ZERO CARBON 2040

Westminster Climate Action

City of Westminster

Co-creating a climate action plan for a zero carbon city 2021-2040

Image: The Crown Estate

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To have your say on our draft recommendations and to feed into the climate action plan, please submit your feedback, ideas and comments in our online survey at **westminster.gov.uk/climate-change**

For a printed version of the survey, please email **climateemergency@westminster.gov.uk**

1. FOREWORD

The pandemic has changed the world in fundamental ways; the one thing it has only made more urgent is the climate emergency. We have seen a glimpse of less polluted streets and cleaner air and we don't want to go back.

The council will lead by example and the steps we have taken in the past year have been significant. We now know the scale of the challenge and it is critical we address this: the City of Westminster generated approximately 2.2 million tonnes of CO_2e in 2017. This is the highest level of emissions per local authority in London.

We are already targeting emissions from our own buildings, having secured £13 million funding to support the delivery of energy improvement measures, and have started discussions across the city about how best to target improvements in buildings, whether through redevelopment or retrofitting. This is why our new City Plan and Environmental Supplementary Planning Document will be critical in supporting more environmentally sustainable development outcomes.

The ambitious level of change required to meet our target of net zero carbon emissions by 2040 will affect almost every aspect of our daily lives.

But we cannot do this alone. It is vital that we work in partnership to tackle climate change and I encourage you all to get involved in shaping the city's approach to tackling the climate emergency. I very much want us to create a climate emergency action plan together that fully reflects the priorities, aspirations and ideas of all those who live, work and study in the city we serve.

This is a pivotal moment for Westminster to act decisively on climate change for the future of our city. I look forward to working with you all to realise this.

Cllr Rachael Robathan
Leader, Westminster City Council

Emissions data includes all greenhouse gas emissions and not just carbon dioxide. 'Carbon dioxide equivalent' (CO_2e) is a term for describing different greenhouse gases in a common unit. For any type and quantity of greenhouse gas, CO_2e signifies the amount of carbon that would have an equivalent warming impact.

2. SUMMARY

VISION

We will work in partnership with everyone who lives, works or studies in Westminster to achieve a net zero carbon city by 2040; a greener, cleaner and healthier Westminster, where residents, communities and businesses can thrive and are resilient to the impacts of climate change.

People and communities

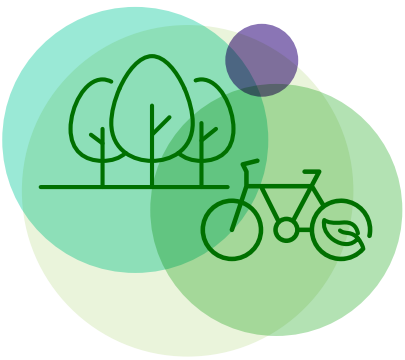
Residents, workers and visitors in Westminster actively adopt behaviours that reduce their carbon impact and communities work together as part of a city-wide partnership to tackle climate change.

Organisations and economy

Westminster's businesses take collective action to reduce their carbon emissions and help to shape a thriving, sustainable local economy.

Buildings and energy

New developments meet net zero carbon standards and emissions from existing buildings are significantly reduced. Westminster's energy supply comes from affordable, low carbon sources.



Movement and places

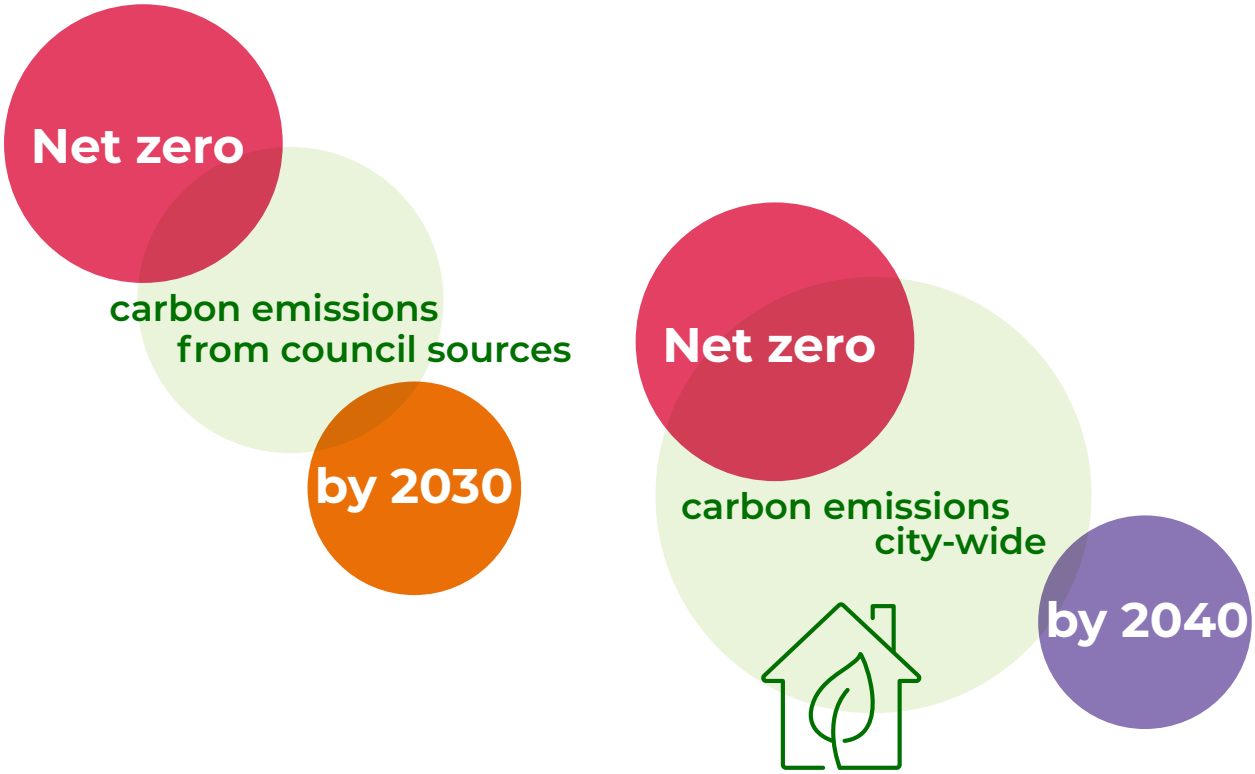
Transport emissions and air pollution are minimised through sustainable and active travel. Our green streets and open spaces absorb carbon, build climate resilience and improve health and wellbeing.

3. INTRODUCTION

Burning fossil fuels and other human activities have caused greenhouse gases including carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide to increase significantly in the atmosphere. This process causes the earth's atmosphere to trap more heat, making the planet warmer, and is the main driver of climate change. Since the 19th century, the Earth's average global temperature has risen by 1° Celsius.

The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. Its goal is to limit global warming to a maximum of 1.5° Celsius to avoid the most catastrophic impacts of climate change. To achieve this, global emissions must reach net zero by 2050.

Westminster City Council declared a climate emergency in September 2019 and committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions from council operations by 2030 and across the city by 2040.



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.

The impact of climate change

The impact of climate change will be felt both globally and locally. Rising global temperatures and sea levels will lead to more extreme local weather, including increased local flood risk and heatwaves, which will result in transport disruption, damage to buildings and infrastructure, higher food and fuel costs, and declining health – disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable.

Local climate impacts

In London, as a dense city environment, we are more vulnerable to extreme heat, as well as surface water, river and tidal flood risk. These risks will increase with climate change. We need to develop a city that can cope with the challenges that climate change will bring – including more trees and vegetation to help provide shade and cool the local area and buildings that are designed to be cool in extreme heat. Buildings need to be less reliant on air conditioning, particularly hospitals and care homes, and resilient to the risk of future floods.

One of the main levers for improvements to buildings is through the **London Plan**, the Mayor of London's Spatial Development Strategy that sets out how London's built environment can develop sustainably.

The benefits of climate action

- Lower energy bills and improved health through building efficiency
- Improved health and wellbeing from cleaner air, less congestion and more people walking and cycling
- Electric vehicles can offer substantial fuel savings
- A more resilient city able to better withstand extreme events and future economic shocks
- Improved public and green spaces, helping to enhance wildlife and wellbeing
- New jobs in green industries.

A green recovery

The Covid-19 pandemic has forced the world to reassess policy decisions, lifestyles and behaviour choices. We now face a huge economic and social recovery challenge, but this period serves as an indicator as to what can be achieved when ambitious and necessary decisions are taken. Government, businesses and local communities have been forced to coordinate and cooperate on an unprecedented scale. This has resulted in significant changes to the way we live and work, and associated impacts on the emissions we produce.

In April 2020, researchers observed that emissions decreased by 17% across the world compared to 2019 levels. Nearly half of these changes came about due to a reduction in transport activity.

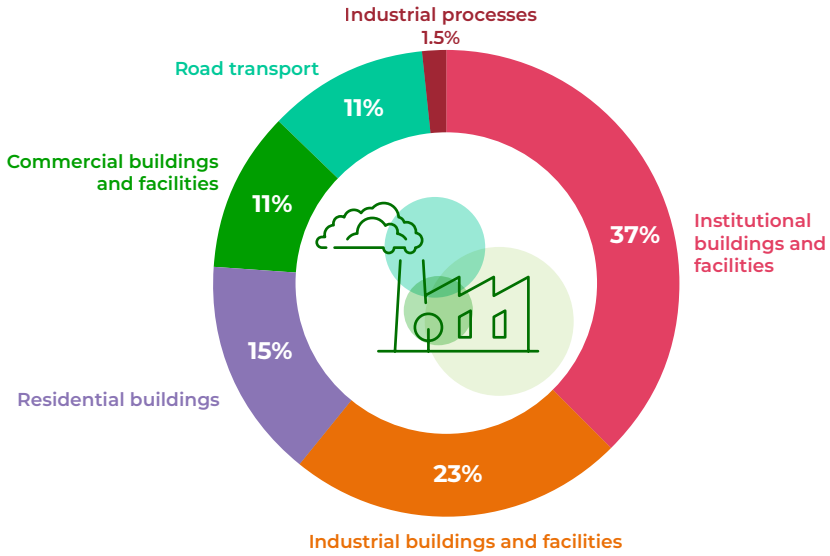
The pandemic has highlighted that the most vulnerable members of society disproportionately experience the biggest impacts in times of crisis. We therefore need to be prepared to protect the most vulnerable from the future impacts of climate change.

4. EMISSIONS IN WESTMINSTER

Westminster has some of the highest carbon emissions and worst air pollution in the UK, producing over two million tonnes (2,267 kilotonnes) of greenhouse gas emissions including carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and ozone in 2017, equivalent in weight to 146,000 Big Bens.

The vast majority (86%) of Westminster's emissions are produced by buildings, with 71% produced by non-domestic uses such as offices, shops, restaurants and public buildings and 15% from homes. The remaining emissions are produced by transport (11%) and other sources such as waste disposal and industrial processes (1.5%).

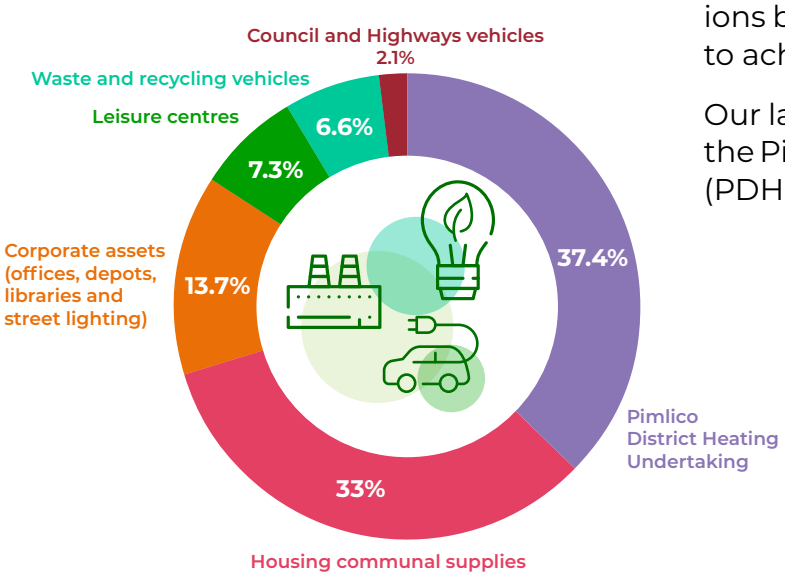
146,000
Big Bens =
emissions in 2017



COUNCIL EMISSIONS

The council has set an ambitious target to become net zero by 2030. The direct actions the council is taking to cut emissions will form part of Westminster's climate emergency action plan.

We generated almost 45,000 tonnes of carbon from our buildings and activities from April 2018 to March 2019. This is the first year that we have calculated our carbon footprint and will represent our baseline year that we will judge our future performance against.



We need to reduce our baseline emissions by 8.3% per year (3,700 tonnes CO_2e) to achieve our 2030 net zero target.

Our largest source of emissions (37.4%) is the Pimlico District Heating Undertaking (PDHU).

PDHU overview

PDHU is the oldest district heating scheme in the UK and the largest in London. It was developed and built in the 1940s, using waste heat from Battersea Power Station to provide local heat and hot water for residents, distributed by a network of underground pipes. It currently supplies heat to over 3,200 households across three estates, 50 commercial customers and four schools.

PDHU produced 17,000 tonnes of carbon in 2018/19; the largest single contribution to the council's carbon footprint. We are currently exploring options to help upgrade and decarbonise the energy from PDHU as part of our climate emergency response.

The role of the council

Whilst council emissions account for just 2% of emissions across the city, we are in a strong position to influence local and national policy, and facilitate action amongst business owners, landlords and communities across Westminster.

Successful delivery of Westminster's climate emergency ambitions will depend upon strong and effective collaboration with partners across all areas of the city. We want to ensure we achieve this in a manner that is fully inclusive, where Westminster's residents are at the heart of the approach and communities and small businesses are empowered to act on climate change. We want to consider the climate implications for all parts of society and take positive action to improve everyone's lives.

5. DEVELOPING A 2040 CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN FOR WESTMINSTER

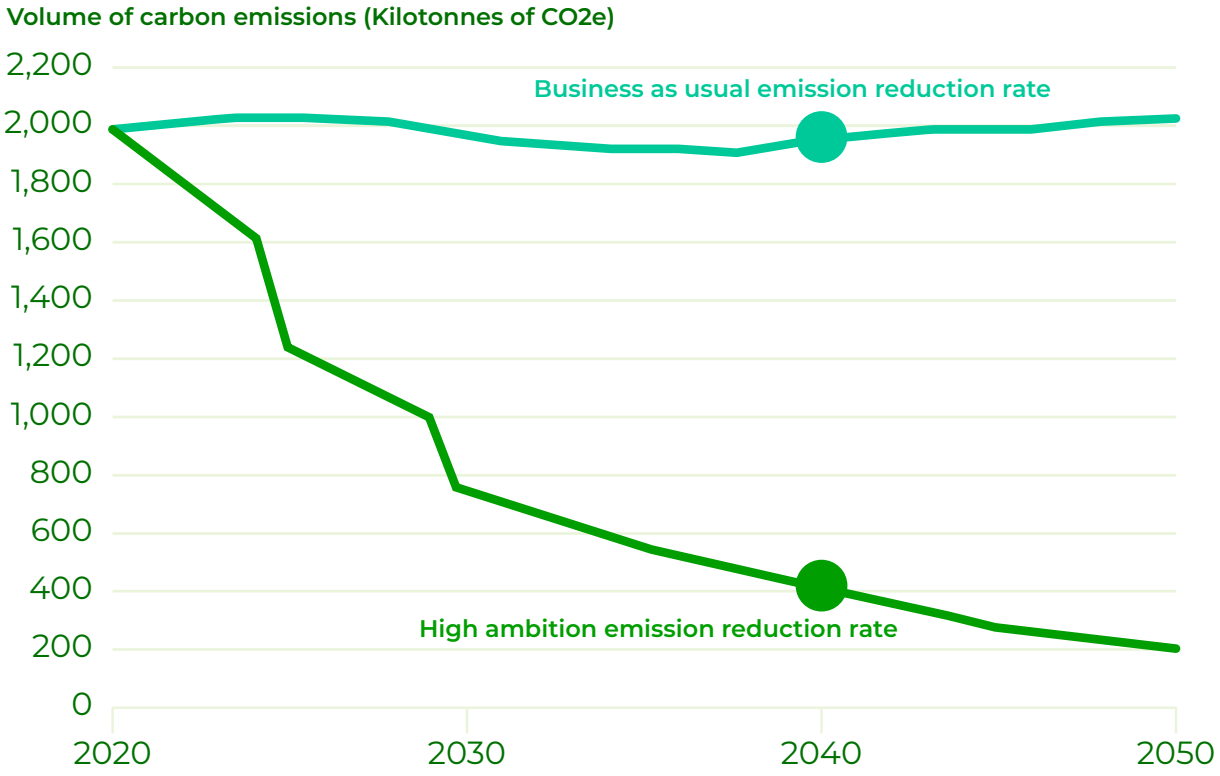
The council commissioned Anthesis Environmental consultancy to identify where our city-wide emissions come from, including baseline data from which to measure our progress. Anthesis projected future emission levels for Westminster using a model called SCATTER to help understand the impact of different types and levels of carbon saving action.

What is SCATTER?

SCATTER (Setting City Area Targets and Trajectories for Emissions Reduction) is a tool that helps local councils to standardise greenhouse gas reporting, align with international frameworks and set targets in line with the **Paris Climate Agreement**. It helps us to understand the actions we all need to take to achieve our target of net zero carbon emissions by 2040 based on an understanding of available interventions and technologies.

To achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2040, the modelling proposed an ambitious programme of actions though which we can achieve an 84% reduction in emissions across Westminster, with the remaining emissions (16%) to be offset.

This recommendation requires a reduction rate of more than 82,000 tonnes of CO_2e every year up to 2040.



Business as usual
emission reductions account for changes implemented by the government, such as increasing energy supplied from renewable sources, and no specific local action. It offers us a 29% reduction by 2040.

High ambition
emission reductions will require us to ambitiously reduce emissions from every aspect of our lives including energy supply and demand, transport and waste. It offers an 84% reduction by 2040.

Approach

Achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2040 requires ambitious action from everyone who lives or works in Westminster, alongside wider national support and interventions. It's a huge challenge that requires long-term changes to almost every element of our lifestyles, decision making and behaviour.

Credible

We want our approach to be **credible** and driven by the evidence of emissions we have begun to build a picture of. We will keep this under review, to monitor how well we are doing against Westminster's annual emissions figures.

In developing our action plan, we will align our approach with the Leader's **City for All** vision and strategy.

Sustainable

We will ensure our climate emergency programme is **sustainable**, offering health and wellbeing, economic and other wider co-benefits as well as protecting vulnerable people from the impact of climate change.

Innovative

We will also seek to be **innovative**, to embrace new technology to help tackle the climate emergency and continually review new technological solutions as and when they are developed, in line with our 'smart city' commitment to being a global centre of innovation.

Inclusive

Most importantly, Westminster's climate emergency action plan will be **inclusive** - a joint plan, created by and delivered by everyone who lives and works in Westminster, reflecting local priorities, challenges and opportunities. We are inviting your input into meeting this target and identifying the type of actions we can take together, to help shape an ambitious action plan.

Co-creating a shared strategy and action plan

We will use your feedback on the draft recommendations and your priorities and ideas for action to create a climate emergency action plan. We will seek to build a collaborative approach to delivering and refining the shared plan in the lead up to 2040, including targeted engagement and shared activities around specific actions, such as community projects and wider programmes as they take shape.

Please visit **westminster.gov.uk/climate-change** to share your feedback in our online survey. If you need a printed version of the survey or any other format, please email **climateemergency@westminster.gov.uk**.

Budget

The council has committed £5 million for key environmental projects to support its climate emergency response. This is in addition to external funding sources, including £13 million already secured from the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to decarbonise council buildings. Additional capital funding, including Community Infrastructure Levy and carbon offset funds can also be drawn upon.

6. DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION – INVITING YOUR VIEWS

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

We want to deliver a truly inclusive programme where communities are incorporated across all elements of the climate emergency, from shaping the action plan to behaviour change and rolling out local projects.

We hope to gain your input so that a clear role for the community is incorporated into the action plan.

Vision

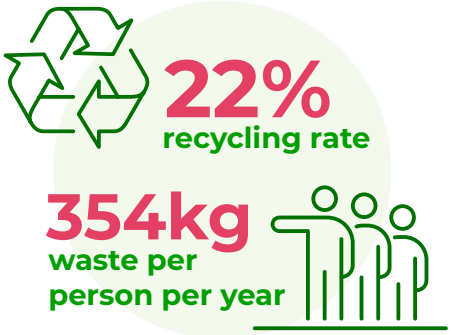
Residents, workers and visitors in Westminster actively adopt behaviours that reduce their carbon impact and communities work together as part of a city-wide partnership to tackle climate change.

Context and challenges

- There are 125,001 homes in Westminster of which 40% are rented, 31% are owned and 26% are socially rented. This includes 20,931 social housing properties of which 57% of residents are tenants and 43% are leaseholders (source: Census 2011). As most homes are not managed or owned by the council, community action is essential to meet net zero by 2040

20,931
social housing properties
57% **tenants**
43% **leaseholders**

- The energy used in these homes accounts for 15% of the city's emissions, higher than those from road transport. Just over half of all homes in Westminster have an energy performance certificate (EPC) rating of D or lower, with a further 31% being C-rated
- Westminster's social housing has high standards of heating and insulation and many council-owned properties have cavity wall insulation and/or double glazing. Retrofit programmes are underway although progress is limited by the conservation status of many of these areas
- Nearly 50% of Westminster residents have bought energy from a green energy supplier and try to use less energy at home. **London Power** provide a competitively priced green tariff for London residents
- The **Carbon Offset Fund** provides funding to local groups for low carbon energy schemes and home improvement schemes are available including **Solar Together** and **EcoFurb**
- Westminster has one of the lowest recycling rates in the country at 22%, against a national average of around 43% across England, as well as producing 354kg of waste per person, per year, higher than the average
- Much of Westminster's recycled waste is processed at a materials recovery facility in Southwark, with general waste handled at an energy recovery facility in Lewisham. This helps avoid sending any waste to landfill while also providing low-carbon heat for over 3,000 homes in Southwark. Other waste streams from within Westminster travel as far as 70 miles for disposal, although there are London-wide plans for all waste to be disposed of in London by 2026.



Funding for homes

- The **Mayor of London's Warmer Homes Programme** provides free heating, insulation and ventilation improvements for low-income Londoners who own their own homes or rent privately
- Westminster's **Decent Homes grant** funds up to £8,000 for low income homes to improve their energy efficiency.

Recommendations

Recommendation	Example actions
Raise awareness of climate change and promote behaviour that reduces emissions and delivers local sustainability benefits such as local shopping.	Produce a series of 'how to' guides for community development towards net zero such as access to funding, resources, opportunities and support networks.
Empower resident and community groups to craft their own proposals for reducing carbon emissions in their local area.	Launch an interactive web page for residents to share projects, ideas, best practice and experiences.
Support residents to improve the energy efficiency of their homes and reduce energy use.	Support and drive energy improvements in privately rented homes, focusing on the worst performing properties.
Encourage and empower tenants to report landlords of rental properties with poor energy efficiency performance.	Work with private rented sector landlords to identify and improve properties with poor energy performance.
Promote local generation and use of affordable, clean energy.	Share local community examples including action taking place in schools.
Increase take up of sustainable and active transport such as walking and cycling and reduce reliance on private vehicles.	Encourage active transport through cycle support schemes and walking routes.
Support residents to reduce the amount of waste they produce and increase reuse and recycling.	Support residents through information and communication campaigns.
Review the number of general waste collections to reduce waste, increase recycling rates and minimise emissions from collection services.	Develop a new waste strategy.

City-wide action

The council is:
Rolling out staff training and awareness raising across the council to help encourage positive behaviours that support our climate aims.
Working with schools to reduce travel emissions and air pollution around schools and provide extra space for school activities through the use of school streets and play streets.
Exploring how to improve the energy performance of council-owned housing. We have allocated £20 million of funding from the Housing Revenue Account, alongside additional external grant funding, to support initial improvements.

- Caulibox is a returnable lunchbox scheme which was trialled at Tachbrook Market in Pimlico. It's also available to restaurants and customers who can register for reusable CauliBoxes and help to reduce the 11 billion pieces of packaging waste that are produced from food-on-the-go every year. Visit **wearecauli.com** to sign up
- The Green Doctor programme offers free energy advice to vulnerable people to help them stay warm and save money. Visit **westminster.gov.uk**
- Funding has been identified through the ECO 3 scheme, a government energy efficiency fund, to install insulation in 2,000 homes on the Lillington housing estate in addition to 4,000 properties that have already been fitted. The new insulation will save 600 tonnes of carbon each year
- Residents who took part in our award-winning food waste recycling trial have saved 345 tonnes of food waste and plans are being developed to expand the food waste collection service to more areas of the city.

ORGANISATIONS AND ECONOMY

Emissions from non-domestic buildings represent a high proportion of Westminster's emissions and tackling energy consumption and fuel usage in this sector is a priority for the city.

Vision

Westminster's businesses take collective action to reduce their carbon emissions and help to shape a thriving, sustainable local economy.

Context and challenges

- Westminster is home to over 51,000 businesses from multinational headquarters to creative start-ups in shared work spaces. These businesses provide over 700,000 jobs and contribute approximately 3% of the national Gross Domestic Product
- Our built environment is an important part of what makes Westminster successful. However, the energy required to heat and power our offices, shops and restaurants is a significant source of our emissions (71%) and we need the collective support of building owners, operators and users to address them
- In 2020, the council hosted a series of workshops with businesses to explore the opportunities and challenges they face, which are reflected below and will feed into the strategy and action plan in more detail. The main challenges highlighted were:
    - restrictions within the planning system preventing retrofitting
    - the installation of energy infrastructure, for example to charge electric vehicles
    - a lack of collaboration amongst partners across the city
    - a shortage of renewable energy sources and technology.

Historic Westminster

With over 11,000 listed buildings and structures in Westminster, 56 conservation areas covering 78% of Westminster's footprint, and almost half (46%) of our housing built before 1900, the historic character and make-up of Westminster presents a unique and sizeable challenge in tackling our main source of emissions.

There are many landowners and organisations across Westminster who are leading the way in taking positive action. The Great Estates and Business Improvement Districts are supportive of the green agenda and have developed comprehensive programmes to support local businesses to reduce their carbon emissions. We want to move the dial on engagement between our city-partners to tackle emissions from the built environment and champion a green economic recovery of the city.

Recommendations

Recommendation	Example actions
Promote collaboration and provide support and information for organisations and landlords to improve the energy efficiency of the buildings they own, maintain or occupy, and reduce their energy use.	Establish working groups, shared sources of information, best practice guides and funding resource guides to help businesses navigate and implement the necessary changes. Run an information campaign to help tenants understand why action is needed. Explore green clauses in lease terms. Foster city-wide collaboration with organisations to tackle the climate emergency.
Build the capacity of organisations to understand, report and reduce the carbon emissions associated with their operations.	Introduce standardised performance measurement and transparency requirements for commercial developments to report on operational energy performance beyond the five years stipulated in the new London Plan. Encourage greater accountability for emissions through a new Westminster Sustainable City Charter, a shared commitment for businesses to reduce carbon emissions.
Support small businesses to access finance and skills for projects that reduce their carbon impact, such as accessing and installing low carbon energy.	Simplify and increase access to green finance. Support the green agenda through our economic development and business support programmes.
Maximise emissions savings through purchasing sustainable goods and services and using local supply chains.	Promote the low carbon agenda through our procurement approach and supply chains.

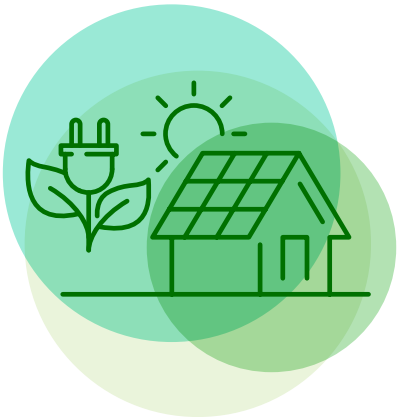
Recommendation	Example actions
Harness opportunities to stimulate a green economic recovery of the city, including low carbon skills and jobs, sustainable investment or clean technology.	Community take-up of programmes such as Repowering London which offer youth skills and training opportunities.
Reduce emissions from freight, servicing and deliveries through fewer vehicle trips into and through the city and switching to electric vehicles.	Launch our Freight, Servicing and Deliveries (FSD) Strategy and Action Plan and consider the feasibility of local distribution hubs for home deliveries across Westminster which utilise low-carbon last-mile deliveries.
Support and incentivise organisations to reduce the amount of waste they produce, working in partnership to improve waste reuse and recycling, and maximise circular economy opportunities.	Explore opportunities for waste consolidation schemes. Create partnerships between businesses and academics to explore opportunities in the circular economy.
Organisations and local waste management companies work together to reduce the carbon impact of their waste collection services.	Extend waste collection consolidation activity such as The Crown Estate's Regent Street programme.

City-wide action

The council is:
Reducing the impact of outsourced services and encouraging suppliers to reduce their environmental impact through the development of a responsible procurement strategy.
Exploring new routes of funding to support our climate emergency response and reduce the carbon impact of our investments through implementing a green investment strategy.

- The Crown Estate's innovative Food Waste Pledge supports restaurants on Regent Street and St James's to tackle food waste. Twelve restaurants are signed up to achieve a 25% reduction in food waste through changes to the menu, removing sources of waste such as bread baskets and creating dishes that use leftover food. Find out more at **regentstreetonline.com/insider/food-waste-pledge**
- Their Regent Street consolidation scheme uses a single electric lorry to collect all customer packages from a consolidation warehouse and deliver them to retail outlets on Regent Street, reducing HGVs by an impressive 94%
- **Zero Carbon Westminster** is Westminster Property Association's white paper which calls on property owners, developers and investors to commit to action to remove carbon emissions from the built environment. It brings together businesses and policymakers to help the industry make the ambitious changes required to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2040
- Grosvenor refurbished a listed Georgian property on Ebury Street to achieve a BREEAM 'Outstanding' rating – the UK's first BREEAM Outstanding listed building. The conversion of the former hotel into apartments incorporated ventilation with heat recovery, rainwater harvesting, solid wall insulation, vacuum glazing and solar thermal energy
- Somerset House aims to be a best-practice arts and cultural centre with a focus on environmental sustainability. The organisation has invested in a Combined Cooling, Heat and Power plant, installed roof insulation, replaced lights with low energy LED bulbs and installed natural ventilation
- **Westminster Wheels** offers young people free training in cycle mechanics and a six-month placement learning how to refurbish unwanted bikes for Westminster residents.

BUILDINGS AND ENERGY



Vision

New developments meet net zero carbon standards and emissions from existing buildings are significantly reduced. Westminster's energy supply comes from affordable, low carbon sources.

Context and challenges

- Buildings account for 86% of Westminster's emissions. This includes operational emissions produced either within the building during use (direct) or emissions associated with the grid-supplied electricity (indirect). Embodied emissions related to the construction, refurbishment and demolition of the building are not yet included, but we will explore opportunities to incorporate and address these emissions in future updates to the action plan
- Westminster has a lower capacity for renewable energy technology than other London boroughs, with an installed capacity per unit area rating under 50% of the average value. However, the density of energy use makes it a favourable location for the development of more low carbon heat networks such as the Pimlico District Heat Undertaking and this is reflected in recent plans including the Decentralised Energy Masterplan and City Plan 2040
- Waste heat from the tube and locally linked high-energy using sites provide significant opportunities to access otherwise wasted energy

Image: The Crown Estate

- Large scale retrofitting and the installation of renewable technologies such as solar energy is made significantly more difficult by the high number of listed buildings and conservation area status of much of Westminster
- Significant funding will be required to make the necessary changes, which also depend on the availability of new renewable technologies such as combined heat and power systems
- The draft **City Plan 2040** states that major developments should achieve net zero carbon with a proportion of this to be achieved through on-site efficiency improvements, and developments should demonstrate how local carbon reduction targets will be achieved. Any shortfall in carbon reduction targets must be met off-site or via a locally managed carbon offset payment
- The council's draft **Environmental Supplementary Planning Document (ESPD)** provides further detail and guidance on the City Plan's environmental policies to drive emission reductions in the built environment
- Our new **Code of Construction Practice** sets the standards that developers must meet when undertaking major projects to assist with managing environmental impacts
- The **Community Infrastructure Levy** is a charge that can be applied by local authorities on new developments to support developments in local infrastructure, including renewable supply
- Gas boilers will be banned in new homes from 2025 under the **Future Homes Standard**, and homes will need to achieve a 75-80% reduction in carbon emissions compared to homes built to current standards.

Image: The Crown Estate

Recommendations

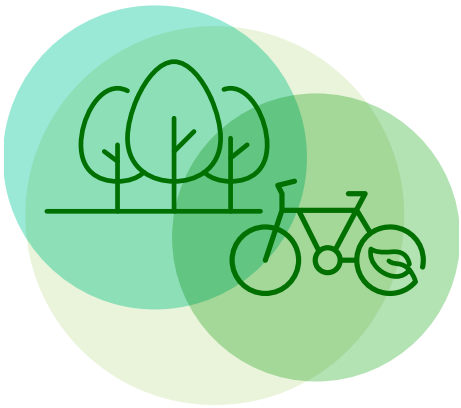
Recommendation	Example actions
Support improvements to energy efficiency in buildings and increase the use of renewable energy.	Review planning policy to retrofitting historic buildings. Collaborate with other councils around consistent planning laws and guidance.
Retrofit buildings across Westminster to improve their energy performance and increase renewable energy sources.	Encourage the sensitive retrofit of historic buildings, where possible. Explore funding to decarbonise the Pimlico District Heating Undertaking (PDHU)
Ensure that new developments minimise their whole life carbon impact, reduce emissions on site as far as possible in line with industry best practice standards, and rely less on carbon offsetting.	Set out higher environmental standards for development in Westminster through our City Plan and new Environmental Supplementary Planning Guidance.
Support landlords and homeowners to improve minimum energy efficiency standards, prioritising improvements to those with the lowest energy performance ratings.	Ensure landlords and homeowners have access to a holistic retrofit advice service like London Councils' Ecofurb programme, or a similar model.
Maximise the generation, distribution and use of renewable and low carbon energy across the city such as district heat networks and biogas.	Expand existing district heat networks and require new developments to link up to heat networks within future planning policies.
Improve energy efficiency in council buildings and housing stock and ensure that energy is 100% renewable.	Carry out of major retrofit of the Council's own social housing estates, targeting an average of EPC Band B.

City-wide action

The council is:
Decarbonising the Pimlico District Heating Undertaking. The council is investigating options to improve the efficiency and reduce the carbon impact of PDHU. Potential opportunities include: generating low carbon heat using heat pump technology, making use of waste heat from the Underground and improving heat controls in PDHU-supplied homes.
Improving the energy performance of council buildings and assets. The council has secured £13 million through the government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to decarbonise up to 45 of our own operational buildings. Council offices, depots and community hubs (including libraries and leisure centres) will all benefit from retrospective energy improvements, like low-carbon heating, insulation, LED lighting and solar panels.
Ensuring new buildings achieve low carbon standards. The council's new City Plan (adopted in 2021) and emerging Environmental Supplementary Planning Guidance will help drive forward sustainable building standards in new developments to ensure new buildings support the city's net zero aspirations.

- Ebury Bridge will deliver 781 new homes producing 90% less carbon in use than the current buildings. The homes will be heated and cooled using ground source heat pumps and the new neighbourhood will have 'paid back' the carbon cost of the build just twelve years after completion. Visit **eburybridge.org**
- Schools are tackling air pollution with help from the council's **School Clean Air Fund** which offers £1 million to help primary schools implement clean air measures
- Repowering London helps communities to develop cheap and clean energy through energy co-operatives. Community funds ensure that any profits are used locally to install energy efficient measures for vulnerable people, train local volunteers or support youth training. The **London Community Energy Fund** is funding feasibility studies for solar panels on The Stowe Centre and Westminster Academy on Harrow Road and Repowering London is working with Paddington Development Trust to develop a business model. Find out more at **repowering.org.uk/renewable-energy**.

MOVEMENT AND PLACES



Road transport represents 11% of Westminster's emissions, but compared to emissions from the built environment this is lower than the average local authority.

Green spaces and the natural environment have a significant role in removing carbon emissions from the atmosphere through trees and other natural features. Improvements to the city's green spaces also offer the benefit of improving biodiversity, air quality and enhancing wellbeing.

Vision

Transport emissions and air pollution are minimised through sustainable and active travel. Our green streets and open spaces absorb carbon, build climate resilience and improve health and wellbeing.

Context and challenges

- The arrival of the Elizabeth Line in 2022 and the redevelopment of Victoria Coach Station provide opportunities to reduce congestion and increase the use of active travel and public transport instead of private vehicles. As COVID-19 lockdown restrictions were lifted, the council introduced 11km of additional cycle routes and 800 temporary cycle spaces, complementing existing networks
- In October 2021, Westminster will become part of the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ), requiring minimum emission standards Euro IV (Petrol) and Euro VI (Diesel) for cars and vans, and Euro VI for larger vehicles
- There are over 1,000 electric vehicle charging points across Westminster, the highest rate per capita of any UK local authority. Westminster also recorded the second highest number of Ultra Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) registrations in 2020. Parking surcharges for diesel vehicles and resident permit discounts incentivise the transition to ULEVs

- Westminster car club providers have committed to make their whole fleet electric by 2025
- Westminster is home to some of the UK's most famous parks, owned and managed by the Royal Parks. The council manages around 200 smaller parks and open spaces and the average distance to the nearest open space is just under 300m. There are approximately 20,000 trees in Westminster and up to 200 new trees are being planted every year
- The council's **Air Quality Action Plan** sets out how we will tackle air pollution
- Our **strategy for open spaces and biodiversity** details a partnership approach to protecting and enhancing the city's green spaces
- The **Westminster Walking Plan**, **Cycling Strategy**, and the emerging **Movement Strategy** support increased active travel
- The council's **Freight, Servicing and Deliveries (FSD): Strategy & Action Plan 2020-2040** aims to achieve reductions in freight vehicle numbers and emissions
- Trees in Westminster provide a net carbon storage of around 1,045 tonnes of carbon per year
- London has more than 40% of the UK's green walls and roofs
- Existing tree canopy cover for Westminster was 16.17% in 2018
- To achieve 30% tree canopy cover, 15,528 more trees need to be planted offering an additional cumulative total of 194 tonnes of carbon removed up to 2030.

Westminster trees store

1,045

tonnes of carbon per year

Recommendations

Recommendation	Example actions
Encourage sustainable and active travel through the creation of traffic free zones, supporting walking or cycling infrastructure and facilities (e.g. cycle storage).	Support safer, healthier and greener travel across the city through the Council's Movement Strategy.
Increase the use of electric vehicles through more charging points and stakeholder partnership working to promote a shift to electric public and private vehicles.	Continue to expand electric vehicle charging points beyond the 1,000 already installed across the city.
Reduce Westminster's contribution to transport emissions outside the city, including through reduced air travel.	Discourage business air travel.
Develop and promote a local approach that enables Westminster's organisations and communities to offset their carbon impact and retain project benefits within the city.	Facilitate better access to finance, such as the Carbon Offset Fund.
Maintain existing tree coverage and look for opportunities to further 'green' the city.	Commit to the protection and improvement of open spaces. Promote nature-based projects to support local carbon saving activity.
Understand the potential impacts of climate change to Westminster and take action to improve local climate resilience and protect vulnerable people, livelihoods, businesses and services.	Assess future climate risk to the city and ensure new infrastructure is designed with the long-term impacts of climate change in mind.

The council is:
Reducing the impact of council transport and travel by converting our vehicle fleets to electric vehicles, including two refurbished waste vehicles that were converted from diesel to electric.
Consolidating commercial waste collections to help reduce emissions from waste vehicles across the city.
Piloting a new highways maintenance model in partnership with our highway contractor FM Conway. Our low carbon street works pilot on King Street in 2020 cut carbon emissions by 75% in comparison to a standard maintenance scheme. This was achieved by using electric tools, recycled and lower carbon materials, and low carbon fuels and vehicles. The council will be piloting the low carbon delivery model across several more planned maintenance schemes in 2021/22.
Delivering over 1,000 on-street electric vehicle charge points across the city, the highest of any local authority. We are aiming to increase this to 1,500 charge points by April 2022.

- The Oxford Street District framework launched in February 2021 to pilot low-carbon economic growth and development. The council has committed £150 million to kickstart the programme and work will begin immediately on interim improvements including additional pedestrian space, pop up parks and greening projects to pioneer our response to the climate emergency. In partnership with local and London-wide partners and businesses, the area will create a zero carbon built environment, zero-emission road transport and resilient communities. Find out more at **osd.london/framework**
- Wild West End is a partnership between West End property owners to improve biodiversity in central London and create green spaces for residents, visitors and workers to enjoy. Green roofs, planters, green walls, flower boxes, street trees and open spaces offer a habitat for declining bird species as well as bees, bats and butterflies. Wild West End is endorsed by London Wildlife Trust and the Greater London Authority and supported by Arup. Visit **wildwestend.london**
- **Free cycling training is available** to anyone who lives, works or studies in Westminster.

To have your say on our draft recommendations and to feed into the climate action plan, please submit your feedback, ideas and comments in our online survey at **westminster.gov.uk/climate-change**

For a printed version of the survey, please email **climateemergency@westminster.gov.uk**

GLOSSARY

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.

Offsetting will be part of the solution to help Westminster achieve our net zero target; however, the priority is always to reduce carbon emissions as much as possible first, before looking to offset any remaining emissions.

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 such as flooding and making changes so that we can better cope with them. It focuses on those who will be most affected by the impact of climate change such those who may be unable to afford rising energy costs or cope with extreme temperatures.

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).

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.

Retrofitting

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.

ZERO CARBON 2040

Westminster Climate Action

City of Westminster