Lower	£
	Trial and showcase innovative circular economy projects, building on local exemplars including Caulibox and Westminster Wheels, to help drive sustainable consumer behaviours.	Pre 2025	Lower	£
Drive reductions in waste and a step change in rates of recycling	Maintain our first-class refuse collection service while exploring new approaches to sustainable, low carbon waste management, through: a) Expanding the residential food waste collection across the whole borough in 2022 b) Replacing some household non-recycling waste collections with additional recycling and food waste collections c) Improving our data on recycling trends, trialling new technologies, innovations and behaviour change techniques d) Expanding our recycling streams to include soft plastics by 2026/27	Pre 2025	Lower	£
	By 2023, support the Government's plans to introduce a national deposit return scheme for drinks containers by identifying appropriate sites in Westminster.	Pre 2025	Lower	£
	Work with Westminster's schools to embed climate change in the curriculum, inspire sustainable behaviours and cut waste through our Climate Action Classrooms programme.	Pre 2025	Lower	£

Goals	Action	Milestone	Carbon saving potential	Relative cost impact
Fully embed resource efficiency and the re-use of materials as part of an established low carbon circular economy	Embed carbon impact assessments into all our capital-funded project proposals, to maximise the climate benefit of council investments and limit new sources of emissions wherever possible.	Pre 2025	Lower	£
	By 2030, require the use of low-carbon methods and materials across all WCC highway maintenance and public realm projects.	2025 and beyond	Lower	£
	Use our new Code of Construction Practice to ensure major development sites re-use, recycle or recover 95% of construction, demolition, and excavation (CDE) waste.	Pre 2025	Lower	£
	By 2022, develop a Green Economy Strategy to help accelerate the transition to a low carbon circular economy.	Pre 2025	Lower	£
	Through our Green Economy Strategy, develop low carbon jobs and skills in the local workforce to support a sustainable economy and low carbon transition.	Pre 2025	Medium	££
	Utilise our new Westminster Investment Service to attract, retain and expand net zero businesses in Westminster, and consistently grow the size of Westminster's green economy.	Pre 2025	Medium	££

Westminster Waste and Recycling Vehicle Fleet Electrification

The council is partnering with Veolia to gradually transform the entire waste and recycling vehicle fleet in Westminster to electric vehicles. The first tranche of new and upcycled electric waste vehicles were unveiled in 2021, along with a fleet of electric street cleaning vehicles for the West End. Going forward, the plan is for the whole waste fleet to be electrified and charged from electricity generated from Westminster's waste at the Southeast London Combined Heat and Power (SELCHP) facility.

Regent Street and St James's Food Waste Pledge

In 2019 the Crown Estate introduced a Food Waste Pledge for restaurants in the Regent Street and St James's area of the West End, with participating restaurants aiming to reduce food waste by 25%. Restaurants have tackled food waste by developing new dishes that re-use unwanted ingredients and offcuts from other dishes. The 12 participating restaurants include Brasserie Zedel, Café Murano and Hawksmoor Air Street.

Green and Resilient City

Context

Westminster is home to some of the UK's most famous and well-known parks and green spaces, comprising some 200 open spaces (both public and private) across the city.

The City Council alone is responsible for around 20,000 trees across the city's streets, open spaces, housing estates and individual properties.

Green spaces, trees and other natural features have a significant role in acting as a carbon 'sink' to remove carbon emissions from the atmosphere and also play an important role in supporting biodiversity, improved air quality and adaptation benefits (for example by providing shade and retaining surface water). We aim to fully harness these co-benefits in all of our Green and Resilient City actions.

No net greenhouse gas emissions are created from agriculture or land use changes within Westminster. However, green spaces play a positive role in absorbing some carbon and improving resilience to heatwaves and floods.

The council owns approximately 20,000 trees across the city's streets, open spaces and on housing estates and individual properties, absorbing about 1,045 tonnes of carbon per year. Overall tree canopy cover for Westminster was 16.17% in 2018.

> Green spaces, trees and other natural features have a significant role in acting as a carbon 'sink'

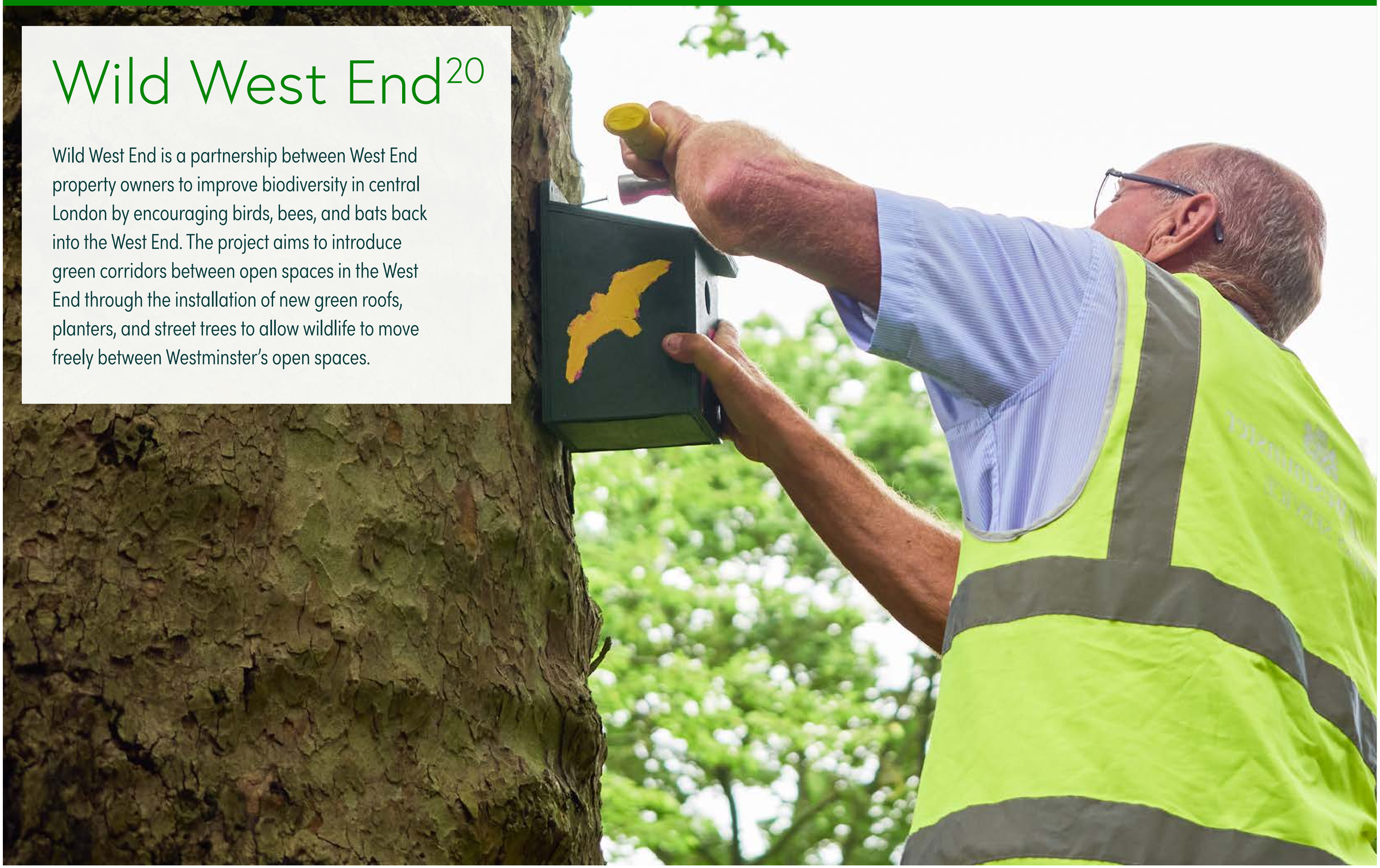
Green spaces in Westminster are almost entirely made up of woodland (9% of the borough) and grassland (8%).

Goals	Action	Milestone	Carbon saving potential	Relative cost impact
Protect and enhance Westminster's green space.	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).	2025 and beyond	Lower	££
	Inspire residents, communities, and organisations to increase tree planting on private land in support of the 'Queen's Green Canopy' campaign for the Platinum Jubilee in 2022.	Pre 2025	Lower	£
	In 2022, create a Public Realm SPD setting out detailed guidance on greening within public realm schemes to help enhance carbon sinks and provide climate resilience benefits (e.g., shading and flood alleviation) as well as biodiversity co-benefits.	Pre 2025	Lower	£
	By 2023, undertake an assessment of Westminster's green and open spaces to inform a Green Infrastructure Strategy.	Pre 2025	Lower	££
	Leverage local investment to expand the network of local green spaces and enhance biodiversity, building on the successful 'Wild West End' model.	Pre 2025	Lower	££
	Explore and trial innovative technologies and approaches (e.g., living lampposts) to support the expansion of green infrastructure in the city.	Pre 2025	Lower	££

Goals	Action	Milestone	Carbon saving potential	Relative cost impact
Safeguard Westminster from future climate impacts	By 2023, develop a Climate Adaptation Plan, based on an understanding of climate-related risks, and local and national climate adaptation activity, to protect Westminster's vulnerable people, businesses, services, assets and green spaces from changes in climate and extreme weather events.	Pre 2025	Lower	££
	Proactively work with relevant stakeholders to manage the impact of local flood risk in line with our statutory responsibility as Lead Local Flood Risk Authority.	Pre 2025	Lower	££
	Engage and enable residents and organisations to understand and increase their resilience to local climate impacts and extreme weather events.	Pre 2025	Lower	£
Ongoing engagement and collaboration	From 2022, establish a Westminster Climate and Air Quality Alliance; a representative group of volunteers to help shape our climate emergency and air quality approach, facilitate local activity, and review overall progress.	Pre 2025	Lower	£

Wild West End[20]

Wild West End is a partnership between West End property owners to improve biodiversity in central London by encouraging birds, bees, and bats back into the West End. The project aims to introduce green corridors between open spaces in the West End through the installation of new green roofs, planters, and street trees to allow wildlife to move freely between Westminster's open spaces.



Victoria Street Greening Project

This upcoming greening strategy, led by the Council, aims to adopt a holistic approach throughout the area to improve air quality, to provide a green infrastructure to support healthy travels and to improve climate resilience in and around Victoria Street by increasing greenery and enhancing the experience for pedestrians. The strategy document is still in the early stages of development but will focus on key strategic sites including Westminster Cathedral Piazza and the gateways to Victoria Street.

Open Spaces Greener Places Funding Programme

In 2021, the Council opened up its Open Spaces Greener Places Fund, providing £375,000 of funding to external organisations to help improve the quality, quantity, or impact of green and open spaces in the borough. A total of ten projects were funded, attracting additional external funding of £65,000 to support green space improvement across the community.

Finance and funding

The full costs of achieving net zero emissions across Westminster by 2040 are currently unknown.

Further information on the costs associated with specific actions will need to be developed over the plan lifecycle. However, significant additional resource will need to be identified and secured across the city to support our immediate, medium, and long-term climate response.

Funding sources identified or allocated by WCC	Source
£5 million funding for the WCC climate emergency programme	WCC budget
Strategic allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy and Carbon Offset planning contributions to support community action	WCC financial (planning) obligations
Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS)	Government funding
Ongoing review of new and innovative funding sources (e.g.green bonds, crowdfunding etc)	Private investment Public funds
Lobbying for external funding and support	Central government

Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

We will continually monitor and evaluate the progress of this action plan against the intended outcomes, and review and refine it based on lessons learnt.

The plan is intended to be a live document, and will develop as we continue to increase our understanding of emission sources and the most effective ways to reduce them.

Progress Reporting

Performance monitoring on the action plan will take place each year to track progress against agreed actions and performance, and it will be made publicly available to ensure transparency. The action plan will be fully reviewed after three years.

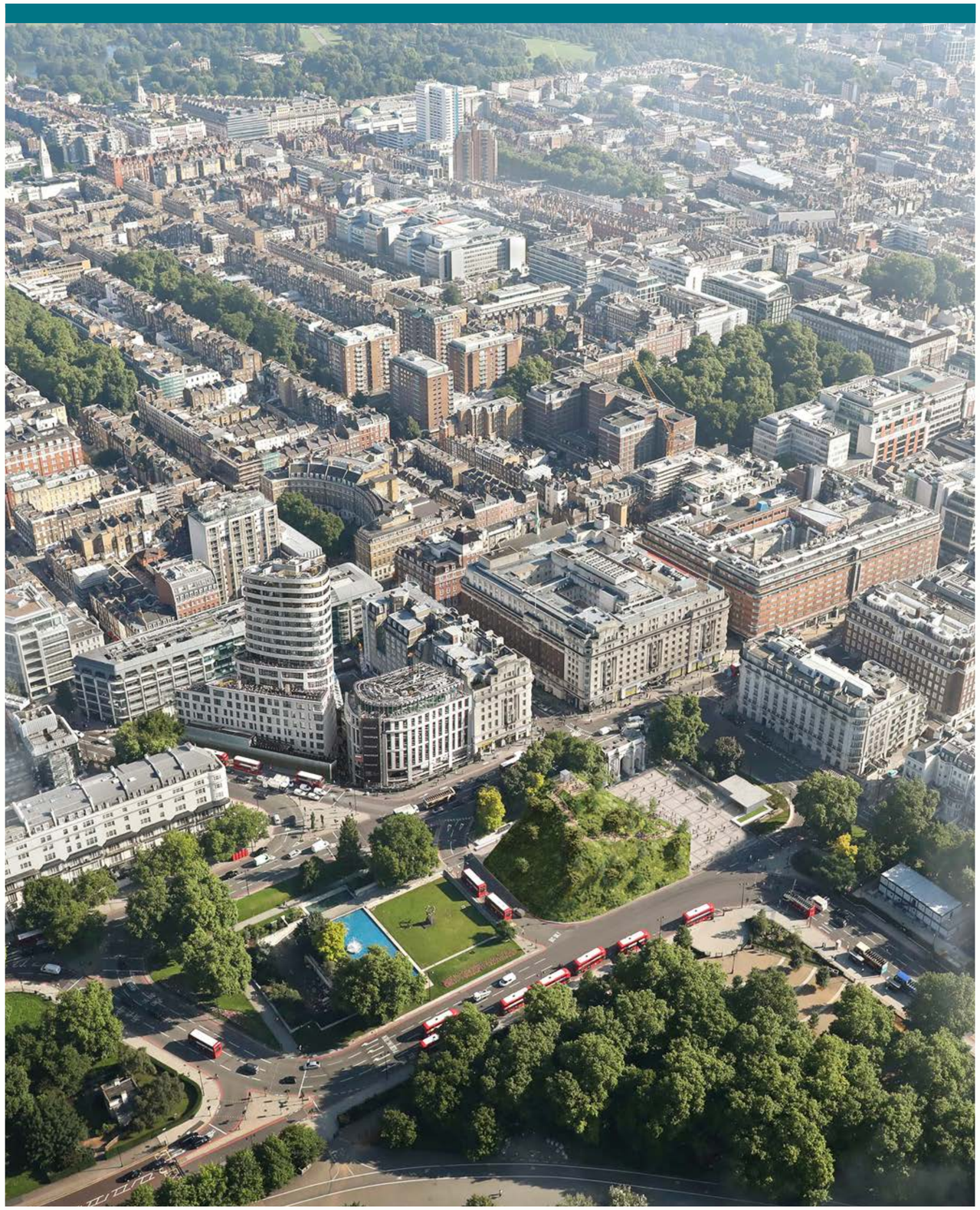
Emissions Data

Westminster City Council will calculate and publicly report on our organisational emissions each year in line with the Local Government Association's Carbon Accounting Tool reporting methodology.

City wide emissions data will be sourced from SCATTER[21] and the London Energy and Greenhouse Gas Inventory (LEGGI)[22] for citywide emissions progress monitoring.

Governance

Westminster City Council's role in supporting the delivery of the Climate Action Plan in partnership with city stakeholders will be overseen by the Leader's Climate Action Group and the internal Climate Emergency Delivery Board.



Glossary 1

Carbon dioxide equivalent: A term for describing different greenhouse gases in a common unit/measure. CO_2e refers to the amount of carbon dioxide (CO_2) that would have an equivalent global warming impact.

Carbon offsetting: Carbon offsetting means investing in projects and activities that save carbon to help compensate for carbon emissions that cannot be avoided elsewhere. These projects are usually designed to absorb extra carbon, such as through tree planting, or to help reduce future emissions, such as renewable energy technology. They can also deliver wider community benefits such as employment, biodiversity and improvements to health and wellbeing.

Carbon offset fund: A local fund managed by Westminster City Council and used to support local carbon saving projects. Sourced from financial contributions from new development in Westminster as a means of offsetting any remaining emissions. The level of contribution is calculated and collected in line with City Plan and London Plan policies.

Circular economy: A circular economy designs-out consumer waste and pollution by keeping products and materials in use rather than being thrown away. It involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing, and recycling existing materials and products as long as possible to reduce waste to a minimum.

Climate resilience: Climate resilience is preparing for hazardous events related to climate change. It involves assessing how climate change will create new risks to an area (such as flooding) and making pre-emptive changes to remove the risks, or help people to better cope with their impacts. It is also referred to as climate adaptation.

Embodied carbon: Embodied carbon is the carbon footprint of a material, product or building, including emissions associated with its creation (the extraction of raw materials), transportation, construction and use (operation).

Glossary 2

Emissions scopes: A classification system for emission by source type: Scope 1: (direct) emissions owned or controlled by an organisation; Scope 2: indirect emissions from purchased electricity, heat, and cooling ; Scope 3: other indirect emissions relating to an organisation's activities but outside of their control (e.g. purchased goods and services, waste disposal).

Fossil fuels: Carbon rich fuels, including coal, oil and natural gas, that are derived from the remains of ancient plants and animals.

GHGs: Greenhouse gases in the atmosphere responsible for global warming; primarily carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide.

$KtCO_2e$: A measurement of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, representing thousands of tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.

Net zero: Net zero is the balance between the emissions we produce and those we remove from the atmosphere through emission saving activities and offsetting. We achieve net zero when the amount of emissions we produce each year is equal to or less than the amount we take away. This can be achieved by reducing the emissions we produce and offsetting any remaining emissions that are too expensive or complex to prevent entirely.

Retrofit: Installing energy efficient measures, such as insulation, double glazing and efficient electrical and heating appliances, in existing buildings to improve their environmental performance and reduce the loss of heat and energy.

Whole life carbon: Whole life carbon relates to the emissions associated with a building or product across its entire lifespan, including its creation, emissions associated with its day-to-day use and emissions related to its eventual disposal. For buildings, this includes emissions from lighting, heating and appliances as well as the embodied emissions associated with its construction, maintenance and disposal.

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ZERO CARBON 2040

Westminster Climate Action

City of Westminster