

Delivering a **more sustainable borough**

Wandsworth Climate Action
Plan Annual Report 2024



Our net zero vision and priorities

Wandsworth Council is committed to creating a fairer, more compassionate, and more sustainable Wandsworth.

We are also committed to working with everyone across the borough to tackle climate change, which poses a range of risks to our borough, from heat waves and air pollution to floods and storms. Yet by working together, we can reduce these risks. In doing so, we can also create a better borough for all, with sustainability at its heart.

The council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and has since set targets to be carbon neutral as an organisation by 2030 and net zero as a borough by 2043. A huge array of initiatives are being rolled out by the council from decarbonising our buildings and vehicles and tackling air pollution, to implementing sustainable transport measures and protecting and enhancing our biodiversity and nature.

In 2023, we held a Citizens Assembly on Air Quality because we wanted our residents to tell us how they want us to tackle this issue. Their recommendations directly fed into the new Wandsworth Air Quality Action Plan, which was published in September. We have also hosted three events as part of our Wandsworth Sustainability Partnership, which brings together individuals and groups working or interested in sustainability to network and learn from each other. Wandsworth's first Library of Things is also now open at the Southside Centre, which enables people to borrow items rather than buy them, which is part of our work in promoting a more circular economy and reducing consumption-based emissions. A new climate risk map has also been launched, which shows climate exposures and social vulnerabilities, to enable us to better understand how and where climate change is likely to impact most severely.

We will be also launching a new approach to working in partnership on climate change across the borough at the Together on Net Zero event on 12th March.

We are committed to being transparent in our work on climate change. As part of this commitment, the council submits to CDP who are an independent, expert organisation that assesses the work being done on climate change by cities around the world. Wandsworth achieved a CDP A-rating again in 2023 for its work on climate change. This is the highest score a city can get, and Wandsworth is one of only 119 towns and cities globally to achieve this rating.

To further our commitment to transparency, we are publishing this Annual Report, which summarises the key work the council has done over the last year on climate change and sustainability, and its main priorities for the year ahead.

Although climate change is a global challenge, its impacts are felt locally. Furthermore, the solutions and opportunities for tackling climate change are also local. By investing in decarbonisation, we can create a cleaner and more prosperous borough. By investing in adaptation and resilience, we can improve our health and enhance nature. The scale of the challenge can feel overwhelming, but we hope this report shows how much we have already achieved locally here in Wandsworth and how much more we can still achieve together.

Judi Gasser
Cabinet Member for the Environment



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Wandsworth and the Climate Crisis

2023 was the hottest year in recorded history. Global temperatures rose to 1.2°C above pre-industrial levels. Record-breaking heatwaves, wildfires, floods, and storms were experienced around the world.

The previous hottest year on record was 2016 when global temperatures were 1.1°C above pre-industrial levels. An increase in global temperatures above 1.5°C is considered dangerous, with tipping points potentially being reached at this point, which could cause irreversible changes to our planet.

Wandsworth is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Nearly 330,000 people live in the borough and, as an inner London borough, many of the existing and emerging risks posed by climate change are greater. Heat waves are worse in urban areas due to the “urban heat island effect”. The impact of flooding is often more severe in cities due to high population densities and the dominance of impermeable surfaces. As the planet continues to warm, the risk of infectious diseases reaching the UK rises - the high population density of Wandsworth could make the transition of these diseases more rapid. Climate change already poses significant risks to the public and these risks will increase in future if action is not taken now.

In 2019, the council declared a climate emergency in recognition of the immediate and severe threat the climate crisis poses to the borough and is taking ambitious action from reducing greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation) to implementing measures to adapt to climate change and help the borough be more resilient.

Whilst climate change poses significant risks to the borough, it also presents opportunities. Decarbonising our borough has huge co-benefits for everyone. Reducing our greenhouse gas emissions by making homes more energy efficient saves people money on their energy bills and people using more active and sustainable modes of transportation improves air quality and individuals' health. Increasing green spaces and working with nature enables better adaptation and improves resilience, while also increasing space for nature and improving our mental health from increased access to green spaces.

The challenge is big, but by embracing the opportunities that decarbonising our borough and adapting to climate change offers, we can create a fairer and more sustainable borough for all. This report outlines some of the key work the council has been doing on climate change in 2023 and gives an overview of some of our plans for 2024, which aim to increase the impact of our work as we continually strive to raise our level of ambition in tackling the climate crisis.

The council is:

- Committed to being carbon neutral as an organisation by 2030
- Committed to being a net zero borough by 2043
- Decarbonising its buildings and vehicles
- Rolling out sustainable transport measures
- Tackling air pollution
- Decarbonising buildings across the borough
- Protecting and enhancing our biodiversity and nature
- Reducing waste and promoting the circular economy
- Adapting and increasing resilience to climate change
- Engaging with the public, businesses, and regional governments on climate change.



The global and national context

COP28

Every year, countries from around the world gather for the United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP). It is an opportunity for leaders to meet to negotiate and agree global action on climate change. COP28 concluded in December 2023, with countries committing to “transition away from fossil fuel energy sources”. This was historic in that this was the first time this language and level of commitment around fossil fuels had been agreed since the first COP in 1995. Yet by 2030 global greenhouse gas emissions need to peak if we are to keep global temperature rise below 1.5°C, as agreed at COP21 under the Paris Agreement. The world is currently not on track to meet this target and the level of ambition shown at COP28 is widely agreed to be insufficient.

Progress in the UK

The UK has a legally binding target to be net zero by 2050. The UK is meant to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 68% by 2030, compared with 2019 emissions. With the recent changes to government policies on net zero, the UK is only expected to reduce its emissions by 59% by 2030. This has implications for Wandsworth, as UK-wide decarbonisation will be essential to the borough meeting its net zero ambitions.

A Net Zero borough by 2043

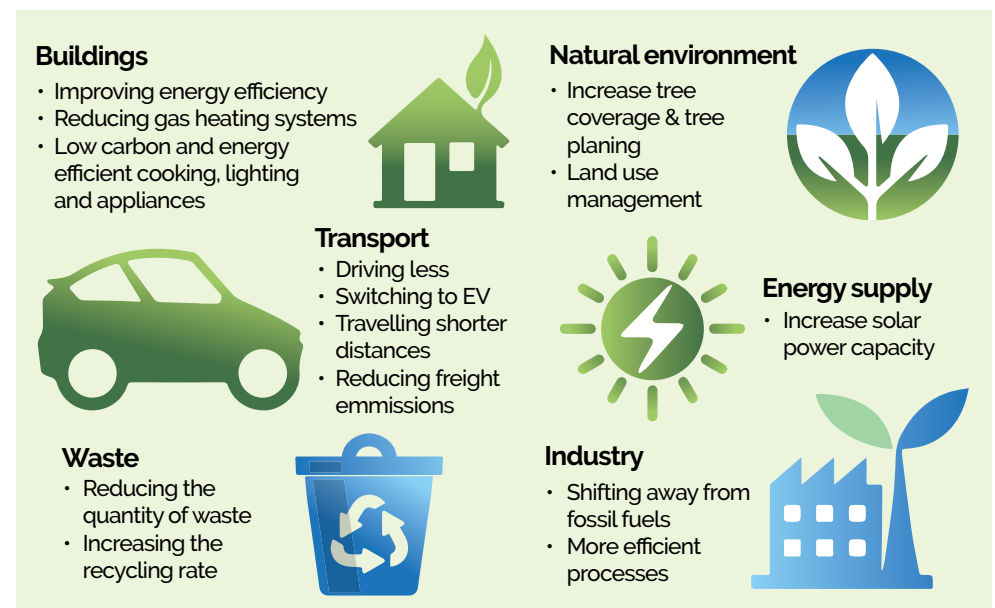
Wandsworth Council has set a target to be net zero as a borough by 2043. This is seven years ahead of the UK target to be net zero by 2050. The council has set this more ambitious target of 2043 as this is a science-based target, meaning it aligns with the global ambition (under the Paris Agreement) to limit global temperature rise to well below 2°C and pursue efforts to limit temperature rise to below 1.5°C.

To better understand how we can meet this 2043 target, the council undertook an emissions pathways analysis.

This analysis presents emissions reduction pathways that Wandsworth borough could follow in reducing its greenhouse gas emissions to reach net zero. It also shows emissions from the borough, including emissions from specific sectors (domestic and non-domestic buildings, transport, industry, waste, natural environment, and energy supply).

The findings are clear - immediate and ambitious action is needed to reach net zero by 2043. The council has a vital part to play in this decarbonisation, but net zero cannot be achieved by the council alone. Action is also needed from national and regional government, businesses, and the public. To support this action, the analysis also details what needs to be done across different sectors to reach net zero by 2043, which are summarised below.

The current level of action and ambition at the global and national level does not put us on a path to reach net zero in time to stop global temperatures rising to dangerous levels. This highlights the increasingly important role of local government in decarbonisation. The council cannot achieve net zero alone. However, it can lead the way. Wandsworth is taking ambitious action around climate change from reducing our greenhouse gas emissions to making the borough more resilient to a changing climate.



Emissions from the borough

The London Borough of Wandsworth's net emissions were 989.43 ktCO₂e in 2019. Most emissions came from domestic buildings (42%), followed by transport (21%) and non-domestic buildings (17%) (Figure 1). The fact that nearly half of all emissions in the borough come from domestic buildings (if non-domestic buildings are included this accounts for 59.1% of the borough's emissions) highlights the urgent need to retrofit homes, including making them more energy efficient (e.g., insulating) and transitioning away from fossil fuels (e.g., installing heat pumps instead of gas boilers). While this will require a significant upfront investment, there are important co-benefits to be reaped for the public, including saving money on their energy bills and reducing their exposure to harmful indoor air pollutants.

The need to reduce emissions from transport is also clear. Affordable and easy access to sustainable and active modes of transportation is essential to reducing transport emissions from the borough. This includes making walking and cycling easier and safer for people and improving access to public transport, to ultimately make travelling sustainably a more appealing option than driving a petrol or diesel car. Again, there are huge co-benefits from switching to sustainable and active travel, including improved air quality and better health from individuals being more active.

Greenhouse gas emissions also come from goods and services - these are known as consumption-based emissions. An analysis of Wandsworth's consumption-based emissions (including from food, housing, transport, goods, services, and government and capital investment) found that in 2020 consumption-based emissions in Wandsworth were 2,778 tonnes CO₂e. This analysis showed that the borough's consumption-based emissions reduced by 31% between 2001 and 2020. It also found that consumption-based emissions per person (per capita) were lower in Wandsworth than the UK average.

While this is good progress, it is far behind what is needed to meet the London-wide target of reducing consumption-based emissions by two thirds by 2030. To support in reaching this target, the council is contributing to London Council's One World Living (OWL) Programme, which is working to reduce consumption-based emissions from food, electricals, plastics and textiles.

The council is co-lead for the textiles theme. Key to the work of the OWL programme is promoting and enabling the circular economy in London. A circular economy is one in which materials and products are not thrown away, but constantly reused and repurposed for as long as possible. A circular economy therefore reduces consumption-based emissions and waste.

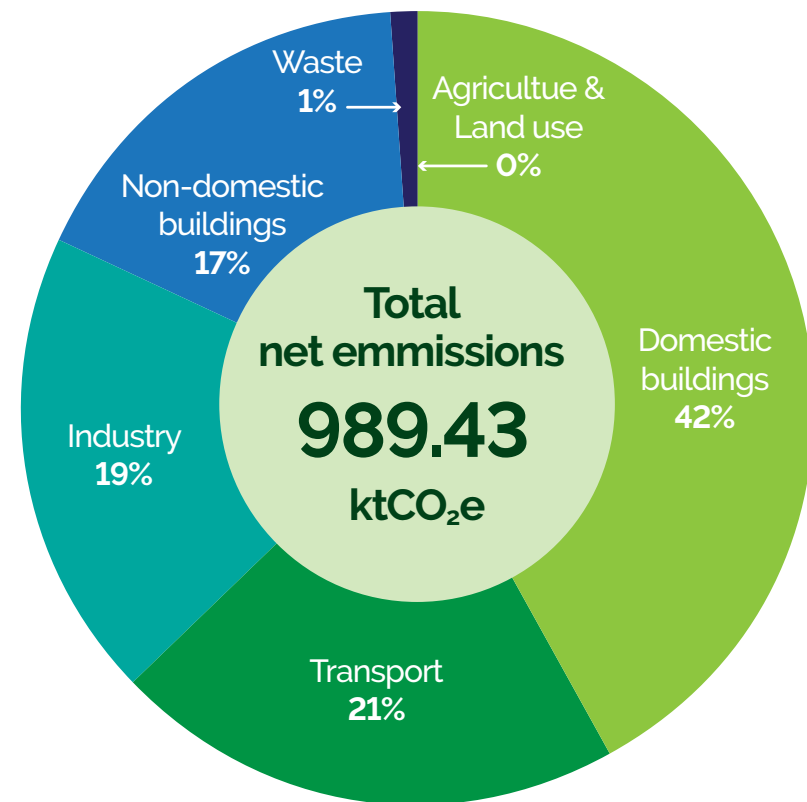


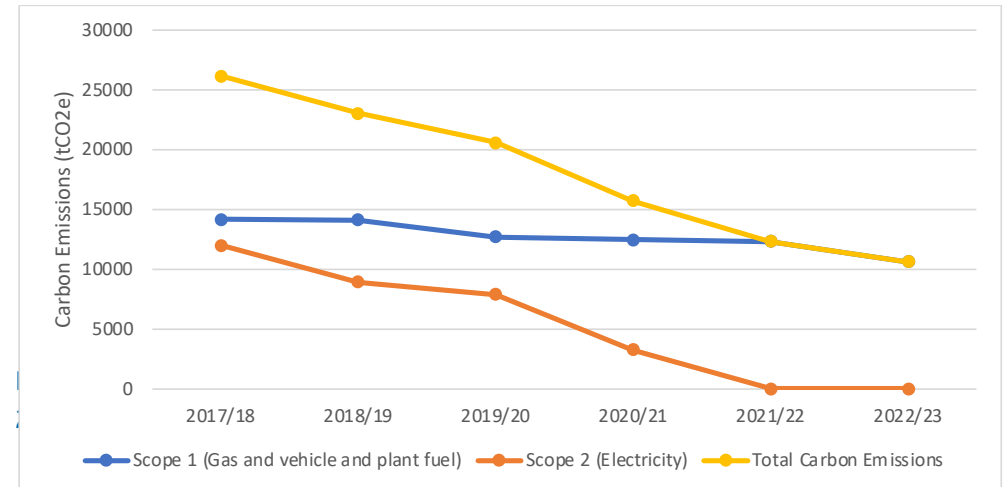
Figure 1
Sectoral breakdown of greenhouse gas emissions in Wandsworth

A Carbon Neutral organisation by 2030

The council has a vital role to play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and so we have set a target to be carbon neutral as an organisation by 2030.

This target applies to all Scope 1 and Scope 2 organisational emissions. Scope 1 emissions are direct emissions from council operations (e.g., burning petrol/diesel for its vehicle fleet and burning gas for heating). Scope 2 emissions are indirect emissions from council operations (e.g., electricity and energy purchasing).

In 2021, the council started purchasing Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin (REGOs). This reduced its Scope 2 emissions to zero. Figure 2 shows Wandsworth Council's Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions from 2017/18 to 2022/23. Over this period, Wandsworth Council's emissions reduced by 59.3%. Between 2021/22 and 2022/23, the council's emissions reduced by 12.35%.



Vehicle decarbonisation

Some of the council's staff need vehicles as part of their work, from parks and highways to housing and noise control. These vehicles contribute to the council's carbon emissions and need to be decarbonised to become a carbon neutral organisation by 2030. In 2023, the council worked on understanding how and when we can decarbonise our vehicles and developed a fleet decarbonisation transition plan, which will reduce carbon emissions from the fleet by 97% and reduce local air pollutants from the fleet by 99%.



Decarbonising council buildings

Improvements have been made to council buildings in 2023 to reduce their carbon emissions, with works to improve energy efficiency, replace lighting with LEDs, install solar panels, and replace gas boilers with heat pumps at Yvonne Carr Centre and the Tooting Hub. In our leisure centres, installation of pool covers, making adjustments to how the building operates and better monitoring has meant in decrease in energy consumption for leisure centres in Putney, Latchmere and Tooting. The impacts of this work can be seen in the reduction of our carbon emissions.

We've also looked at how we can bring in external funding to help pay for this work and make the council's money go further, with bids to the government's Swimming Pool Support Fund and Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to do more work on decarbonising our buildings.



Air source heat pump at the Tooting Hub

Pensions

Wandsworth's Pension Fund (total fund value £2.7bn) has set a net zero target of 2050, with a goal of reducing emissions from its pension fund by 60% by 2030. Through shifting investments, the Fund's Weighted Average Carbon Intensity has reduced by 42% since 2019. In May 2023, the Fund backed Britain's biggest investment in the UK's ground source heat pump industry, investing £70m in ground source heat pump business Kensa Group.

Embedding sustainability in the organisation

Ensuring that climate change is at the heart of all the council does is a priority, and work on climate change takes place in teams across the organisation.

An example of this was the workshop held in November to shape the climate action plan, which featured 30 officers from different teams to discuss barriers and challenges on climate action, opportunities and potential actions. Supporting this, the council has launched Carbon Literacy training for staff to provide knowledge and understanding of climate change so that teams can take confident action on climate change.

Our staff offer has improved, with renewed promotion of the Bike 2 Work scheme and new EV leasing scheme for staff

in 2024, the council is committed to:

Publishing a new Decarbonisation Strategy, detailing how the council will decarbonise its operational buildings

Implementing a new vehicle decarbonisation strategy, detailing how and when the council will replace its vehicles with zero emissions vehicles

Setting up a Sustainability Network for council staff to meet regularly to discuss, learn, and act on climate change.

Enabling sustainable and low carbon transport

Transport accounts for 21% of the borough's emissions. To reach the council's target of being net zero as a borough by 2043, modes of transportation across the borough must be decarbonised.

Beyond decarbonisation, transportation must be affordable and accessible for all. Decarbonising transportation also improves local air quality, by removing polluting vehicles from our roads - this in turn improves our health in reducing our exposure to air pollution.

The council is therefore rolling out a range of transportation initiatives to enable this transition, including making walking and cycling easier and safer, installing EV charging points, implementing school streets, enabling and support car clubs, and establishing an e-cargo bike delivery hub.

Electric vehicle charging

More EV charging points have been installed, with 525 new lamp column charge points in the 2023/24. Alongside the fast and rapid public charge points, this means there are now 1431 public charge points available across the borough. Following a successful trial to improve access to charge points with EV Only bays, 15 bays were made permanent and up to 40 more potential EV Only bays have been identified.

Supporting cycling

110 more bikehangars will have been installed across the borough by the end of March 2024, taking the total to 228. 30 sites have been identified in Roehampton, providing secure cycle parking in an area where there was not enough previously. A Cycle Parking Strategy was approved in November, which brings together different cycle parking programmes and aims to establish Wandsworth as a centre of best practice for cycle parking for accessible and nonstandard bikes.

There has also been the launching of a trial of e-cargo bike delivery hub at Southside to reduce last mile emissions from deliveries, and cycle training was delivered to 1750 adults and children in 2023.

School streets

26 out of 61 primary schools in the borough have school streets, which protect schoolchildren from traffic and air pollution. Eight more schemes are in development, which would reach the target we set of having half of primary schools with school streets ahead of the 2030 target date.

Walking and cycling infrastructure

Improved walking and cycling infrastructure has been installed across the borough throughout the year. This includes five zebra crossings, several dropped kerbs have also been installed following requests and continuous footway crossings are being considered as part of schemes to prioritise pedestrian movements. We've also developed our plans for improvements at Old York Road and Burntwood Lane.

in 2024, the council is committed to:

Installing more bikehangars

Creating a core cycle network across the borough

Promoting the use of e-cargo bikes and developing plans for more e-cargo bikes

Installing more EV charge points, including lamp column charge points, fast and rapid charge points

Increasing the number of schools streets in the borough.

Improving Air Quality

Air quality and climate change are intrinsically linked. Many of the sources of air pollution (such as petrol and diesel cars and gas boilers) also contribute to climate change by emitting planet-warming greenhouse gases. Air pollution has severe impacts on health, particularly for the most vulnerable, including children and the elderly. Indeed, air pollution is one of the biggest environmental threats to human health. In London, an estimated 3,600 to 4,100 excess deaths were caused by air pollution in 2019; 115-129 of these excess deaths were in Wandsworth. Air pollution hot spots in Wandsworth in 2022 were Putney High Street, Mitcham Road, Battersea Park Road, and West Hill. Air quality has been consistently improving across the borough since 2016, but the council is committed to further reducing air pollution in recognition of the severe health risks it poses to the public.

Citizens' Assembly on Air Quality

In 2023, as part of the council's commitment to listen to residents, the council convened a Citizens' Assembly focusing on air quality. The aim of the Citizens' Assembly was to engage and involve Wandsworth residents in air quality issues and support them in co-producing an action plan to improve air quality in the borough. The Citizens' Assembly brought together residents from across the borough to examine this important issue in detail and produce recommendations not only for the council, but for the borough of Wandsworth as a whole.

The Assembly sessions ran from February through to April 2023 and considered the question 'How can we all tackle poor air quality across Wandsworth in a way that improves our health and addresses climate change?'.

The Wandsworth Air Quality Citizens' Assembly produced 53 recommendations that they felt would improve air quality in Wandsworth, covering a wide range of areas including Business and Workplaces; Green Spaces; Public Transport; Walking and Cycling; Car Related Transport; Awareness Raising & Use of Data; Children & Schools; and Homes. These recommendations and were published by the council in the summer of 2023.

Wandsworth Air Quality Action Plan 2023

After receiving the recommendations from the Citizens' Assembly, the council used them as the basis for developing a new Air Quality Action Plan for Wandsworth, which was published in September 2023. The Plan aims to reflect and embed the views of the Citizens' Assembly that "by coming together we can identify the things we have in common that must be acted on" and "we believe that this can change the borough for the better". A priority of the Action Plan was also to lead by example. The council therefore committed to adopting the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines on air pollution, which go much further than the UK guidelines and will help ensure that air quality in Wandsworth improves to a level deemed safe for public health.

Tackling air pollution requires action from different sectors, which is reflected in the new Air Quality Action Plan. Key actions include improving awareness and understanding of how residents can best to protect themselves from air pollution and the things they can do to reduce their own contributions, working with TfL for zero emissions buses on bus routes in Wandsworth and establishing a programme of Air Quality Ambassadors to lead community work on air quality in Wandsworth.



ULEZ

The Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) was expanded by the Mayor of London in August 2023, widening the area that high polluting vehicles would need to pay a charge to enter in order to improve air quality. As part of the council's support for residents who may not be able to afford to switch their vehicles for cleaner ones, the council launched its ULEZ Sustainable Travel Financial Assistance Scheme, a £1m grant scheme to help Wandsworth residents on lower incomes sell, replace or dispose of motor vehicles (cars, vans or motorcycles) that do not meet the ULEZ emissions standards, with £1000 made available for low income residents.

Anti-Idling

Idling is an unnecessary and avoidable contribution to air pollution. The council has been working to communicate the damage idling causes. In 2023, the council ran 11 anti-idling events and four school pollution and idling workshops. It also did four school air quality assessments and installed 22 no vehicle idling signs and six idling action banners at schools.

in 2024, the council is committed to:

- Continue to monitor air quality across the borough and publish this data
- Roll-out an engagement and communications programme on air quality
- Deliver on our new Air Quality Action Plan.



Decarbonising buildings across the borough

Carbon emissions from residential buildings make up the largest portion of emissions from the borough. Decarbonising homes across the borough is therefore central to achieving net zero by 2043. There are a range of retrofitting measures that can be implemented to help decarbonise buildings, including improving the energy efficiency of buildings, replacing gas boilers with heat pumps, and installing solar panels. These actions also offer significant co-benefits for people living in retrofitted buildings, including saving money on energy bills; improved health and comfort from homes no longer being cold and damp; reduction in indoor air pollution; and saving money from solar panels by not being reliant on energy from the national grid.

However, the cost of retrofitting buildings can be prohibitive. Many people cannot afford the cost of the works to retrofit their homes. The council has therefore been working to try and remove this barrier and help people access funding and support to retrofit their homes.

Supporting people to reduce their energy use and energy bills

The Green Homes Grant provided government funding for homeowners and landlords to improve the energy efficiency of their homes. The council supported the delivery of energy efficiency improvements for those on the lowest incomes and in the least energy efficient homes using funding from the Green Homes Grant. This concluded in September 2023, with Phase 3 delivering improvements for 49 properties, bringing the total number of homes improved to 129 across the 3 phases of Green Homes Grant.

As part of the council's support for residents facing the Cost of Living Crisis, we have funded the roll out of 'warm home packs' to for residents in Wandsworth on the lowest incomes and in the least energy efficient homes. The packs include 6 energy efficient LED light bulbs, radiator foil, and draft exclusion tape. We targeted 5,600 eligible homes in Wandsworth, all of whom were contacted by letter to invite them to a collect a free pack from either our launch event or their local library, alongside giving ut the packs at events including the Leaders Roadshow.

So far we have distributed over 1700 packs. This supports the funding already provided to groups like Thinking Works and SW Leap who provide energy efficiency advice and support for residents in need.

Supporting domestic retrofit

Progress has been made throughout 2023 in supporting 'able to pay' retrofit - those who are not eligible for funding support but want to take action to retrofit their homes. Working in partnership with other South London boroughs, we are developing a retrofit toolkit which will provide information and guidance for those who want to carry out retrofit on their homes. Funding from government was secured to increase retrofit skills across South London, which will develop a Retrofit Skills Plan for South London, establish a Retrofit Taskforce to oversee delivery of the plan and launch a programme of engagement with suppliers on retrofit skills needs and training.



Decarbonising our Social Housing

Wandsworth Council owns over 30,000 social housing properties across the borough, so reducing carbon emissions from the council's housing stock is a key part of reaching net zero. We've improved our understanding of what we need to do to improve our housing stock and identified that only 2.5% fall into the lowest categories of EPC E or below. To target these lowest performing properties, we're working alongside energy companies to launch the ECO scheme which will provide increased insulation.

We've also looked at our communal heating systems, identifying the eight poorest performing and developing plans to improve them and reduce energy use. A project has also started at the sheltered housing block at Holmleigh Court to replace the existing communal boiler with an air source heat pump.

We're also being innovative in our approach, trialling new technologies such as infra-red heating and securing planning for Passive House standards at the new housing development off Bessborough Road, with two further housing schemes in development to these high standards of low energy use.

Decarbonising our Schools

Supporting Wandsworth's 2043 Net Zero target, a decarbonisation framework to support schools in achieving their carbon reduction goals has been launched which sets out information and guidelines on how schools can reduce their energy consumption and stay on track with their decarbonisation targets. Alongside this information, energy audit trials for three community schools (Garratt Park Special School, Riversdale Primary School and Smallwood Primary School) have been completed and installation of LEDs completed. These trials will help us shape our support for schools in the future.

Wandsworth Local Plan

In July 2023 Wandsworth Council adopted its new Local Plan, which is focused on guiding development in the borough and includes a list of locations or areas where development could happen.



The new Local Plan goes further than before on climate change and sustainability. And has policies and development requirements focussing on tackling climate change; sustainable transport; and green and blue infrastructure and the natural environment. The Local Plan embeds climate and sustainability considerations into all developments from sustainable construction and design to adapting to climate change and reducing carbon emissions to the circular economy.



in 2024, the council is committed to:

Developing a borough Retrofit Strategy to pull together decarbonising of council-owned properties, social housing, and private housing sectors

Supporting energy efficiency work via ECO4 funding for both social housing and for private housing, as well as seeing how Wandsworth can be involved in the the government backed local authority retrofit delivery scheme

Supporting residents to deal with high energy bills as part of the Cost of Living crisis through support and advice from Thinking Works and SW Leap as well as continued rollout of Warm Home Packs. The Cost of Living Commission's recommendations on energy will also be followed up during the year, including looking at how they can be implemented in the borough

Continuing to support schools in decarbonising.

Biodiversity and Green Spaces

The UK's nature is under threat. Across Great Britain, 16% of species are threatened with extinction and across the UK species have declined by 19% on average since 1970.

Urban areas can provide vital refuges for nature, help boost biodiversity, and halt the declining trends the UK's nature is experiencing. From large parks to wildlife corridors and residential gardens to parklets, there are opportunities across the borough to create much needed space for nature.

Protecting and enhancing Wandsworth's biodiversity and green spaces is a high priority for the council. Green spaces provide vital habitats for species and also provide important benefits for people, including better mental health, improved air quality, and cool spaces during heatwaves.

A new Tree and Woodland Delivery Framework was created in June 2023 which sets out our approach for tree planting and includes a review of new locations for street tree planting, which identified around 2000 new locations for street trees across the borough. We planted over 700 trees throughout the 2022/23 planting season and are reaching the end of the 2023/24 planting season where a further 800 will be planted.

In our parks, six parks maintained their Green Flag Status marking them out as of the highest quality, while habitat enhancement and creation schemes in Wandsworth Park were completed and improved wildlife corridors connectivity for pollinators was put in place at King Georges Park and Putney Park Lane.

On our housing estates, we have continued No Mow May, increased planting of drought resistant plants and planting those on the Perfect for Pollinators list. New hedges have been planted on the Roehampton estate in collaboration with the SW15 Hedgehogs group, and a renovation of the pond at Edgecombe Hall is underway to remove the invasive and damaging carp there and allow the return of native species



We are working with our parks contractors and partners to improve the sustainability of their operations, including using cargo bikes for litter picking on Wandsworth Common and Tooting Common and using electric vehicles where possible.

in 2024, the council is committed to:

Planting 800 trees in 2023/24 planting season and 1000 trees in 2024/25

Delivering biodiversity net gain on the 1000 homes schemes

Reducing waste and increasing the Circular Economy

Waste is a source of carbon emissions, both through the processes involved in the disposing of waste and through the carbon emissions associated with the growth and production of stuff that is ultimately then thrown away.

Addressing this is an immediate priority for the council, with a need to improve recycling rates through increased access to more appropriate recycling facilities, improving opportunities to recycle, and introducing food waste collections borough wide. Promoting the circular economy is also key, as this designs out waste from products and the systems we use from the start.

Reducing emissions from our waste fleet

A new waste fleet running on hydrogenated vegetable oil (HVO) has been approved and will be on Wandsworth streets later in 2024. This reduces carbon emissions from our waste collection vehicles by 90% and reduces harmful air pollution from vehicles by 95%.



Our Cleaner Borough

Wandsworth Council developed plans to step up the quality of waste collection services in the borough as well as introduce a new food waste collection service, part of the Our Cleaner Borough Plan that will make it easier and simpler for residents to recycle and reduce waste. A refreshed 4-year waste contract has been put in place to ensure this can happen, alongside important trial work, including a food waste trial which has led to the roll out of borough wide food waste collection in 2024, as well as trial approaches on housing estates which has paved the way for wider range of improvements in housing estates across the borough. Supporting this, we have worked with Keep Britain Tidy to launch a communication and engagement campaign on housing estates to increase recycling and reduce waste.

Library of Things

Wandsworth Library of Things is a place where you can borrow useful household items you don't need to use often, instead of buying them. This means there are less carbon emissions from the making of and disposing of items that we buy and then don't need. Wandsworth Library of Things opened in November 2023 in partnership with Southside Shopping Centre, and has 40 household items available to hire.

One World Living

Wandsworth has continued to play a leading role within the One World Living programme, one of London Councils' seven climate programmes which has the aim of reducing London's consumption based emissions - the carbon emissions associated with what we buy, use and dispose. One World Living focuses on four areas related to the circular economy: electricals, food, plastics, and textiles.

Wandsworth is the lead for the textiles workstream so has focused efforts on this area.

As part of this work, we have:

- **Developed education packs on textiles and the circular economy for primary and secondary schools.**
- **Rolled out TRAIID textiles collection bins across London.**
- **Worked with other London Boroughs on textiles and the circular economy, with the aim of creating a pan-London circular textiles action plan.**



Alongside this we have run the schools eco refill shop project, a pilot initiative in 7 schools in Wandsworth, which gives the chance for pupils to run their own small scale refill shop at school selling to parents and the local community. As well as reducing single use plastic use and making refill a normal thing, it develops entrepreneurial skills among school-aged children.

Single Use Planet was a free art exhibition showing giant plastic jellyfish created in over 50 primary classes from schools across Wandsworth. Single Use Planet worked to explore single use plastics, and the impact they have on our planet with children in school years four and five. Each class created a jellyfish made entirely from single use plastics, which was displayed together in Southside Shopping Centre. After the exhibition each of the schools were able to keep their own jellyfish to display in their school or classroom.

We have also taken part in the Eat Like a Londoner campaign, a pan-London campaign which aimed to encourage the uptake of more sustainable and healthy diets. This included posters in train stations and outside supermarkets alongside extensive social media presence, with over 90 000 social media impressions for Wandsworth. We have also developed a new Food Strategy for the borough, with a focus on sustainable food and the promotion and access to sustainable and healthy food across the borough.

in 2024, the council is committed to:

Rolling out the new HVO waste fleet and complete a waste fleet decarbonisation analysis to understand how to further reduce emissions from the council's waste fleet in future

Delivering the Our Cleaner Borough Plan to improve waste collection and recycling

Signing up to and fulfilling the London Plastics Pledge to reduce single use plastic in the council

Rolling out the textiles theme One World Living projects, including a circular textiles schools engagement programme and developing a pan-London circular textiles action plan.

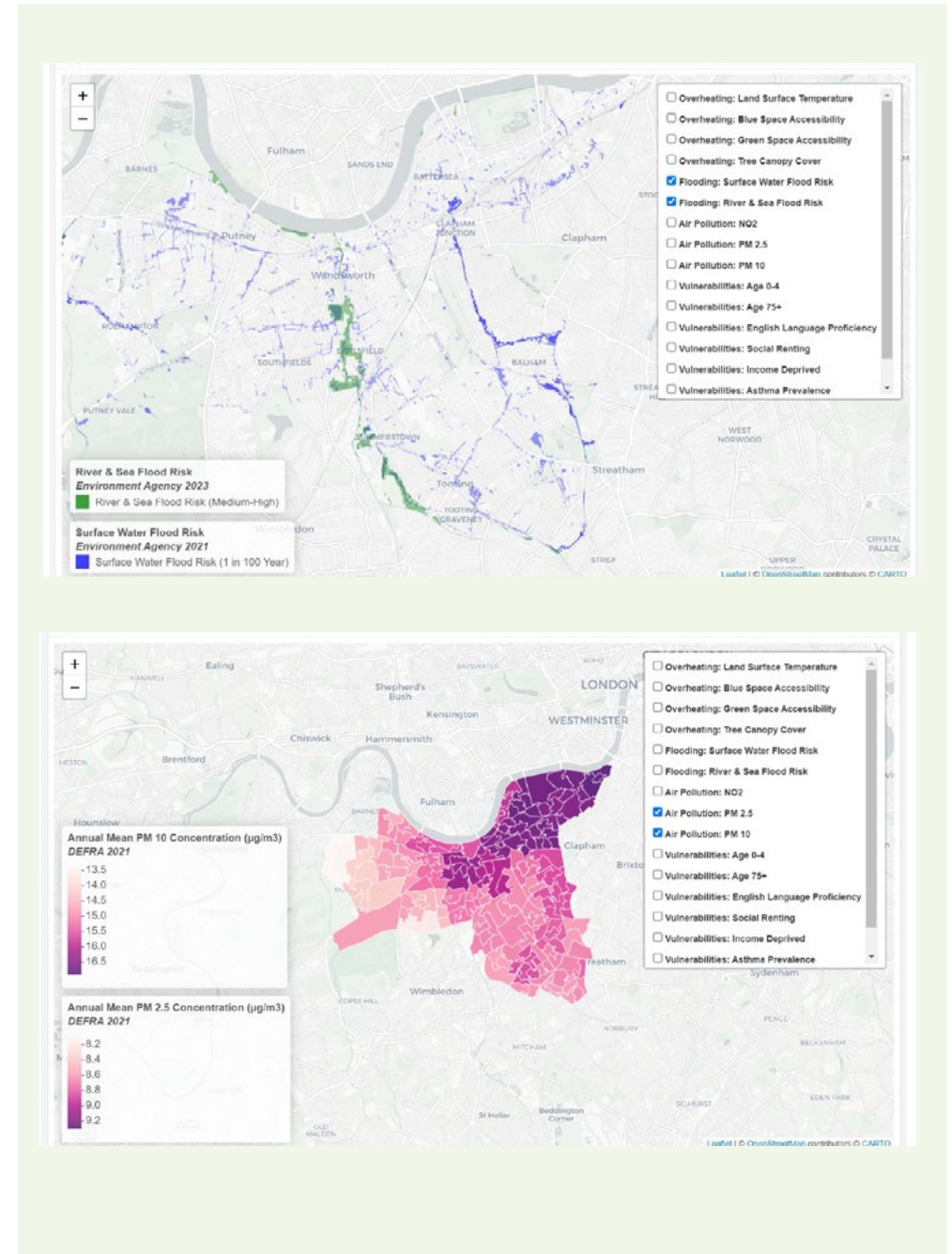
Climate Adaptation and Resilience

In 2023, global temperatures are 1.2°C higher than pre-industrial levels. It is expected that 1.5°C will be temporarily reached in 2024.

This could trigger tipping points, which cannot be reversed and could result in further and more severe changes to our climate. We therefore must keep working to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions to limit further global temperature rises and the associated impacts. Alongside mitigation, we need to accept and recognise that the impacts of climate change are already happening. We therefore must adapt to our changing climate and ensure our communities are resilient to the impacts of climate change. The council has been working to provide better information on climate risks and implement adaptation and resilience measures.

Climate Risk Mapping

We have developed a climate risk map to show social vulnerabilities and environmental risks related to a changing climate across the borough. This tool will enable the council to identify areas most at risk and most vulnerable to climate change, with the specific information on the types of risks and vulnerabilities allowing us to plan more targeted and impactful actions. Furthermore, residents will be able to use the climate risk map to better understand their risk and in turn improve their resilience.



Community Bluescapes

Community Bluescapes is a natural flood management project working to reduce flood risk in the Beverley Brook catchment. The Alton Estate in Roehampton falls within the catchment and so work has begun to engage with the community here on reducing their risk and exposure to flooding. Solutions to extreme weather and climate change will be produced in partnership with the community here.

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)

Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) help to reduce flood risk by mimicking natural drainage. They also contribute to improving the local environment by using green infrastructure, which can help create habitats and biodiversity areas, and reducing pollution from surface water flooding. The council is rolling out SuDS across the borough. In 2023, it developed SuDS at Bolingbroke Walk, which were adopted into the Battersea Church Road housing development.

Climate Change and Public Health

Climate change and health are intrinsically linked. Climate change poses significant health threats to the public, but in turn tackling climate change can offer numerous health benefits beyond reducing the direct health risks from a changing climate. The council is committed to treating the climate emergency as a health emergency.

A number of achievements were made in 2023, including:

- Providing training for staff on health and climate change.
- Delivering climate change workshops and briefs.
- Forming a heatwave and vulnerable population working group.
- Contributing to the SW London Integrated Care Green Plan (NHS).

in 2024, the council is committed to:

- Developing a new Wandsworth Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy
- Engaging with residents of the Alton Estate as part of the Community Bluescapes natural flood management project
- Implementing the Public Health Engagement and Communications Plan
- Contributing to the London Council's Resilient and Green program.



Engagement and Communication

It's important as a council that we not only communicate our own climate action work and progress but information about how residents can adapt to our changing climate and mitigate against further damages.

To achieve our 2043 net zero borough target it's essential that we all come together to find solutions to this collective crisis together.

Great Big Green Week

This year we held our first Great Big Green Week, joining in with the Climate Coalition's national week celebrating, highlighting and championing local climate action. As part of the week 35 microgrants were given out to support groups and individuals to run a range of activities and events contributing to a programme of over 70 events and initiatives. The week was us a chance to promote and support established borough partner schemes as well as kick-start new projects across a range of themes including planting, nature trails, poetry, litter-picking, energy efficiency, celebrating the planet, climate positive & sustainable behaviours, eco-crafting, growing food, green innovation, circular economy, reuse & repair, conservation, clean air, water quality citizen science, nature mindfulness, recycling, active & sustainable travel and wildlife habitat building.

Wandsworth Sustainability Partnership

This year the Sustainability Partnership (launched in November 2022) met three times to discuss a range of topics with presentations from Kids Against Plastic, Roehampton University, Pupils Profit and Shared Futures to name a few. This open invite event continues to be an open forum for conversation, collaboration and networking around local climate action work in Wandsworth and how we can all work together better to accelerate our progress as individuals and as a borough towards Net Zero.



Reuse and Repair Fair

We also held our first Reuse and Repair fair, to bring together some of the circular economy initiatives happening across the borough into a showcase at the Royal College of Arts. Attendees were able to have items fixed and triaged by repair cafe, find out more

about the innovative work of the textiles circularity centre, make collages from reused materials with local artist Goose Glitters or learn to sew an upcycled draught excluder with Traid alongside free bike repairs and stalls from local businesses promoting reuse and recycle.

in 2024, the council is committed to:

Launching a Climate Action microgrant programme to support and fund residents to start, develop and grow more local climate action projects

Hosting a large-scale borough wide Net Zero Partnership event to bring together stakeholders across Wandsworth to discuss out 2043 target and the roadmap to achieving it together

Continuing to support our local schools, not just in the decarbonisation of their buildings but with their climate curriculum and extra-curricular activities for students through our termly eco-leads meetings and school's climate hub

Launching a new programme to support businesses to improve their sustainability which will provide enhanced energy efficiency support and advice for businesses and access to sustainability management system so businesses can track their sustainability journey and progress.

Partnership Working across London to take climate action

In addition to working in partnership with people and organisations in Wandsworth, we work in collaboration with other London Boroughs and other partners across London so we can access funding, share learning and research and share the workload on our collective efforts to reach our shared net zero goals. Some examples of our partnership working are summarised below.

London Councils

London Councils has seven climate change programmes, working to address a range of climate-related challenges. Wandsworth Council is actively involved in several of these programmes.

One World Living

The One World Living programme focuses on reducing consumption-based emissions across four themes: food, electricals, plastics, and textiles at a pan-London level. Wandsworth Council is co-lead for the textiles theme, but is also actively supporting the other themes and regularly meets with stakeholders across the themes to develop action plans. This has also led to collaboration with organisations like Imperial University's Grantham Institute, ReLondon and the Ellen MacArthur Foundation.

Resilient and Green

The council is contributing to the Resilient and Green programme and is directly involved in several of the identified priorities. This is a very recently launched programme, but will be a priority area in 2024.

Low Carbon Development

The council attended and contributed to the working groups of the Low Carbon Development programme, which led to the development of the Low Carbon Development Toolkit. The Toolkit is an evolving document, which provides information and guidance on low carbon developments, including energy statements, carbon offsetting, and best practice.

South London Partnership

We are project managing a group of Net Zero Officers from across the South London Partnership (SLP) to undertake some user research around retrofitting for the able-to-pay market, having received a small grant fund. This work hopes to increase the number of homes being retrofitted, with research being pulled from the SLP boroughs to establish the barriers for residents to retrofit their homes, and guiding our next steps and actions on this to make it more accessible.

We are a part of the South London Partnership's Retrofit Skills Taskforce, funded by DESNZ via the GSEZHZ to develop an action plan and pilots to rapidly grow the skills needed across the supply chain to respond to the domestic retrofit opportunity across South London.

West London

Working with other boroughs in West London, we have taken part in a consortium led by Ealing council to access Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme funding and Home Upgrade Grant funding from central government. We worked together with 12 other London Boroughs in phases 2 and 3 of the scheme, bringing in £20m funding to support retrofit on low energy efficiency and low income properties across West London.

in 2024, the council is committed to:

Continue to work in partnership with other London Boroughs and other London institutions to improve our ability to reach net zero.