

Climate Emergency Draft Action Plan and Engagement introductory document

Royal Borough of Kingston



Foreword

I am pleased to present Kingston's Climate Emergency Draft Action Plan for your views.

Climate change is the large-scale, long-term shift that we are seeing in the planet's weather patterns and average temperatures, driven by human activity that has released carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the air. Recent events including hot, dry weather, followed by torrential rain and flooding, show how vulnerable the UK is to climate change.

In June 2019, Kingston Council declared a [Climate Emergency](#), with a commitment to deliver carbon neutrality in council operations by 2038. By taking this action, we committed to eliminating as many of our emissions as possible and offsetting carbon where we cannot reduce any further. Since this time, teams across the council have come together to begin work on delivering carbon reduction for Kingston, and to set out our plans to holistically drive down carbon and other emissions that contribute to climate change over the coming years. These plans include a fundamental rethink of our estate, a change in how our office and other buildings are managed, changes in how we commission and invest and a new way of working for all of our staff.

While we currently target ourselves against reducing the emissions that are within our direct control, we recognise our leadership role in taking forward this programme of actions to deliver a reduction in emissions across the borough. This plan also includes actions to protect the natural environment and preparation for managing the local impacts of climate change. We will work closely with our local strategic partners, businesses and community groups, as well as neighbouring boroughs, the Mayor of London and Central Government. Wherever our powers or financial constraints make it difficult to go far enough, fast enough, we will lobby national government for further powers and finance to deliver a cleaner, greener Kingston for future generations to enjoy.

Addressing climate change is everyone's responsibility and it requires widespread support to make an impact. We have been speaking to residents and stakeholders about elements of this plan as it was developed, but this is the first time we have brought all of the workstreams for your comment. There are a number of interested groups in Kingston who are keen to contribute to the development of this plan, so while we will be welcoming feedback through our 'Let's Talk' portal throughout the Autumn we will also be inviting our community to carry out smaller focus groups on key workstreams. If you would like to sign up for one of these focus groups you will be able to find more information on how to do so on the council's ['Let's Talk'](#) portal after the 11th October.

There is much more to do, but I am excited to begin to talk to you about the next steps we will take together, as a borough. I look forward to hearing from you about this very important work.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stephanie Archer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Councillor Stephanie Archer, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainable Transport

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The Kingston approach to carbon reduction

In 2018, the Royal Borough of Kingston developed its [Environmental Management Plan](#) with the vision 'Kingston is cleaner, greener, ready for the future'. The aim of the plan is tackling current and future climate change challenges through integration and collaboration. In it, the council sets out how green infrastructure and sustainable management is seamlessly integrated in the built environment and communities will be enabled to deliver positive change in their local area.

While the Environmental Management Plan remains a key response for us, it does not go far enough to tackle the climate emergency. On 25 June 2019, Kingston declared a [Climate Emergency](#) and began putting in place actions to deliver against it. In November of that year, we published our [Climate Emergency Initial Assessment](#) which set out our current carbon management position and the actions we would begin to take to reduce carbon. Since this time we have been developing our understanding of the challenge, to more fully understand the steps we have to take to reduce carbon in Kingston. In each section of this action plan you will find an overview of the priority, alongside detail on the key projects that have taken place so far. The actions that we plan to take next, by theme, are available at Annex B.

The key principles of our approach are:

- We will reduce carbon emissions as far as we can and offset what we cannot remove
- We see 2038 as the absolute date for carbon neutrality, not the target date - if we can get there faster we will
- We will prioritise green and decentralised energy
- We will ensure the climate implications of our actions are a key factor in decision-making
- We will be proactive about bringing funding into the borough
- We will work with our partners and community to bring about change
- We will, in tandem, prepare to protect Kingston from the impacts of unavoidable changes in our weather.

The key actions of our plan already underway are:

- A review of all council properties to identify cost effective paths to reduce emissions from our buildings, with the aim for them to be carbon neutral by 2030
- An upgrade programme to make Kingston's street lighting 100% LED by 2023, reducing the amount of energy used to power them by around 50%
- Proposals to achieve 'BREEAM Excellent' status in our redevelopment of the Kingfisher Leisure Centre site by using solar panels, a mixed-mode ventilation strategy and the creation of a high performance building
- Extension of our walking and cycling infrastructure: Go Cycle schemes now cover approximately 13 kilometers of two-way cycle routes across the borough

- Development of Habitat Action Plans and a new Biodiversity strategy, following a recent review and update of our local Sites of Important Nature Conservation
- Further development of our district heating proposal, aiming to provide heat to homes, public buildings and businesses in and around Kingston Town Centre that would bring significant reductions in carbon emissions.

The co-benefits of climate action

Tackling the climate emergency will bring real positives for Kingston that are much wider than protecting our community from adverse weather impacts. A cleaner, greener Kingston is a healthier borough, with reduced NHS costs, better housing, better transport and a reduction in poverty and inequality. Some of the 'co-benefits' of taking action on the climate emergency include:

- Quiet, safe streets
- Warmer, quieter homes
- Green jobs
- Green spaces that are alive with biodiversity
- Locally generated, secure energy
- Healthier, more active people
- A reduction in poverty and inequality
- More local consumption, with thriving local businesses and high streets
- [Better air quality](#)

Development of the plan so far

Listening to our Young People

As we developed this action plan, the Kingston and Richmond Youth Council worked in partnership with the council to develop a Climate Emergency survey, so that our young people could talk to the council about climate change. More than 600 young people responded to this survey, showing our young people are very worried about this issue. A sample of their responses is available [here](#).

Working with our local business partners

The council has established a Transition to a Green Economy Group to address the adverse impacts of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and Brexit and build back better. The group consists of local partners such as the Chamber of Commerce, Kingston University, local colleges, Kingston Hospital, Transition Town Kingston (TTK) and representatives from large and small businesses, including the Bentall Centre, Engie, Lidl and Aviva Investment. The recent Roundtable Discussions co-organised by Kingston Council and the Chamber of Commerce were part of this Group's work: [Transition to a Green Economy: Business Opportunities](#); [Business Growth Opportunities from Decarbonising Transport](#).

Talking to our residents in new ways about sustainability

In 2019, the council delivered its first ever [Citizens' Assembly](#) aiming to bring the community together to tackle the key interlinked issue of poor air quality. Following this an [action plan](#) was developed based on the recommendations of the assembly, and this went out to wider consultation later in 2020. This has resulted in an Air Quality Action Plan for Kingston that was created by our residents, and this plan was approved by the Place committee in Summer 2021.

Transforming Kingston Council

Since the declaration we have set up four new Transformation Boards, each of which maintains a focus on tackling the climate emergency, recognising the scope of action that needs to be taken across all council activity. The Leading Council Board takes overall responsibility for delivering against our target and delivering the climate emergency action plan.

Our next steps

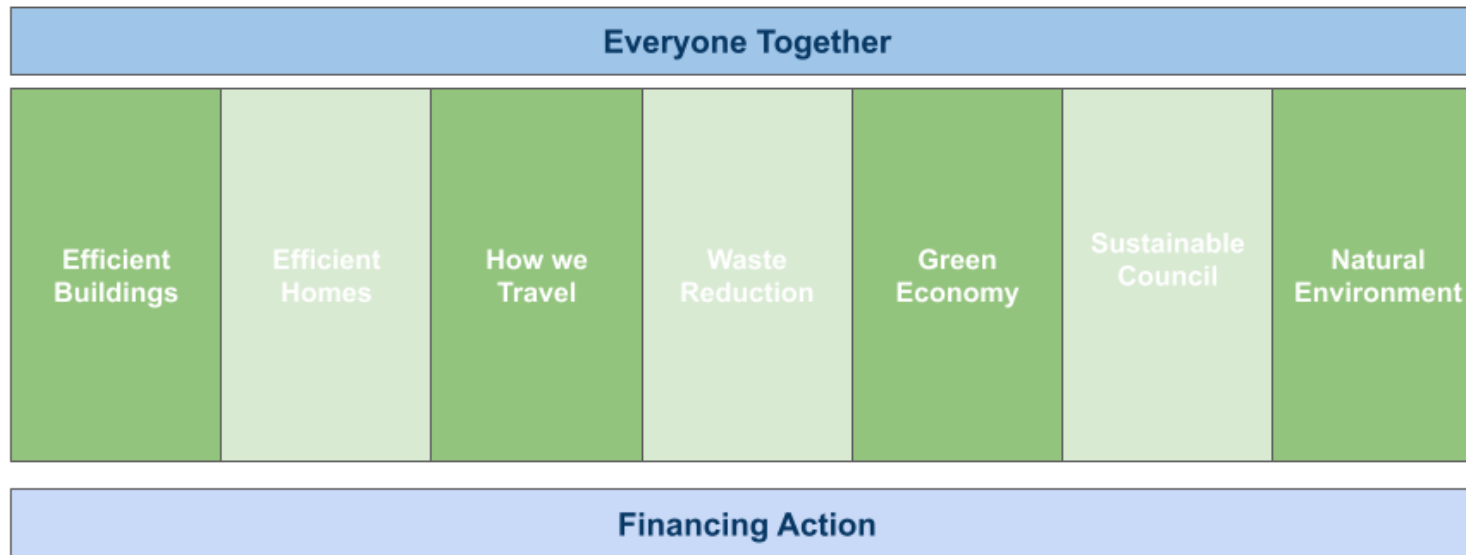
Our next step is to further develop this conversation with our residents, businesses and stakeholders about the actions the borough should take to tackle the climate emergency. This step is key as we must commit to decrease carbon emissions together, the council cannot deliver a meaningful reduction for Kingston without your help and support.

Over the life of this programme we will continue to re-prioritise actions, based on funding availability, technology, effectiveness and your views. The current version of the action plan will be available via the Kingston Climate Conversation Hub on the Council's [Let's Talk engagement portal](#), along with current engagement activities and ways in which you can be involved in developing the response further.

The responses received to the recent further engagement on the Local Plan, which had climate as a key element of the conversation, is also relevant to the long-term ambition of this plan. For example the materials referenced the Council's declaration of a climate emergency and one of the themes, which feedback was being sought on, focused on greener transport and how we move around. The engagement sought people's views on how they travel and if last year's events (eg COVID-19) had positively changed how they view sustainable transport and what would encourage them to walk, cycle or take public transport more and use the car less, in the future. More information is available on the council's engagement portal at <https://kingstonletstalk.co.uk/greener-transport>. A report capturing the feedback from the further engagement on the Local Plan will be available shortly.

Kingston's Climate Emergency response

We have arranged the climate action plan into seven themes, with a series of proposed actions each contributing to a key outcome. This helps the council to focus on all of the different aspects of a good response. To ensure a robust approach is delivered, we have also set two guiding principles that will be applied, "Everyone Together", which aims to ensure we work with our community and partners on further developing the approach for Kingston, and "Financing Action", which is our commitment to work to bring green funding to the borough and to use council funds in the most effective way to tackle the climate emergency.



An overview of each theme is given below, with a full list of proposed actions shown in Annex B: [Draft Kingston Climate Actions](#)

Everyone Together

We know that in order to effect real change we need to look much further than the carbon that the council directly controls, to work with our communities, our businesses, our partners and our visitors. We must galvanise action, and lead the way to a sustainable future for our borough. We will also lobby national government for the powers and resources to deliver carbon reduction. Most of the actions in this plan bring wider benefits for the borough and we need everyone to work together in order for the climate emergency response to succeed.

Financing action

The council faced a number of financial challenges in the medium to longer term - even before the COVID-19 outbreak, which has further added to these challenges. The economic and financial consequences of the pandemic, growing demand for services, and limited government grant funding make it difficult to find adequate funds to meet the borough's needs. Despite these challenges the council has a drive and commitment to ensure it is doing the best for residents and communities. We have to maintain a focus on attracting green funding to the borough, like we have done successfully in the past, for example with our Go Cycle project. We aim to ensure that Kingston is funding ready and able to take advantage of grants and low-cost loan funding to enable us to take the action required to become carbon neutral. We will also review our own processes, such as collection and distribution of the Carbon Offset Fund to ensure that local carbon reduction activities are delivered.

Theme 1: Efficient buildings

Our estate is our biggest direct source of emissions, through the energy we draw from the grid, combustion of fossil fuel to provide heat and through maintenance activities. Our core estate produces the equivalent of a kilogram of CO₂ every 2.5 seconds of the working day, and would take some 150,000 trees to offset. Our approach to decarbonising our estate is by reducing consumption first, then electrifying assets, removing any need to burn fossil fuels, then ensuring that electricity we do buy, is green and renewable.

Our target, subject to further business case development, is to have reached Net Zero for our own estate by 2030.

Property is a long-term asset, meaning sustainable, long-term decision making is key. We also have some very unique assets, ranging from protected, grade II listed buildings like Ancient Market Place, to care homes, public conveniences and everything in between. One size doesn't fit all, and a unique approach will be taken for each asset.

Since the declaration we have

- Worked with Thames Water to explore the possibilities of harnessing heat to warm local houses, public buildings and businesses
- Reviewed the delivery of our property services, with new positions focussed on energy management and sustainable construction, working to a new head of service responsible for the sustainability of our estate
- Redesigned facilities management to focus on social and environmental outcomes, including removal of single use plastics, reducing use of harmful chemicals and more sustainable maintenance approaches
- Baselined and benchmarked the emissions for each of our assets, and are using this data as a core consideration for estates based decision making
- Approved a business case to install automatic utility meters in all of our assets, so we can get more accurate, real time data to underpin effective decision making
- Started upgrading our mechanical and electrical installations, including installing Light Emitting Diode (LED) lighting, better insulation and more efficient heating systems

Theme 2: Efficient Homes

While our target is for carbon within the council's control, we are committed to supporting homeowners in Kingston to improve their homes too. Our Efficient Homes aim is to design, deliver and encourage energy efficient homes across the borough.

Since the declaration we have

- Supported two rounds of the 'Solar Together' programme, linking residents with providers of solar photovoltaic panels and battery storage. 779 properties have registered their interest in the scheme so far
- Undertaken a stock condition survey of our Council properties so we can develop budget proposals for retrofit
- Used carbon offset funds to run the ['Warm Homes Better Health'](#) programme to support residents in fuel poverty

Theme 3: How we travel

While our target will ensure that we focus on reducing council travel as much as possible, it's really important that the borough supports our efforts to move towards more sustainable transport methods wherever we can. We will encourage pedestrians and cyclists and promote sustainable travel for our residents, businesses and visitors, while freeing up space on our congested roads for people who really need to use cars with lower emissions.

Since the declaration we have

- Opened a new Cycle Hub next to the station which has space for almost 400 bikes, with a new cycle and pedestrian bridge linking the station and the river and adjoining cycle routes
- Increased the number of school streets in the borough to help tackle poor air quality associated with the school run
- Introduced three Low Traffic Neighbourhoods to prevent the roads being used as the through-route for motor traffic
- Installed 130 electric vehicle chargers across the borough
- Begun to replace our fleet with electric vehicles

Theme 4: Waste Reduction

We are proud of the recycling rates in Kingston - the recycling rate from homes in Kingston in 2020 was 47.7%. However, good recycling rates only tell part of the story. We aspire to be a borough that consumes more responsibly, reusing and borrowing rather than buying and disposing. We continually encourage residents to limit their impact on the environment by reducing the amount of waste they produce, reusing items where possible and making the most of our recycling services. The actions in this section focus on how we will encourage better recycling and develop our waste service to reduce carbon. But we will also encourage sharing, reuse and repair for our residents too. We aim to reduce the carbon impact of waste management using circular economy principles.

Since the declaration we have:

- Started recycling the material collected from our road sweeping machines
- Introduced a booking system and fair use policy at the Household Recycling Centre to encourage waste reduction and the separation of items for recycling or reuse
- Increased the number of households using the garden waste recycling service
- Established a Fly Tipping Task Force to tackle local waste issues

Theme 5: Green Economy

A 'green economy' can be defined as one in which the economic value of protecting the environment is recognised and economic growth does not negatively affect the environment. Our aim is to transition to a carbon neutral economy by supporting our businesses to grow while reducing their carbon footprint, as well as attracting new businesses to our Borough; and, facilitating our workforce to develop future-facing skills to enable full participation in the green economy. We are supporting this through a new 'Transitioning to Green Economy' post in our regeneration team.

Since the declaration we have:

- Established the Transition to a Green Economy working group as part of the Kingston Economic Recovery Taskforce. This group focuses on four Priority thematic areas:
 - Greening local businesses
 - Decarbonising business transport
 - Developing of a Green Skills Action Plan in conjunction with local partners, neighbouring south London boroughs and the GLA, which will result in new funding for green skills development across local businesses
 - Creating 'deep green' high streets and town centres

Theme 6: Sustainable Council

In order to achieve our target, we have to drive energy efficiency and carbon reduction through all council business. This will involve changing how we commission services to influence our supply chain, changing how we invest to influence the financial markets and changing how we work, day to day, as employees of the Council. We have already taken many large actions in this area since declaration, but there is more to do.

Since the declaration we have:

- Funded a programme to move all of Kingston's street lights to 100% LED by 2023. This will reduce the amount of energy used for street lighting around 50%
- Established a climate emergency staff network and a director and assistant director led climate emergency steering group
- Implemented a responsible investment strategy for our pension fund
- Developed a new commissioning framework that requires suppliers to deliver carbon reductions alongside other social benefits

Theme 7: Natural Environment

Our climate emergency target centres on reducing carbon emissions in Kingston. However, we are committed to delivering against both the climate emergency and the ecological emergency. It is important to have a theme focusing on protecting our natural environment for future generations. We will support and develop community activity to increase nature conservation projects, develop further tree planting and rewilding schemes and deliver a new biodiversity action plan through the biodiversity partnership. We will also implement planning guidance to enhance biodiversity in new developments.

Since the declaration we have:

- Employed a biodiversity officer for Kingston, and set up our biodiversity partnership
- Re-commissioned our green spaces contracts with a focus on tackling the climate emergency
- Planted almost 1500 new trees. We will be planting a further 500 trees between November 2021 and March 2022
- Piloted the Wildways Strategy, an adapted mowing regime on highways verges across the borough to secure biodiversity and climate outcomes
- Reviewed the borough's Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and identified 6 more for adoption
- Trialled a reduction in the use of chemicals to control weeds

Measuring and reporting

Many of the actions listed within the [action plan](#) are ongoing and they will progress over the coming years to make a significant contribution in the reduction of our carbon footprint. Whilst our target focuses on carbon reduction, actions in this plan also recognise the need to prepare for the local impacts of climate change and protection of our natural environment. We continue to develop our approach to measuring progress in all areas. We will also continue to explore options for carbon capture and offsetting over time.

You may have heard various terms such as net zero, carbon neutrality and net zero emissions, and you can find definitions of each of these in the [glossary](#).

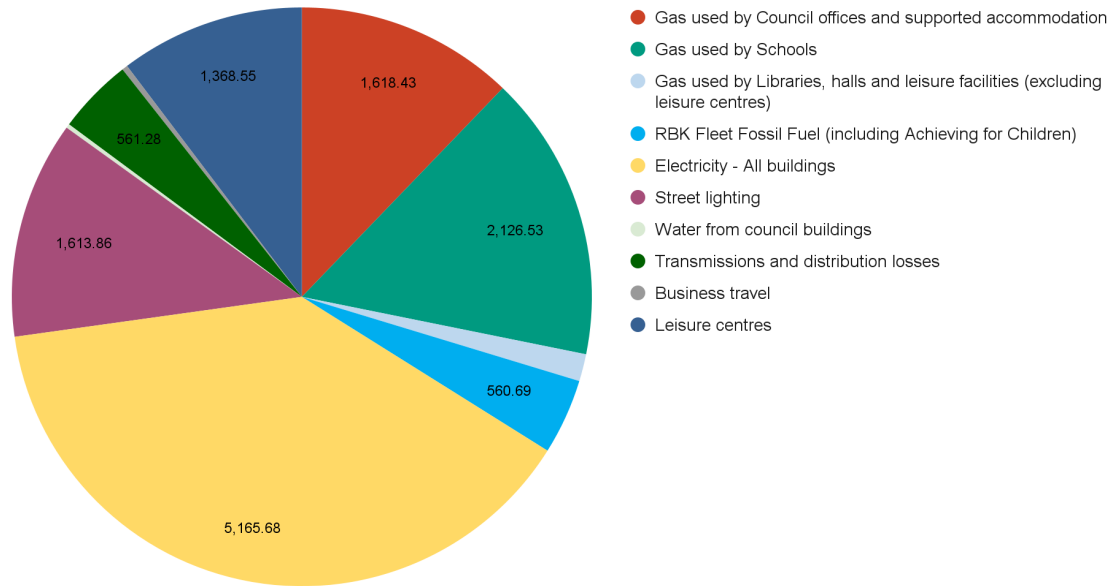
Our carbon baseline

Our carbon footprint has been measured in order to create a baseline against which we will assess progress of our actions. This measures not just carbon dioxide but other emissions that contribute to climate change, known as greenhouse gases. Here this is expressed as tonnes of Carbon Dioxide Equivalents (tCO₂e).

We chose the year 2017/18 as our baseline in discussion with other London Boroughs as this was before Covid-19 and before most boroughs had declared a climate emergency. This gives us a consistent year to measure progress against, using the Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool¹. The chart below shows the Council's total greenhouse gas emissions for the baseline year of 2017/18, which is a total of 13,216.67 tCO₂e. The emissions cover the Council's consumption of energy (electricity, gas, transport fuel) and water from the buildings and vehicles the Council uses and pays for.

Council's Greenhouse Gas emissions Baseline (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents)

2017/18 Financial Year (tCO₂e) Scope 1, 2, and 3.



For more detail about our baseline, please see [appendix A](#).

Targets and outcomes

Further work is ongoing to collect appropriate data where there are gaps in national monitoring and our local systems.

¹[The Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool](#)

While the focus of our target is reducing carbon from our own activities, emissions from the Council's operations only make up 2.2% of those produced across the borough. With that in mind, and in line with our Climate Emergency Declaration we also seek to encourage and influence the choices made by our communities in order to reduce emissions across the whole borough and to measure or estimate impact where possible. We have highlighted, for each proposed action in the plan, whether the action contributes to a reduction in the Council's carbon emissions or the wider climate emergency response.

Engaging with residents and stakeholders on the draft plan will help us to prioritise actions and set targets where possible against which to measure progress.

Governance

Our plan is led by the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainable Transport, in liaison with all of our Portfolio Holders with oversight from our councillor Climate Emergency Champion.

The key to our success will be taking a long-term view in what we do, making decisions that will benefit our borough in the present and the future. Through our internal steering group, we will ensure that policy and major project decisions are made with the climate emergency at the centre to facilitate long-term change. This group is chaired by the council's Executive Director for Corporate and Communities.

We will publish an annual report to show the progress and development of the climate emergency response, using our 2017/18 baseline to benchmark carbon reduction. We will ensure that the costs associated with the delivery of this plan inform the council's budget setting process and our ask of partners.

Adaptation

While the priority of this plan is a reduction in local carbon emissions in order to limit the impact of warming global temperatures, we must also aim to help places, people, and nature be ready for unavoidable climate change (we call this [climate change adaptation](#)). This includes understanding risks and opportunities from climate change for business, infrastructure, housing, and the natural environment. There is a need to prepare services to deliver for the needs of the community as weather patterns change.

Therefore adaptation measures cover many of the climate change themes, while promoting the need to provide secure and affordable energy, food, water, and transport, which enables the community to operate its businesses and services without impact on health and the economy.

Appendices

Appendix A - Our Carbon Baseline methodology

In line with our 2038 target, our focus is primarily on measuring and reporting on emissions associated with the council's own activities - and particularly those under our direct control) - as this is where we have the most potential to make improvements and can report on progress with reliable data. Using the Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool² developed by the Local Government Association and Local Partnerships we can look at progress against our baseline over time.

Scope 1, 2 and 3: Carbon is categorised into three standardised scopes as follows:

- SCOPE 1 carbon emissions: Carbon that is emitted directly from the council's gas usage and vehicle fleet.
- SCOPE 2 carbon emissions: Carbon that is emitted from electricity usage in council buildings and street lighting.
- SCOPE 3 carbon emissions: Carbon emissions from sources that the council does not own or control. This includes emissions associated with business travel, procurement, waste and water. It also includes capital goods for the construction of new homes.

We will be developing our approach to energy management and data capture during the life of this action plan, and as we gather more data our baseline will continue to be updated.

As set out above, Scope 3 carbon emissions are not under our direct control. We are still refining the baseline of our Scope 3 emissions, where data is available, so that we can identify where our activities and decisions can have further impact.

Our proposed actions seek to encourage and influence the choices made by our communities in order to reduce emissions across the whole borough, although the impact of this may be less easy to measure.

We are using 2017/18 baseline data in order to be in consistency with the Climate Emergency Declarations and for benchmarking exercise with data collected by other London Boroughs and London Councils. To create our footprint baseline we have used our 2017/18 data multiplied by the Government derived carbon factor for that particular emission to give the tonnes of carbon dioxide emitted. The calculation we apply is:

- Energy (kWh) x carbon factor / 1000 = tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent

²[The Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool](#)

We are using the Greenhouse Gas Protocol principles covering all greenhouse gas emissions represented as carbon equivalents. The [carbon accounting tool](#) created by Local Partnerships, commissioned by the Local Government Association to provide a standardised monitoring framework. The [conversion factors](#) used are based on national factors published by BEIS. This tool is used widely across the UK since its publication in 2020.

The total 13,216.67 tCO₂e is broken down by scope as follows:

SCOPE 1 Emissions : Emissions arising from the council's gas and fleet usage i.e. 4,507.27 tCO₂e

Kingston Council's (RBK's) Scope 1 emissions are 4,507.27 tCO₂e in total. Scope 1 covers gas and fleet related emissions associated largely with the Council's main properties and operations. In terms of gas related emissions, this category includes all Council owned and operated buildings and facilities including educational facilities, such as adult education centres, car parks and other public parking, cemeteries and crematoria, leisure facilities operated directly by the Council, parks and greenspaces and residential care homes.

Also included in Scope 1 emissions are those Council maintained schools, specifically the ones which are purchasing gas from Kingston Council's main gas provider i.e. 34 schools using gas in 2017/18. However, the number of schools buying gas through the council's main provider will be reduced in the future and we may not be able to monitor their gas consumption in a collective way. Emissions from housing communal areas, void properties and hostels (temporary accommodation), which are purchasing gas from RBK's main provider are also included in Scope 1.

In terms of the RBK fleet use emissions covered by Scope 1 include fleet vehicles related to special educational needs and disabilities, adults minibus miles for Kingston only (no data for taxi services for service users or home visits from social care staff are included), housing-related vehicles and vehicles for grounds and tree maintenance.

There is no available data for Waste Collection Fleet Fossil Fuel use in 2017/18, however data will be available from 2019/20.

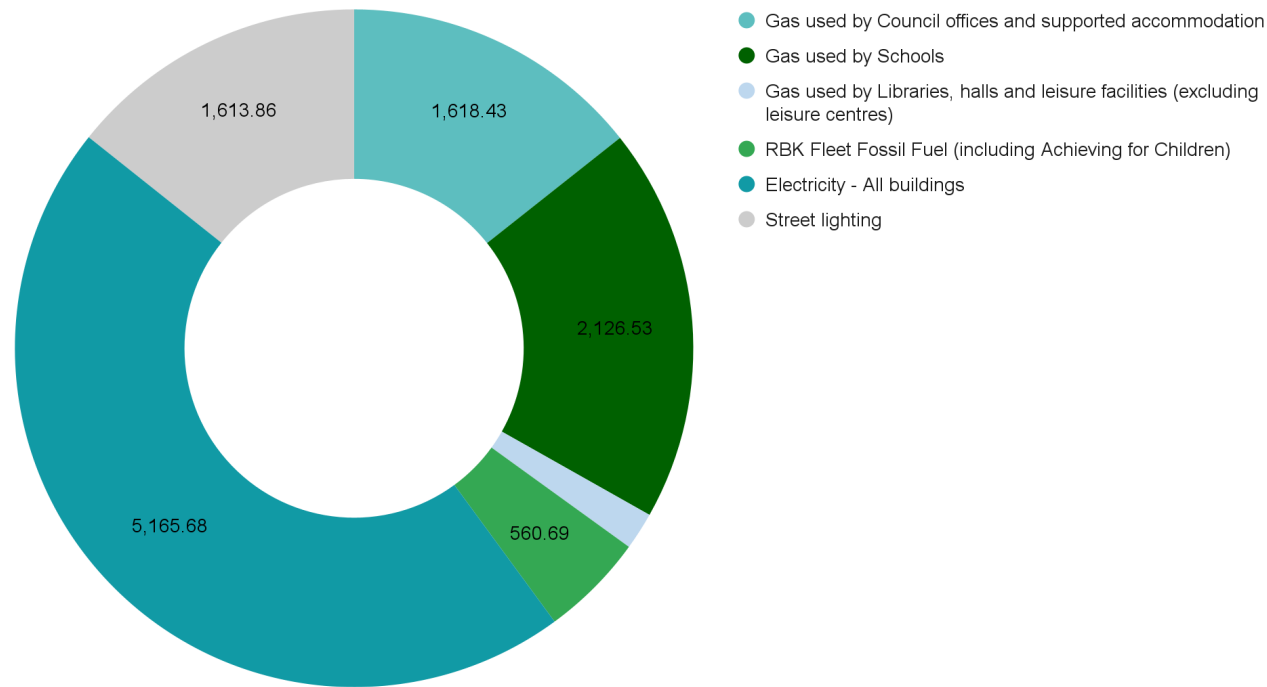
SCOPE 2 - Carbon that is emitted from electricity usage in council buildings and street lighting i.e. 6,779.53 tCO₂e

Kingston's Council's Scope 2 emissions are 6779.53 tCO₂e. Scope 2 covers carbon emitted from electricity usage in council buildings and street lighting. Based on available data for 2017/18, 82% of the electricity emissions are from council buildings including Adult Educational facilities, car parks, cemetery and crematorium, leisure facilities, parks, care homes, libraries, and community centres and halls. Also, it includes emissions from 34 schools, which purchase electricity from the RBKs main supplier, and communal areas, void properties and temporary accommodation. The remaining 18% of Scope 2 emissions come from street lighting electricity including Illuminated bollards and signs.

Scope 1 and 2 combined emissions

The diagram below shows the carbon emissions from the RBK operations Scope 1 and 2 for 2017/18. Based on the monitoring data for that year 81% of the emissions are from electricity and gas used in our buildings and by schools (schools which were monitored in 2017/18) and 14% from street lighting. The remaining 5% of the emissions is from our fleet.

2017/18
Council's Baseline year, Scope 1 and 2 Only (tCO₂e)



SCOPE 3 - 'Upstream' and 'downstream' emissions from the delivery of council operations i.e. 2,001.44 tCO₂e

Scope 3 emissions monitored in 2017/18 include:

- Emissions from water used in council buildings, including Adult Educational facilities, public parking, cemetery and crematorium, leisure facilities, greenspaces, care homes, libraries, community centres and halls and a number of schools. Emissions from water usage by schools and housing (communal areas, void properties and hostels) are not included.
- Carbon emissions resulting from energy lost through transmission and distribution from electricity used by the buildings.
- Emissions from business travel of staff.
- Emission from council leisure centres operated by third parties

Emissions from waste from Council's buildings and schools, staff commuting, goods and services supplied, as well as capital goods (i.e. construction) are not included in the Scope 3 Emissions reported for 2017/18.

We have identified a need for more accurate information to measure all Scope 3 emissions and report them.

[Total Council emissions by Scope 1, 2 and 3 and source of emissions](#)

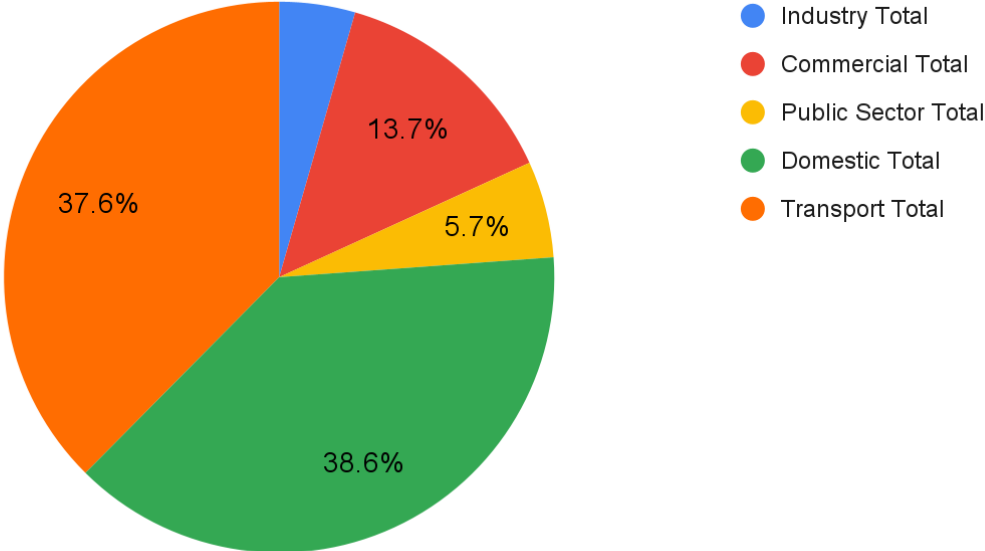
Borough-Wide Emissions

Emissions from the council's operations described above contribute 2.2% of total Borough emissions³. Estimates of carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of electricity and gas have been produced for each Local Authority in the UK by National Statistics based on methodology from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). The chart below shows how the total emissions in Kingston are produced from different sources.

³ 2017 calendar year emissions, BEIS data publication June 2021 ([UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics: 2005 to 2019](#))

Royal Borough Kingston Borough-wide emissions

2017 calendar year emissions (June 2021 BEIS Publication)



Source: [UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics: 2005 to 2019](#)

Appendix B - Climate emergency - London and National responses

Climate Change

There is a global consensus that climate change is happening. In 2015 the first ever universal, legally binding global climate change agreement, known as the 2015 Paris Agreement, was adopted. This sets out a global framework to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C.

National Framework

In 2019, in the [2050 Target Amendment](#), the UK Government committed by law to achieving net zero carbon by 2050. In order to achieve this, they put in place a series of measures including the '[Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution](#)', and the [Energy White Paper: Powering our net zero future](#). In December 2020 the Climate Committee also set out [The Sixth Carbon Budget](#), which describes the path to net zero for the UK. The recommended pathway requires a 78% reduction in UK emissions between 1990 and 2035 through four steps:

- people and businesses to adopt low-carbon solutions (i.e. new cars and vans, boiler replacements in homes, buildings to be low-carbon, waste reduction and circular economy, renewable electricity or hydrogen);
- expansion of low-carbon energy supplies;
- reducing demand for carbon-intensive activities (e.g. insulation of buildings, change in diets, fewer car miles and air-travel);
- land and greenhouse gas removals (e.g. transformation of agriculture and restoration of peatlands).

The Sixth Carbon Budget report also stated that “more than half of the emissions cuts needed rely on people and businesses taking up low-carbon solutions – decisions that are made at a local and individual level. Many of these decisions depend on having supporting infrastructure and systems in place. Local authorities have powers or influence over roughly a third of emissions in their local areas.” We take that responsibility seriously and as such we will continue to deliver outside the scope of our target wherever we can, influencing our supply chains, changing how we invest and working with partners and local businesses to deliver a green economy.

London level Strategy and Governance

The Mayor of London recognising that London’s environment affects everyone who lives in and visits the city developed in 2017 the first [London Environment Strategy](#), which brought together approaches to every aspect of London’s environment, integrating the following areas: air quality; green infrastructure; climate change mitigation and energy; waste; adapting to climate change; ambient noise; and, low carbon circular economy. A set of strategies and initiatives have been developed in order to address the causes of climate change and ensure London can adapt to a changing climate. These include: Accelerate delivery of a cleaner, greener London through the [London Recovery Board](#) in the context of London’s long-term recovery from

the coronavirus crisis, with one of its missions to deliver a [Green New Deal](#) which seeks to tackle the climate and ecological emergencies and improve air quality by doubling the size of London's green economy by 2030 to accelerate job creation for all. This can be enforced through the [Good Work for All](#) mission, the [London Plan 2021](#) provides a planning framework for sustainable development, the [Energy for Londoners programme](#) aiming to make London's homes warm, healthy and affordable, workplaces more energy efficient and accelerate generation of local clean energy. At the same time, action is taken to [divest London's pension](#) funds from fossil fuel industries and scale up green investments by pension funds, while organisations across sectors are encouraged to follow.

London Councils have brought together its London Environment Directors' Network (LEDNet) and Transport and Environment Committee to publish a [Joint Statement on Climate Change in 2019](#). This has resulted in 7 themes and associated targets that London Boroughs are signed up to, which are:

- #1 Retrofit London: Retrofit all domestic and non-domestic buildings to an average level of EPC B. Lead borough: LB Enfield and LB Waltham Forest
- #2 Low carbon development: Secure low carbon buildings and infrastructure via borough planning. Lead borough: LB Hackney
- #3 Low carbon transport: Halve road journeys made by petrol and diesel via combined measures that can restrict polluting journeys and incentivise sustainable and active travel options. Lead borough: RB Kingston and City of Westminster
- #4 Renewable power for London: Secure 100% renewable energy for London's public sector now and in the future. Lead borough: LB Islington
- #5 Reduce consumption emissions: Reduce consumption emissions by two thirds, focusing on food, clothing, electronics and aviation. Lead borough: LB Harrow
- #6 Build the green economy: Develop London's low carbon sector and green our broader economy. Lead borough: LB Hounslow
- #7 Creating a resilient and green London. Lead borough: LB Southwark

In July 2021 LEDNet worked with a coalition of partners to produce a paper outlining why it is essential local authorities play a central role in the Government's Net Zero Strategy and how the Government can start to work with local authorities; '[Recognising local authorities as key partners in the Net Zero Strategy](#)', the [blueprint for accelerating climate action and a green recovery at the local level](#).

Appendix C - Why is it important that we tackle climate change? Kingston Young People's Voices⁴

<i>It is important because it is something that is dramatically changing our earth, and if we do not do anything to tackle climate change, we will have to face many negative consequences.</i>	<i>it will affect our generation and the next, and we need to take care of it before it's too late or the world will possibly end</i>	<i>We need to make a difference now otherwise climate change will become worse and worse and soon the planet will die.</i>
<i>Climate change is one of the foremost issues which affects everyone and, if not tackled, it will have adverse effects on all people, as well as wildlife and the planet as a whole.</i>	<i>We are the last generation of people who can take action and stop destroying our planet.</i>	<i>Because Donald Trump gets annoyed by climate change and I want to annoy him and also the world is going to end if we don't tackle climate change and I don't want the world to end.</i>
<i>Because it is eventually going to affect our future and we need to tackle it now before it gets worse.</i>	<i>To preserve the planet for future years, to preserve the natural wonders on the Earth</i>	<i>Because it affects so many things. Not just people but animals and plants as well.</i>
<i>Because it is our world that we need to save and if we do nothing about it everything and everyone will suffer for the worst and all the animals who are dying or being moved away from their homes because of us and how we waste are the ones who will suffer the most.</i>	<i>It is a very crucial problem because it ruins our planet. It doesn't take a lot of time for humans to ruin the planet, but it takes much more time for humans to save it again. Also, lots of people are unaware of how they can potentially be ruining the planet or how they can save the planet.</i>	<i>The choices and changes we make now affects our future generations years to come. We can choose to protect our world, therefore making it a better place for the future humans, animals and environment.</i>
<i>to stop global warming</i>	<i>The people of our future must be able to experience natural wonders such as snow, and if we do not look after our planet, all these things will go and we will not be able to live on Earth.</i>	<i>because we need to take care of the environment so we can make sure the health of future generations is safe and good and we can take care of the animals and the place we live in.</i>
<i>because we have to save the world for the future</i>	<i>Because we are destroying the earth and it is important to tackle climate change before it is too late and we kill all life on the planet.</i>	<i>It not only affects us but it also affects the environment and other species around us</i>
<i>So that everyone, including animals and plants has a safe place to live</i>	<i>We need to make sure the next generations have a place to live.</i>	<i>the earth is being destroyed through actions that can be stopped and widespread change needs to happen in order to protect the wildlife and biodiversity thats being affected</i>
<i>The worlds dying and resources are running out</i>	<i>our planet is dying</i>	<i>To stop destroying the world.</i>
<i>I think that it is important because if we do not change what is happening, there won't be a world for us to live in because it will be destroyed. Also, the world is so beautiful and has so many interesting animals that it would be horrible if it was all gone.</i>	<i>If we don't change our ways, the next generations will have no future. The world is not ours to ruin.</i>	<i>Because of the effect that Climate Change is having on our world because of humans, to the point where we are killing our planet.</i>
<i>To make a better place for the world and the next generation.</i>	<i>Because there is no planet B :) And also if we do not help the world now then in the future it</i>	<i>If we don't tackle climate change now, it will badly affect the future generations, so we must act now in order to stop that</i>

⁴ Kingston and Richmond Youth Council, Kingston Climate Change Youth Survey (2019)
<https://kr.afcinfo.org.uk/pages/young-people/information-and-advice/kingston-and-richmond-youth-council>

	<i>will be horrible and bad for everyone living in it. It will damage our health and would not be a very pleasant place to live in.</i>	<i>from happening</i>
<i>Because we need to make sure that we protect the planet for future generations.</i>	<i>So that the world is still safe for everyone to live in and so the future can experience the wonders of nature.</i>	<i>So that the world won't die because of humans</i>
<i>because the earth is dying and we need to save it</i>	<i>our planet is dying which isn't too great</i>	<i>As young people, we are the ones who are facing the consequences and therefore it is very important that we act earlier to give ourselves a better future.</i>
<i>We will all suffer and feel sad and the polar bears will die</i>	<i>Because without tackling it, the impact it will have on the world will be catastrophic.</i>	<i>because it's a serious problem in the world and we should do everything we can to help overcome it</i>
<i>As at the rate we are going, the world is due to end quite soon</i>	<i>This is our future we're talking about. And I can't dare to imagine a future without our precious polar ice caps.</i>	<i>Because it is an issue that will affect all generations.</i>
<i>Climate Change is very important as we're responsible for ensuring the world is eco-friendly for us and the next generations. The world is a place everyone should be able to live in- everyone from us as humans and animals.</i>	<i>I believe it is important as we all need a world to live on.</i>	<i>Because if we do not do anything about this, then many vital natural habitats will go away and animals vital to the ecosystem will find it harder to live.</i>
<i>Because if we don't everyone and everything is going to die and nature will be die</i>	<i>It will affect our future and it is up to us to change it</i>	<i>It is melting ice caps and increasing global warming and pollution</i>
<i>if it's not tackled, then future generations won't have as good a standard of living as we do.</i>	<i>Because if we do not tackle climate change, there might not be a planet for the next generation.</i>	<i>This is our future and at the moment nothing is being done.</i>
<i>So animals don't go extinct and we all don't die. I like trees, and I don't want them to disappear.</i>	<i>Because it is getting worse everyday, and the environment is generally very important</i>	<i>I believe it's important to tackle climate change before it's too late and the earth has been damaged to an extent which can't be saved anymore. The more effort we put in now, the better results we can get/expect in the future. The planet has already been predicted to be close to destruction and doing no action will only bring the 'doomsday' sooner. Therefore, in order to protect our planet and avoid its end, climate change needs to be tackled.</i>
<i>so animals don't go extinct</i>	<i>Because if we don't tackle it now the damage to our planet and the environment will be irreparable.</i>	<i>so that our world does not fall any more into despair than it is already, and we protect all species of animals, humans, and natural products such as food, so that our world can continue to work.</i>
<i>so we do not pollute the earth</i>	<i>Because if you don't tackle climate change, then we will all die in the end. We are using and misusing too many natural resources and not letting them regenerate</i>	<i>Because climate change is destroying the planet and that's not good</i>

Appendix D - Glossary of Terms

Air Quality: The degree to which the air in a particular area or geography is suitable for inhabitants including humans, animals, or plants to remain healthy.

Anthropogenic: Describes something originating from humans, or human activity. The term is now being used to describe this current geological time period given the degree of change to the world's climate. The "Anthropocene" now follows the other geologic time periods such as the Paleozoic, the Mesozoic and the Cenozoic.

Asset Management: According to Kingston Council's approach to planning, designing, constructing, acquiring, operating, maintaining, renewing, replacing and disposing of its municipal infrastructure assets in a way that ensures sound stewardship of public resources while delivering effective and efficient customer service.

Biodiversity: Biodiversity is a term used to describe the enormous variety of life on Earth. It can be used more specifically to refer to all of the species in one region or ecosystem. Biodiversity refers to every living thing, including plants, bacteria, animals, and humans.

Biodiversity net gain (BNG): It is an approach to development, and/or land management, that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was beforehand.

BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method): It is the world's leading sustainability assessment method for masterplanning projects, infrastructure and buildings.

Carbon Footprint: The amount of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere as a result of burning fossil fuels and other activities of a particular individual, organisation, or community.

Carbon neutral: Where some emissions are still being generated by an organisation after carbon reductions, these emissions are being offset making the overall net emissions zero.

Carbon positive: Activity that goes beyond achieving net zero carbon emissions to actually create an environmental benefit by removing additional carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Carbon pricing: A carbon price is a cost applied to carbon pollution to encourage polluters to reduce the amount of greenhouse gas they emit into the atmosphere.

Circular Economy: An alternative to the traditional linear "make-use-dispose" process. The circular economy model aims to minimise the use of raw materials, maximise the useful life of a product, and create value for the product to be used again once it reaches end of life.

Climate: The prevailing weather conditions including temperature, precipitation, and wind patterns in an area over a long period of time.

Climate Action: Efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and our impact on the climate.

Climate Adaptation: Adjusting infrastructure, homes, buildings, landscapes, etc. to better withstand current and future impacts of more frequent severe weather events that are created from a climate that is wetter, warmer, and wilder.

Climate Change: A long-term shift in global or regional climate patterns. The climate of an area includes seasonal temperature, rainfall averages, and wind patterns.

Climate Emergency Declaration: At the council's Environment and Sustainable Transport Committee on 25 June 2019, it was agreed to declare a climate emergency in the borough. 28 boroughs and the Mayor of London have now passed 'climate emergency declarations'; across the country, more than [230 councils](#) have declared a climate emergency, including the Local Government Association (LGA). A declaration acknowledges the seriousness of climate change, and Kingston Council is developing a Climate Emergency Action Plan to respond to this emergency.

Climate Mitigation: The action of lessening future impacts of climate change through reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate resilience: Climate resilience is the ability to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to hazardous events, trends, or disturbances related to climate.

Energy Performance Certificate (EPC): It gives a property an energy efficiency rating from A (most efficient) to G (least efficient)

Energiesprong Retrofit: An [Energiesprong retrofit](#) consists of a full-house upgrade including a thermally efficient façade, solar PV roof and in-house 'energy hub'. Currently the scheme is focused on the social housing stock as a sector receiving efficiency investment, often single installation, already.

Financial control boundary methodology: The authority reports on all sources of carbon emissions over which it has financial control. The authority has financial control over a service if it has the ability to direct the financial and operating policies of the service with a view to financially managing its activities, e.g. setting budgets, managing expenditure, and/or obtaining an 'income', such it might be the case in waste management, council leisure centres, entertainment halls, community centres, street lighting, illuminated bollards and signs etc.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG): A gas that contributes to the greenhouse effect in our atmosphere by absorbing infrared radiation, similar to the glass in a greenhouse that traps heat. Carbon dioxide is the most common greenhouse gas produced by human activity, but methane from decomposing garbage and nitrous oxides from incinerating sewage sludge are also potent greenhouse gases. Emissions of greenhouse gases are reported in terms of "equivalent carbon dioxide."

Green Infrastructure: An infrastructure asset consisting of natural or human made elements that provide ecological and hydrological functions and processes and includes natural heritage features and systems, parklands, stormwater management systems, street trees, urban forests, natural channels, permeable surfaces and green roofs (Per Ontario Regulation 588/17).

Light emitting diode (LED): Lighting products produce light up to significantly more efficiently than incandescent and fluorescent light bulbs.

Lifecycle: Describes the sequential stages connecting a product system, from material extraction or generation to final disposal.

LULUCF Net Emissions: Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry - Climate Change Emissions. The LULUCF sector covers emissions and removals of greenhouse gases resulting from direct human-induced land use, land-use change and forestry activities.

<https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/LULUCF.pdf>

Megawatt: (or, one million watts): A metric unit for measuring power output, usually for electricity, and is approximately the amount of power needed to light 200,000 LED light bulbs (at 5 watts each).

(Domestic) Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard (MEES): Regulations set a minimum energy efficiency level for domestic private rented properties.

Net Zero: Net zero refers to the balance of either energy consumption or emissions production in a community or building. For energy consumption it is achieved when the consumption of energy is balanced by renewable energy production. For the production of emissions, it is achieved when total production equals zero or greenhouse gas emissions are removed or offset.

Offsetting: Carbon offsetting is used to compensate for emissions which may have reached their limit of reduction by using low carbon technology, natural environment or funding an equivalent carbon dioxide saving.

Resilience: The capacity of cities to function, so that the people living and working in cities survive and thrive no matter what stresses or shocks they encounter.

RIBA ([Royal Institute of British Architects](#))

Severe Weather: Severe weather events refer to meteorological conditions that are rare for a particular place and/or time, such as an intense storm or heat wave and are beyond the normal range of activity. They can be the result of sudden and drastic changes in temperature, precipitation and sea-level or they may be the result of a more gradual, but prolonged, shift in temperature or precipitation that is beyond the normal range.

School Travel Plan (STP): A list of actions that a school agrees and commits to run as part of a whole school approach aiming to reduce the barriers and increase the incentives to active travel for as many staff, pupils and parents as possible.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC): This is a designation used by local authorities in England for sites of substantive local nature conservation and geological value. There is a [government dataset](#) which identifies the nature conservation areas within the borough that are protected from inappropriate development by planning policy.

Tonne: The metric unit of mass used to represent 1,000 kilograms. Emissions of greenhouse gas emissions are reported in terms of “tonnes of equivalent carbon dioxide”. Given that carbon dioxide is an invisible gas, the best way to picture what a tonne of carbon dioxide like is to imagine this as a balloon about ten metres wide