

## **Corporate Carbon Reduction Plan: Becoming a Carbon Neutral Council by 2030**

### **Scope**

The council has declared a climate emergency. As part of the response to this, the council has committed to ensuring that its operations are carbon neutral by 2030. This plan describes the actions we will take to achieve this goal and how we will measure our progress.

The council has made significant progress in reducing carbon emissions over the last 9 years, by reducing energy use, improving the energy efficiency of our buildings, and reducing vehicle use. However, to achieve the 2030 target we will have to go further.

Central government has asked local authorities to report on their Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) over the last 9 years. Our progress is described in fig.1. In this plan we are proposing a new definition of the council's operations, which goes further than the CRC definition. Over the next 12 months we will be gathering data to create a wider, more robust baseline of our carbon emissions based on our definition below. This will allow us to measure our progress consistently over the next 11 years.

The actions set out in our plan below identify the initial opportunities we have identified to reduce carbon emissions relating to the council's operations but this is only a starting point. The council will engage staff, contractors and stakeholders to expand the plan and the range of actions that help us to meet our target.

This plan does not describe how the borough as a whole will reach carbon neutrality. The council, partners, residents and businesses will all need to work together to achieve this broader goal, therefore we will hold citizen's assembly and process of stakeholder engagement to agree how we will achieve this ambition. However, the council is already looking at how it can use its powers to help Lambeth transition to a low carbon future. Our new transport strategy, published later this year, will set out how we will improve public transport, introduce liveable neighbourhoods to improve walking and cycling and local environmental quality, and put electric vehicle infrastructure in place. Our revised Local Plan will introduce exacting environmental standards for new developments; will increase the quantum of zero carbon development in the borough, and will drive significant improvements in air quality. In addition, the Local Plan will increase moves to sustainable transport modes through appropriate parking standards in new developments, with zero parking wherever possible. The impact of these plans are not covered in detail here, but will be reflected in the borough wide carbon reduction plan we develop with residents, businesses and partners over the next year.

## What constitutes the Council's operations?

- **Council buildings:** energy to heat and power our buildings is a major source of emissions. We will reduce energy usage in our buildings by increasing insulation wherever possible, encouraging behaviour change and look for opportunities to add solar panels. Lambeth buildings include:
  - Our main corporate buildings are [Lambeth Town Hall](#) and the [Civic Centre](#), but we also have an office at [Blue Star House](#). Council officers are also based in buildings around the borough, such as in our [parks](#) like Brockwell Hall, [cemeteries and crematoria](#), housing estate offices and [libraries](#)
  - The communal areas in Lambeth managed council housing are currently included within the CRC calculation, but in this plan we are moving to include our investment programme for all council stock and to identify ways for this to positively contribute to our carbon reduction target.
  - Our property portfolio – buildings owned by Lambeth Council and leased commercially or to the voluntary and community sector.
  - New council owned homes being developed by Homes for Lambeth
- **Transport:** Vehicles are a significant source of emissions in Lambeth. We will continue to work towards all council officers walking and cycling, and using low-emission vehicles when necessary. This plan refers to vehicles leased directly by the council and used by staff to carry out their work. We will begin gathering data on vehicle usage and associated carbon emissions from our key contracts.
- **Corporate Energy:** This refers to the energy purchased by the council for its operations. We will reduce energy usage, and move to using clean energy to meet our remaining energy needs
- **Governance and Procurement:**
  - We expect our suppliers to share our determination to reduce carbon emissions and a potential supplier's carbon footprint will be considered during procurement
  - All council decision reports will now consider the impact on the borough's carbon emissions

## Measuring Carbon Emissions

Like all local authorities, Lambeth has had a statutory duty to report annually on our [Carbon Reduction Commitment \(CRC\)](#). In our 2017/18 CRC we reported that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from Lambeth council's operations were 7,672 tonnes. This figure included emissions from corporate sites, street lighting, housing management and grounds maintenance, but did not include emissions from:

- Vehicles used by council employees
- Partners delivering services on our behalf, such as waste collection, parking enforcement
- Our suppliers providing goods and services to Lambeth, such as our contractors resurfacing roads

**Fig. 1 – Summary of Lambeth Carbon Reduction Commitment Emissions**

<u>Reporting Period</u>	<u>Emissions (tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>)</u>	<u>Scope of emissions</u>
2010/11	<b>31,328</b>	Street lighting, corporate sites, schools
2011/12	<b>25,872</b>	Street lighting, corporate sites
2012/13	<b>27,722</b>	Corporate sites, schools
2013/14	<b>25,253</b>	Corporate sites, schools
2014/15	<b>12,172</b>	Corporate sites, street lighting
2015/16	<b>11,992</b>	Corporate sites, street lighting, Housing management
2016/17	<b>9,902</b>	Corporate sites, street lighting, Housing management, grounds maintenance
2017/18	<b>7,672</b>	Corporate sites, street lighting, Housing management, grounds maintenance

2018/19	<b>Final figure TBC July 2019 *</b>	Corporate sites, street lighting, Housing management, grounds maintenance
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\*Town Hall and the Civic Centre supplies were not on board in full during 2017/18.

To make sure Lambeth Council's operations are carbon neutral by 2030 we need solid data. Starting in 2019/20, in addition to the annual CRC, we will monitor emissions from all corporate council operations. We will do this by:

- All council teams will be asked to calculate their carbon emissions from work journeys by using the National Energy Foundation's [carbon calculator](#)
- We will explore appropriate measures for monitoring carbon emissions associated with our wider property portfolio and council owned housing.
- At present our partners and suppliers have no contractual duty to report to us their carbon emissions; but we will make this a standard condition in future procurement. However, we will write to all existing partners and suppliers regardless explaining our commitment to be carbon neutral and ask them to work with us by starting to report their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to us as soon as possible
- Create a consistent reporting process

This data will be published annually and will help us to:

- Identify whether this plan needs to be amended as our actions are not strong enough to fully tackle the problem
- Forecast an emissions timetable to follow and to check we are on target to hit our 2030 deadline
- Ensure this plan is followed and we see a year-on-year reduction in emissions

This document is just the start of our commitment to corporately make Lambeth carbon neutral. This document will be examined again in July 2020 to address what changes need to be made.

## Action Plan

This action plan describes the actions the Council will take to reduce carbon emissions. It also includes actions relating to the council's governance, procurement and investment to improve the consideration given to the carbon impact of the decisions taken by the council.

<b>Council Buildings</b>				
<b>Ref</b>	<b>Action Summary</b>	<b>Council Team Responsible</b>	<b>More Information</b>	<b>Delivery and impact</b>
1.1	Retrofit public buildings to improve energy efficiency	Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will increase participation on the RE:FIT programme to identify public buildings, such as libraries, suitable for retrofitting</li> <li>• It should be noted that not all council buildings are suitable for retrofitting, as they are listed buildings, such as Brixton library</li> <li>• Sites will be assessed for suitability and scheduled for retrofitting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Based on our initial benchmarking exercise, it is estimated energy use could fall by up to 19% on average in Lambeth buildings by participating in RE:FIT</li> <li>• Our initial benchmarking shows 52 sites in Lambeth are feasible for RE:FIT. We are already working with 10 sites (which are schools); by 2021 we will carry out feasibility studies to see whether the remaining 42 sites are viable</li> <li>• If these sites are viable, we will add solar panels and improve insulation to reduce energy use by up to 19% by 2025 and assess the possibility of installing battery</li> </ul>

				storage to maximise our clean energy usage
1.2	Invest in the council's housing stock to achieve highest possible sustainability ratings	Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will undertake audits of all communal area to identify opportunities to reduce energy usage</li> <li>• Introduction of air source or ground source heating systems or joining district heat networks where possible</li> <li>• Every council home to have loft insulated by 2030</li> <li>• Every council home, where applicable, to have a boiler under 10 years of age by 2030</li> <li>• Every council home, to have an EPC rating no lower than b by 2030.</li> <li>• To improve the sustainability of communal areas by introducing green sedum roofs for garages, pram sheds etc.; reusing bricks/ paving slabs, using sustainable wood for new/refurbished play areas, improving recycle/ reuse points on estates, where possible introducing water recycling – grey water retention for flushing toilets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish baseline data for carbon emissions relating to Lambeth council managed housing by 2021.</li> <li>• Develop carbon reduction programme for council managed housing.</li> </ul>
1.3	By 2030 all new council homes will be built to the highest efficiency standards with an aspiration	Housing development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All major new developments by HfL to achieve a 35% reduction in carbon efficiency over and above the requirements in the Part L Building Regulations 2013. These standards will be set out in the emerging draft Local Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The actions proposed to improve the efficiency standards of major new developments will reflect the standards set out in our emerging draft Local Plan</li> <li>• Our progress in ensuring new major developments by</li> </ul>

	to move the highest possible standard in the code for sustainable homes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where this is provided via a payment in lieu (currently £60 per tonne), this will be paid into the borough's carbon offset fund. We will look to raise this charge in line with other boroughs</li> <li>• Major developments by HfL will be required to meet a minimum score of 0.4 (for residential) under the London/Local Plan Urban Greening Factor – Local Plan</li> <li>• New council homes delivered through Homes for Lambeth will be developed to a minimum level 4 code for Sustainable Homes</li> <li>• We will move towards level 5 code for Sustainable Homes where this does not compromise delivery of truly affordable homes for rent. This will be assessed on a case by case basis</li> <li>• New developments will be required to adhere to strict maximum parking standards – PTAL 3 and above will be required to be car free. Higher cycle parking standards will also be required.</li> </ul>	HfL meet these standards will be reviewed in 2025 and 2030.
1.4	Improve the energy efficiency of the council's property portfolio	Property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will ensure that all property owned by Lambeth Council and leased through the commercial or VCS portfolio (approximately 400 properties) reach EPC E by 2023 in line with the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish baseline data on carbon emissions associated with the property portfolio</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where property is undergoing investment or refurbishment we will aim to achieve EPC C.</li> </ul>	
1.4.1	Reducing energy consumption in our corporate buildings	Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will look to reduce energy use through screens in our corporate buildings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The communications campaign will start in September 2019</li> <li>We want all computer screens to be switched off when not in use by December 2019</li> </ul>
1.4.2			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore feasibility of a Building Management System to optimise energy use in the Town Hall and Civic Centre</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporated as part of the Civic Centre improvements</li> </ul>
<b>Transport</b>				
2.1	Only ultra-low emission vehicles to be leased by 2022	Management Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will significantly reduce the use of vehicles for council business. Where possible we will replace with sustainable transport. This will be reflected in a revised essential car use policy and a review of current vehicle leases.</li> <li>Any essential vehicles will be ultra-low emission, such as electric, by 2022</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This will be reviewed in 2019 and by 2020 there will be fewer cars used to deliver council services by staff.</li> </ul>
2.2.1	Sustainable travel for work journeys	Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will significantly increase the use of bikes, public transport and walking for work journeys. There will be a re-launch of the pool bike scheme to encourage staff use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will increase usage by 10% every year</li> <li>We will identify the carbon costs of staff travel – i.e. expenditure on petrol</li> </ul>



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The monthly average for officers booking bikes is 31, by July 2020 we will increase this figure by at least 10 %</li> </ul>	
2.2.2		Facilities Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The amount of council officers using pool bikes will be monitored through the Council's online booking system. If there is sufficient demand, the Council will purchase additional pool bikes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set up a reporting system to monitor usage.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Corporate Energy</b>				
3.1	By 2030 100% of the energy consumed by buildings owned and operated by Lambeth will be generated from renewable energy sources	Procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will include in the criteria for our next procurement competitions for energy supply that the energy must be green wherever possible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will procure clean electricity by 2021, and procure 100% clean energy by 2030 at the very latest.</li> </ul>
3.2	Street lighting		LED lights have already been installed across all street lighting in the borough. We will look for opportunities to replace non-LED lighting across other parts of the public realm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivery by 2021</li> </ul>
<b>4. Governance and Procurement</b>				
4.1	Contact all existing partners and suppliers to ask they share	Procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will write to all our existing partners and suppliers to make them aware of our commitment to being carbon neutral by 2030</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will make changes as contracts expire</li> </ul>

	our commitment to be carbon neutral		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will ask partners and suppliers to provide data to establish a benchmark for Lambeth's corporate carbon footprint to measure whether this Plan is adequate</li> </ul>	
4.2	All new procurement to consider carbon emissions	Procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our recently updated <a href="#">Responsible Procurement</a> guide includes measures to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.</li> <li>Lambeth's approach to procurement gives 70% weighting to cost in any tender and the remaining 30% is allocated to social value, including reducing emissions. We will look for opportunities to strengthen this focus in policy and practice.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Impact of new Responsible Procurement guide on carbon emissions to be reviewed in 2020 and strengthened if necessary</li> </ul>
4.3	Council reports	Democratic Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Lambeth council reports include a section for the author to consider the environmental impacts from any recommended decision.</li> <li>Guidance will be provided on the intranet within the next 3 months for Lambeth officers including the National Energy Foundation's <a href="#">carbon calculator</a></li> <li>Moving forwards it will also be examined whether our Equalities Impact Assessment can also consider Environmental Impacts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidance on providing information on carbon impact of decision to be developed by 2020</li> </ul>

## **Implementation**

A carbon measurement framework and baseline will be produced by the council in 2020. The actions above will be reviewed in line with this, and updated accordingly.

Progress to achieving the 2030 target will be reported to cabinet annually, and published.

A cross-organisational officer group will be established to review progress towards the target, and develop the action plan.