

TEC-LEDNet Joint Statement on Climate Change

London Councils' Transport and Environment Committee (TEC) and the London Environment Directors' Network (LEDNet) comprise London's local government environment leaders. We met together on Wednesday 13th November to discuss how we can work together to respond to climate change, in light of the climate emergency declarations now passed by 26 London boroughs, and other activity in this area.

This statement sets out our approach to addressing climate change within and between boroughs and commits to six key programmes that we will seek to deliver through meaningful collaboration between boroughs and with our wider partners, residents and business community.

Introduction

We recognise that climate change is a significant threat to London and Londoners, and that we need to act quickly and work together to reduce its severity and adapt to its impacts now and in the future. We have recognised that the climate emergency requires real changes in how we act as local authorities, how our residents live their lives and how the city operates. For most London councils, it requires us to move from a carbon-based economy to a net zero carbon economy within a generation.

The climate emergency challenges us to integrate climate into everything we do. There are decades of climate action in London to build on, but we now need to act at significantly greater scale and work collaboratively across councils, partner organisations and our communities to decarbonise our councils and boroughs.

The changes we need to make bring with them real benefits, including improvements to public health, reducing inequality and supporting economic development and innovation. For all these reasons and more, climate change action is closely aligned with existing priorities and our core mandate as councils. We will need to work together as one city to deliver climate action, in order to secure the support of our residents and the greatest carbon savings.

Climate ambition and approach

We will:

- Act ambitiously to meet the climate challenge that the science sets out, and find political and practical solutions to delivering carbon reductions that also secure the wellbeing of Londoners.
- Tackle the climate emergency together with the wider public sector, and with our residents, academic experts and businesses to co-design solutions that achieve widespread buy-in without sacrificing ambition.
- Ensure that all our services support our climate ambitions, and use our convening power as place leaders to bring together all those who can work together to secure a climate positive future for our boroughs and for London.

- Speak with one voice to call for the resources and powers that London needs to deliver our climate ambitions at the scale required.
- Ensure our climate actions do not have any unintended consequences and that we keep an open mind and listen to the evolving evidence to ensure we continue to pursue the best solutions.

London Climate Projects

Participants at the joint meeting discussed six programmes developed by LEDNet, London Councils and London borough officers, which are central to achieving our climate ambitions. These programmes address our major sources of current and future carbon emissions, as well as supporting important co-benefits around inequality, health and green economic development.

We commit to prioritise and support the delivery of these programmes, by pooling our experience, expertise and resources and working together collaboratively.

#1 Retrofit London: Retrofit all domestic and non-domestic buildings to an average level of EPC B. Programme timescale: 2020 – 2030.

#2 Low-carbon development: Secure low carbon buildings and infrastructure via borough planning. Programme timescale: 2020 – 2022.

#3 Halve petrol and diesel road journeys: Halve road journeys made by petrol and diesel via combined measures that can restrict polluting journeys and incentivise sustainable and active travel options. Programme timescale: 2020 – 2030.

#4 Renewable power for London: Secure 100% renewable energy for London's public sector now and in the future. Programme timescale: 2020 – 2030.

#5 Reduce consumption emissions: Reduce consumption emissions by two thirds, focusing on food, clothing, electronics and aviation. Programme timescale: 2020 – 2030.

#6 Build the green economy: Develop London's low carbon sector and green our broader economy. Programme timescale: 2020 – 2030.

We recognise that these are challenging ambitions, but we believe they are necessary to meet the climate challenge. They will require a high degree of coordination and shared ownership over at least 10 years, not just within London local government and the wider public sector, but equally importantly amongst London's residents, communities and businesses.

They will require London's local government to develop innovative financial strategies that can draw in the funds to deliver these projects, including from central government.

Climate-informed decision-making

Governance

We will:

- Establish clear internal governance structures where lead responsibility for climate delivery is clear and transparent, but which also engenders a whole council approach to delivering climate targets. This means working jointly with the different council departments towards a common goal;

- Support the capacity and capability needed to deliver within councils, including the capability of our senior officers and councillors;
- Support an approach to climate action that allows us to act fast and learn, iterating our approaches as we go forward, learning from one another and scaling up;
- Support long-term delivery and thinking over the next 10 years and beyond;
- Recognise that good governance includes our communities (particularly young people), businesses and academic partners, who have a vital role in helping to deliver borough wide climate targets and holding the council to account for our work on climate; and
- Recognise that good governance also requires engagement with the wider public sector, including the GLA and central government.

Citizen engagement

We will:

- Speak purposefully, honestly and credibly about the need to address climate change, the scale of transformation it will require and the positive future it can deliver;
- Meaningfully involve our communities in co-designing and co-delivering local action on climate, paying particularly attention to the voices of our communities (both marginalised and mainstream), including young people and those most disadvantaged by climate impacts;
- Provide support to our communities to help them make climate-informed decisions; and
- Learn from current examples of effective public involvement and engagement, sharing information and replicating successes.

Resourcing

We will:

- Use our existing resources and levers to support climate action, including investing in energy efficiency, incentivising low carbon transport and use our procurement to secure low carbon goods and services and to also build the market in low carbon and environmental goods and services;
- Call on the private sector and London's growth partners to play their part in supporting climate action in the city, in line with the polluter pays principle and Extended Producer Responsibility;
- Advocate for measures that can reduce the cost of climate action, for example reducing VAT on energy efficiency and low carbon heating products for homes and buildings;
- Lobby for the tools that local government needs to deliver its climate responsibilities, including powers, resources and national government leadership;

Wednesday 13th November
Westminster City Hall