Low Carbon Development
London Local Authority Toolkit 2023/24

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LONDON COUNCILS

Low Carbon Development

Introduction to Low Carbon Development Toolkit

The creation of the LCD toolkit is an important step towards meeting the objective of the Low Carbon Development theme to 'Secure low carbon buildings and infrastructure via borough planning by 2030'.

The planning landscape around climate change is complicated and fast-moving. The framework within which London boroughs must work has changed substantially in the last few years, driven in part by Building Regulation changes and a new London Plan.

The toolkit is a recognition that a common understanding within and across London planning departments is needed in order to get better low carbon outcomes. Sharing knowledge, best practice and expert insight are key ways that London boroughs can develop and maintain effective policies and processes. The toolkit harnesses this knowledge and provides advice, guidance and practical steps to help London boroughs achieve better low and zero carbon results in the built environment.

The toolkit is a response from across London boroughs, and has been developed collaboratively through dedicated Local Authority policy and sustainability officers, and experts from the built environment. There are thirteen documents at present in the toolkit, covering a variety of topics. The toolkit will develop and new guidance will come forward as the political and planning frameworks change.

Low Carbon Development - LCD Toolkit

These documents can be used by any officer dealing with a referable application (the London Plan asks for them). If your borough has a policy that asks for these assessments for major applications, you can use them for those too. These cannot be applied to minors yet.

Name of Document	Document Link	How can the document be used by London Boroughs?
Officer checklist for Circular Economy and Whole Life Carbon	Pre-app Checklist - WLC and CE - Introduction.pdf For Pre-app Stage 520_6 - WCC Planning carbon checklist documents_Pre-app checklist_003.pdf For Planning Stage: 520_6 - WCC Planning circular economy checklist_000 (1).pdf	Clear guidance from Westminster for bringing Circular Economy and Whole Life Carbon ideas into pre-app discussions, and policy compliance.
Officer checklist for Energy statements	Pre-app Checklist - Energy Statements - Introduction.pdf 520_6 - WCC Planning energy statement checklist and guidance_AW (1).pdf	Clarity and guidance from Westminster for dealing with Energy Statements at the pre-app stage

These documents link to your local plan - these docs can be used to create conditions, KPIs and S106 for your borough that are more detailed and precise.

Name of Document	Document Link	How can the document be used by London Boroughs?
Key Performance Indicators	Model KPIs.pdf	Sustainability policies are relatively new for many boroughs, and in order to get the most out of the policies, it is important that the

		policies can be measured.This document sets out suggestions for the key performance indicators that can be used for monitoring aspects of sustainability policies.
Model conditions	Model Conditions Introduction.pdf WCC Sustainability Conditions Matrix FINAL (June 2023).docx.pdf Standard sustainability conditions_CoL.pdf MODEL CONDITIONS Haringey v2.docx.pdf	Examples of detailed sustainability conditions from Westminster, City of London and Haringey
S106 legal agreements and carbon offsetting	S106 legal agreements and carbon offsetting Introduction.pdf Carbon offset payment in S106.pdf Carbon Offset tracker for S106.xlsm.xlsx - Carbon Offset Tracker.pdf	Examples from Enfield on wording for Section 106 agreements for carbon offsetting, and a tracking system for carbon offset payments.

These can be used at any time to improve in-house working

Name of Document	Document Link	How can the document be used by London Boroughs?
Sustainability skills and knowledge questionnaire	LCD Zero Carbon and Climate Emergency Survey.pdf	This text can be used to create an online questionnaire on low carbon, zero Carbon, and the Climate Emergency for Planning & Building Control departments and officers. The information gathered can help work out what training is needed to upskill the team.
Best practice and process for planning officers	LCD Best practice and process.pdf	Practical suggestions for implementing best practice in order to deliver low carbon outcomes across the planning process.

These documents are most useful when undertaking a new Local Plan.
(* this could also be used for developing an spd as lots of examples)

Name of Document	Document Link	How can the document be used by London Boroughs?
International, National and Regional Policy sustainability framework	LCD Existing Policy Framework.pdf	The wider policy context and framework that sits behind climate change and sustainability policies is set out in this document.
Evidence and links on low carbon development	LCD Evidence_Research links - Introduction.pdf LCD Evidence_Research links - LCD Links and resources.pdf LCD Evidence_Research links - LA LCD documents.pdf LCD Evidence_Research links - LAs with Adopted LCD metrics.pdf LCD Evidence_Research links - Buildings - Examples of LCD.pdf	These pages contain links to important evidence and information in the sustainability sector that Local Authorities can use to develop an evidence base for Low Carbon Development.
Policy development - moving from Low Carbon to Zero Carbon	LCD Low Carbon to Zero Carbon - Introduction.pdf LCD Low Carbon to Zero Carbon - Industry Definitions of Net Zero .pdf LCD Low Carbon to Zero Carbon - Policy development .pdf LCD Low Carbon to Zero Carbon - Definitions of Energy_Carbon.pdf LCD Low Carbon to Zero Carbon - Part L_Beyond Part L.pdf	These documents (to be read as one document) clearly set out what needs to be included in policy terms to be either a low carbon or a zero carbon policy. They also set out the issue on measuring carbon emissions using Part L or by moving to a different pathway.

Elements needed for developing sustainability policies	[LCD Elements needed for policy development.pdf](#)	A guide on components of an evidence base needed for Low Carbon Development. This includes a guide for what evidence base documents can be provided to support the policy, including the key content for the documents. Some areas, like the literature review, can be shared between boroughs, and others are borough specific.
Model policies review	[Model policies review - Introduction.pdf](#) [Sustainability model policies review.docx.pdf](#) [Matrix - model policies & design stages.pdf](#)	Examples from a number of Local Authorities on a range of sustainability policies; and a useful matrix of design stages and associated sustainability principles/topics.
Sustainability Policies and viability costs	[LCD Viability for low and zero carbon.pdf](#)	Sustainability requirements through policy and building regs are generally felt to negatively affect viability costs. This document gives an overview from local authorities that have assessed the impact on viability costs.