



Mayor and Cabinet

Lewisham Climate Emergency Action Plan update 2020/21

Date: 10 March 2021

Key decision: No

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: Type here, Arial size 11

Key decision: No

Contributors: Executive Director Executive Director for Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm, Executive Director for Corporate Services

Outline and recommendations

This report provides Mayor and Cabinet with an update on delivery of Lewisham's Climate Emergency Action Plan and sets out the approach proposed for the next 12 months. Mayor and Cabinet is invited to note the update on progress and future plans and agree the proposed response to the 3 February 2021 referral from the Sustainable Development Select Committee.

Timeline of engagement and decision-making

In February 2019 Lewisham councillors agreed a motion to declare a 'Climate Emergency' and asked Mayor and Cabinet to adopt an action plan by the end of 2019/20 with the aim of making the borough carbon neutral by 2030.

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s62942/Motion%20%20proposed%20Cllr%20Anwar%20seconded%20Cllr%20Krupski.pdf>

Mayor and Cabinet agreed Lewisham's Climate Emergency Action Plan on 11 March 2020.
<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s72555/Climate%20Emergency%20Action%20Plan.pdf>

Sustainable Development Select Committee received an update on the Climate Emergency Action Plan on 17 January 2021.

1. Summary

- 1.1. This report provides Mayor and Cabinet with an update on Lewisham's Climate Emergency Action Plan, which was published in March 2020.
- 1.2. COVID19 has affected delivery of the Action Plan, but the reasons for and the urgency of the need for action on climate change remain unchanged. This report:
 - Provides an update on Lewisham's Climate Emergency Action Plan;
 - Restates the need for action and outlines the focus of our work to respond to the Climate Emergency in the context of COVID19;
 - Outlines priorities for the coming 12 months;

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Mayor and Cabinet is invited to:
 - 2.1.1. Note the update on progress and future plans for delivery on Lewisham's Climate Emergency Action Plan; and
 - 2.1.2. Agree the proposed response to the 3 February 2021 referral from the Sustainable Development Select Committee set out below in Section 6.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1. In 2016, the UK Government ratified the Paris Agreement, part of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which commits countries to taking action to prevent the global average temperature increasing 2°C above pre-industrial levels. In 2017 the Government published its Clean Growth Strategy setting out its approach to delivering on greenhouse gas emission targets and in 2019 the Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019¹ committed the UK to a legally binding target of net zero emissions by 2050. In December 2020 the Government's Energy White Paper provided more details on the UK's planned trajectory to net zero, with further proposals promised in the run up to the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) hosted by the UK, which has been deferred to November 2021.
- 3.2. Lewisham's Corporate Strategy priority 'Making Lewisham Greener' includes the following commitments relating to energy:
 - We will maximise opportunities for energy efficiency in all council buildings and new developments;
 - We will explore working with publicly owned not-for profit energy suppliers that do not penalise poorer residents using prepay meters.
- 3.3. The actions and the values of Lewisham's Climate Emergency Action Plan support delivery across the Corporate Strategy, in particular:
 - 'Tackling the housing crisis' and improved standards across all housing sectors;
 - 'Building an inclusive local economy' and supporting the growth of a thriving local economy;
 - 'Making Lewisham greener' and the increased use of environmentally friendly transport as well as better care for our local environment and planet.

4. Background

- 4.1. The social, economic and environmental risks associated with a rise in global temperatures above 1.5°C are well established², but the international community has,

¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2019/9780111187654>

² <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

Is this report easy to understand?

Please give us feedback so we can improve.

Go to <https://lewisham.gov.uk/contact-us/send-us-feedback-on-our-reports>

so far, struggled to deliver on commitments to reduce carbon emissions. 'Climate Emergency' has been a community-level response to the perceived lack of action at international and national levels. By the end of 2020 70% of UK local authorities, including 26 London Boroughs, had declared a Climate Emergency and set local targets to cut emissions.

- 4.2. In February 2019 Lewisham Councillors approved a motion declaring a Climate Emergency and setting the ambition for Lewisham to be carbon neutral by 2030³. Lewisham's Climate Emergency Action plan was developed over the course of 2019 through an internal working group, discussions with residents and with community groups, and input from the Sustainable Development Select Committee. The Action Plan was also informed by a detailed study to identify and cost a trajectory that met the ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030⁴. Lewisham's Climate Emergency Action Plan was approved by Mayor and Cabinet on the 11 March 2020⁵.
- 4.3. The Action Plan identified the following priorities:
 - The scale of the climate crisis requires us to be ambitious;
 - The Council should demonstrate leadership in terms of its own operations;
 - Action on climate change is action on social justice;
 - Action on climate change also has the potential to deliver benefits in relation to skills and employment; health and wellbeing and wider environmental programmes;
 - The target cannot be delivered by the Council alone. Lobbying central government, partnership working with partners locally and resident engagement must be at the heart of our approach.
- 4.4. The Action Plan set out 143 actions across the following 5 delivery areas:
 - Leading by Example;
 - Sustainable Housing;
 - Decarbonised Transport;
 - Greener Adaptive Lewisham;
 - Inspiring, Learning and Lobbying.
- 4.5. An assessment of progress against each action is included as an annex to this report.

³ <https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s62942/Motion%20%20proposed%20Cllr%20Anwar%20seconded%20Cllr%20Krupski.pdf>

⁴ <https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s72556/Annex%20C%20Routes%20to%20Carbon%20Neutral%20Report.pdf>

⁵ <https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s72555/Climate%20Emergency%20Action%20Plan.pdf>

Is this report easy to understand?

Please give us feedback so we can improve.

Go to <https://lewisham.gov.uk/contact-us/send-us-feedback-on-our-reports>

5. Restating the need for action on climate change

- 5.1. The risks and impacts of a changing climate will not fall equally, and without significant and sustained action the consequences will exacerbate poverty and health inequalities globally and locally.
- 5.2. In addition, given the fundamental nature of the changes needed, there are considerable risks that the actions taken to limit carbon emissions could in themselves disadvantage low income and vulnerable individuals and communities. For example, COVID19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in global energy demand⁶, a cut in carbon emissions that has come at huge social and economic cost. This impact underlines the need for the UK Government to break the links between economic prosperity and carbon, and that locally, our strategy should be to address climate change as an issue of social justice with a focus on our low income and vulnerable individuals and communities.
- 5.3. The Council's contribution to the carbon footprint of the borough has been calculated as being just 3%, but it is right that we seek to be ambitious. Taking positive steps to cut carbon emissions and adapt to a changing climate offers opportunities for wider benefits for health and wellbeing, skills and local jobs and other social and environmental outcomes.
- 5.4. It is important to recognise that delivery of the ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030 goes way beyond the resources and functions of the Council as a local authority. The trajectory analysis informing Lewisham's Action Plan estimated the cost as being at least £1.6bn. Lewisham Council's Climate Emergency Action plan seeks to balance the need to be ambitious with recognition that delivery is dependent on significant and sustained action by central government and by all sectors and communities responding positively to the need for change. Lobbying central Government for the investment in infrastructure and the legal and fiscal incentives, and engaging with local partners and the wider community remain fundamental priorities if we are to achieve our ambitions on climate change.

6. Referral from the Sustainable Development Select Committee

- 6.1. The Sustainable Development Select Committee considered an update report on the Climate Emergency Action Plan at its meeting on the 14 January 2021⁷. Following that meeting the Committee made the following recommendation to Mayor and Cabinet:

The Committee recommends that the Council puts on its website a climate emergency page, which contains a guide for residents on how to live more sustainably. This would be the most direct practical and visible way of engaging with residents and businesses, therefore leading by example.

- 6.2. The 'Inspiring, Learning and Lobbying' theme within the Council's 2020 Climate Emergency Action Plan includes actions aimed at providing practical advice to residents (action 5.1.3), businesses (5.3.6) and working with local partners (5.3.1; 5.3.5; and others) to support action to cut emissions. COVID19 restricted progress against this actions but, as the borough and the UK emerges from lockdown this will be a key focus of our work.

The Council's website includes information on the Climate Emergency⁸ and a mailing

⁶ <https://www.iea.org/topics/covid-19>

⁷ <https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=136&MId=6313&Ver=4>

⁸ <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/environment/making-the-borough-carbon-neutral-by-2030-climate-emergency-declaration>

Is this report easy to understand?

Please give us feedback so we can improve.

Go to <https://lewisham.gov.uk/contact-us/send-us-feedback-on-our-reports>

list has been set up providing more detailed updates on the Council's work on carbon reduction and climate change. Over 300 residents have signed up to this mailing list.

- 6.3. It is recommended that Mayor and Cabinet approves the recommendation of the Committee. Officers are developing the content of the Council's Climate Emergency webpage and support the Committee's recommendation that this should include practical guidance. Part of the challenge for individuals and organisations is that there is a huge amount of information available from a wide range of sources and officers will aim to use the page to connect residents and local organisations to relevant sources with an emphasis on practical actions. The Council's Climate Emergency webpages will be updated in the first quarter of 2021/22.

7. Progress since March 2020

- 7.1. The 143 actions in the March 2020 Action Plan are divided across the following themes:

- Leading by Example;
- Sustainable Housing;
- Decarbonised Transport;
- Green Infrastructure;
- Inspiring, Learning and Lobbying.

- 7.2. COVID19 has affected delivery, but also reinforces the central underlying principle of the Action Plan: that a changing climate has the greatest impact on our most vulnerable communities, and that taking action on climate should be framed in the context of taking action on social justice.

- 7.3. An annotated list of the set of actions is attached as an annex to this report.

- 7.4. Key achievements since the Action Plan was published in March 2020 include:

- In February 2021 the Council was awarded £2,983,428 funding under the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme⁹. This funding will support energy efficiency and zero carbon retrofit work in the following corporate buildings: Town Hall Chambers, The Leemore Centre, Sydenham Community Centre, Brockley Rise Centre, Granville Park Adult Learning Centre, Grove Park Adult Learning Centre and Hither Green Cemetery. It will also enable an expansion of planned capital works at Myatt Garden School.
- In February 2021 the Council was awarded £825,000 funding under the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery funding for round 1b¹⁰, which will deliver insulation and window upgrades to 165 Lewisham Homes properties.
- In 2020/21 Lewisham's South London Energy Efficiency Partnership will support 2,895 low income and vulnerable households with practical advice on staying warm and cutting the cost of energy. The Council secured £435,000 external funding in 20/21 for fuel poverty advice services across South London;
- £175k funding from the Government's Low Carbon Skills Fund¹¹ to assess and develop detailed proposals for zero carbon retrofit work on 10 corporate sites and 5 schools. This funding enabled the successful bid to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme as well as a set of 'shovel-ready' projects available for

⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-sector-decarbonisation-scheme-psds>

¹⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/green-homes-grant-local-authority-delivery-scheme-entering-a-bid>

¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-sector-low-carbon-skills-fund>

Is this report easy to understand?

Please give us feedback so we can improve.

Go to <https://lewisham.gov.uk/contact-us/send-us-feedback-on-our-reports>

use when new funding opportunities arise.

- Delivery and publication of energy master-planning¹² and strategic heat decarbonisation studies¹³. This externally-funded work will support the Council's new Core Strategy in shaping the way new development meets zero carbon standards and is intended to create opportunities to bring in further investment to support heat networks;
- Delivery of Lewisham's Community Energy Fund including the Retrofit Action for Tomorrow (RAFT) initiative, an innovative engagement project with St Winifred's School;
- Participation in the London Solar Together scheme¹⁴, promoting a bulk purchasing model to reduce the cost for residents interested in buying solar panels;
- A new Parks and Open Spaces Strategy¹⁵ aligning how green and blue infrastructure in the borough contributes to achieving climate and wider environmental benefits;
- Recognition at the 2020 Community Tree Awards of the Council's work with Street Trees for Living;
- Agreement on a new investment strategy for the Council's Pension Fund which sets a low carbon mandate;
- Upgrades to the Council's fleet to comply with highest standards of emissions;
- A significant increase in digitisation in the way staff work, resulting in big reductions in corporate paper consumption;
- Introduction of 'warm mix' on road resurfacing reducing carbon emissions by 10-15% and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of planned works;
- Active engagement in London Councils' Climate Emergency work.

¹² <https://lewisham.gov.uk/-/media/files/imported/accessible-lewisham-energy-masterplan.ashx?la=en>

¹³ <https://lewisham.gov.uk/-/media/files/imported/accessible-strategic-borough-wide-decarbonisation-strategy.ashx?la=en>

¹⁴ <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/energy/solar-together-london>

¹⁵ <https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s73570/Parks%20and%20Open%20Space%20Strategy%202020.pdf>

Is this report easy to understand?

Please give us feedback so we can improve.

Go to <https://lewisham.gov.uk/contact-us/send-us-feedback-on-our-reports>

8. Priorities for the next 12 months

8.1. The focus for the next 12 months is:

- Delivery of grant funded works under the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund and development of further ‘shovel-ready’ projects for the corporate estate and schools;
- Delivery of the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery scheme with Lewisham Homes and development of Lewisham’s Homes’ Asset Management Strategy in line with the Climate Emergency Action Plan;
- Engagement activity with residents, businesses and local partners and in particular development of plans for Lewisham’s Borough of Culture year;
- Continued expansion of the South London Energy Efficiency Partnership providing targeted and practical support to low income and vulnerable households to cut the cost of staying warm and healthy;
- Delivery of the next phase of energy master-planning work funded through the Heat Network Delivery Unit (HNDU) supporting detailed assessments of the potential in Catford, Lewisham and Deptford;
- Development and implementation of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and similar initiatives once funding from TfL is confirmed;
- Reducing corporate emissions, including from schools, through the planned review of assets for corporate buildings and the Digitisation Strategy;
- De-carbonising the Council’s supply chain through improved procurement policies;
- Reviewing and streamlining the Climate Emergency Action Plan and embedding delivery of the Action Plan as part of local COVID19 recovery planning and the response to the financial pressures the Council faces;

8.2. Officers propose updating Lewisham’s Climate Emergency Action Plan in 2021 to reflect the wider impact of the pandemic on services and the borough, with the aim of creating a more streamlined approach that will sharpen the focus of priorities and reduce the administration of tracking progress. It is suggested that the number of actions could be halved without losing the level of ambition in the plan if the actions are made smarter and the detailed delivery is embedded into wider Council strategies and service plans including the COVID19 recovery plan. Using quantified data and measurable targets in the Action Plan will be one of the key ways to achieving this.

8.3. Lewisham is embedding a strategic approach to transformation through the Assistant Chief Executive’s Division. This work will bring together our strategic drivers for transformational activity, including the climate emergency, and through a more robust Project Management Office approach, is designed to ensure tangible outcomes are identified and delivered. Three new thematic programme Boards will oversee the Council’s strategic transformation activities, with the Climate Resilience Team involved in each but in particular the Ways of Working Thematic Board, driving the culture change required to deliver on the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

8.4. To streamline the current Climate Emergency Action Plan officers propose to review the actions with service teams in 2021 with a focus on the following themes:

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Leading by Example | <p>Create a culture of action on climate change within the Council.</p> <p>Deliver the target for Lewisham Council to be carbon neutral by 2030, with an interim target of reducing carbon emissions from our corporate buildings by 50% by 2025.</p> |
|---------------------------|---|

| | |
|--|---|
| Sustainable Housing | <p>Deliver a new ambition for energy and carbon performance across Lewisham Homes' stock.</p> <p>Support all tenures of housing to cut emissions.</p> |
| Decarbonised Transport | <p>Support investment in high quality public transport including the Bakerloo Line Extension.</p> <p>Create spaces for walking and cycling.</p> |
| Greener Adaptive Lewisham | <p>Promote adaptive responses to make Lewisham more resilient to a changing climate now and in the future.</p> <p>Take a holistic approach to the environment and the circular economy making the most of the connections across climate change, clean air, biodiversity, waste & recycling and sustainability.</p> |
| Inspiring Learning and Lobbying | <p>Work collaboratively with residents and partners from all sectors to inspire action on climate change across Lewisham.</p> <p>Deliver an ambitious programme of transformation that reflects and responds to the diversity of our borough in terms of age, ethnicity, disability and socio-economic background.</p> |
| Delivering the Plan | <p>Ensure a just transition to transforming carbon emissions in Lewisham.</p> <p>Action Plan implementation.</p> |

- 8.5. Due to the number of Council staff currently redeployed on COVID19 work the work to review and update the Action Plan is not expected to complete until March 2022.

9. Financial implications

- 9.1. The delivery of an ambitious programme to cut emissions across the Council's corporate estate and the borough as a whole has potentially significant cost implications. Work undertaken to support the development of Lewisham's Climate Emergency Action Plan estimated a minimum cost of £1.6bn over 10 years.
- 9.2. Lewisham Council's funding from government has been hugely cut since 2013/14, while at the same time, the Council has faced increased costs through population growth, changes to government policy and in 2020 the COVID19 pandemic. Considering the minimum cost required to achieve the action plan, there is a need to find creative ways to find the resources needed to support this work.
- 9.3. Already the Council is in the process of securing funding of up to £3.2m under the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, which will support energy efficiency and zero carbon retrofit work in 7 corporate buildings. No match funding is required.
- 9.4. In addition, external funding of approximately £1.4m has been secured for a number of projects as detailed in paragraph 7.4 above.
- 9.5. Responding to the Climate Emergency is about making better use of resources and creating an alternative to a high-carbon consumer economy. In this context there is a clear connection between delivering on a low carbon agenda and the Council's need to cut expenditure and secure greater financial stability. The budget cuts approved by Mayor and Cabinet on the 9 December 2020 and 3 February 2021 include a number of strands with potential to deliver financial and carbon reduction benefits.

Is this report easy to understand?

Please give us feedback so we can improve.

Go to <https://lewisham.gov.uk/contact-us/send-us-feedback-on-our-reports>

10. Legal implications

- 10.1. The report refers to the Climate Change Act 2008 and regulations under that Act. The Act establishes a legal framework that underpins the UK's commitment to tackling climate change, including reducing CO2 emissions and addressing climate risks. The provisions of the Act apply at central government level, at least at the moment.
- 10.2. Local authorities can use their own powers to take actions. The relevant powers are likely to include the wide general power of competence under Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 which allows local authorities to do anything that individuals generally may do. The existence of the general power is not limited by the existence of any other power of the Council which (to any extent) overlaps the general power.
- 10.3. The report refers to the current and forthcoming actions which will contribute to the delivery of the Plan. As set out at paragraph 6.3 above, 'Officers will also need to have due regard to procurement legislation and the Council's Constitution in relation to information on specific goods or services', and also take into consideration the specific local authority powers which are relevant to those actions.
- 10.4. The matters considered in this report are not key decisions. The implementation of various matters referred to in this report may be key decisions and if so will be addressed through the appropriate mechanisms when those decisions arise.
- 10.5. The Council has a public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty - The Equality Act 2010, or the Act). It covers the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. In summary, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
 - eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
 - advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 10.6. It is not an absolute requirement to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation or other prohibited conduct, or to promote equality of opportunity or foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. It is a duty to have due regard to the need to achieve the goals listed above. The weight to be attached to the duty will be dependent on the nature of the decision and the circumstances in which it is made. This is a matter for the decision maker, bearing in mind the issues of relevance and proportionality. The decision maker must understand the impact or likely impact of the decision on those with protected characteristics who are potentially affected by the decision. The extent of the duty will necessarily vary from case to case and due regard is such regard as is appropriate in all the circumstances.
- 10.7. The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has issued Technical Guidance on the Public Sector Equality Duty and statutory guidance. The Council must have regard to the statutory code in so far as it relates to the duty. The Technical Guidance also covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty. This includes steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The guidance does not have statutory force but nonetheless regard should be had to it, as failure to do so without compelling reason would be of evidential value. The statutory code and the technical guidance can be found on the EHRC website.

Is this report easy to understand?

Please give us feedback so we can improve.

Go to <https://lewisham.gov.uk/contact-us/send-us-feedback-on-our-reports>

- 10.8. The EHRC has issued five guides for public authorities in England giving advice on the equality duty. The 'Essential' guide provides an overview of the equality duty requirements including the general equality duty, the specific duties and who they apply to. It covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty including steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The other four documents provide more detailed guidance on key areas and advice on good practice.

11. Equalities implications

- 11.1. There are no specific equalities implications arising directly from this report but it should be noted that the risks and impacts of a changing climate will not fall equally, and without action the consequences will exacerbate poverty and health inequalities globally and locally.
- 11.2. In addition, given the fundamental nature of the changes needed, there are considerable risks that the actions taken to limit carbon emissions could, in themselves, disadvantage low income and vulnerable individuals and communities. Further work is needed to fully identify the equalities implications of climate change for Lewisham residents.

12. Climate change and environmental implications

- 12.1. The environmental implications of the climate crisis are summarised in the Action Plan. Further work is needed to embed action on the climate within the Council's strategies and operational functions, particularly in relation to wider environmental activity including in relation to air quality, waste and recycling, biodiversity, flood risk and sustainable transport and air quality.

13. Crime and disorder implications

- 13.1. There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

14. Health and wellbeing implications

- 14.1. Lewisham's Climate Emergency Action Plan will deliver a range of health and wellbeing benefits to residents, including actions to improve air quality, increased participation in active travel as well as support for low income and vulnerable households to cut the cost of staying warm in winter.

15. Background papers

- 15.1. Declaration of a Climate Emergency at Full Council (February 2019)
<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s62942/Motion%20%20proposed%20Cllr%20Anwar%20seconded%20Cllr%20Krupski.pdf>
- 15.2. Lewisham's Climate Emergency Action Plan (March 2020)
<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s72555/Climate%20Emergency%20Action%20Plan.pdf>

16. Report author and contact

Martin O'Brien: Climate Resilience Manager; martin.o'brien@lewisham.gov.uk; 07736 900 214

Legal implications: Stephanie Fleck: Principal Solicitor Commercial, Education and Employment; Stephanie.fleck@lewisham.gov.uk

Financial implications Shola Ojo: Principal Accountant Corporate Resources; shola.ojo@lewsham.gov.uk

Is this report easy to understand?

Please give us feedback so we can improve.

Go to <https://lewisham.gov.uk/contact-us/send-us-feedback-on-our-reports>

17. Glossary

| Term | Definition |
|--------------------------|---|
| Carbon / Carbon dioxide | Carbon dioxide (CO ₂) is a naturally occurring gas fixed by photosynthesis into organic matter and is a by-product of fossil fuel combustion, land use changes and other industrial processes. CO ₂ is the principal greenhouse gas (see below) associated with human activity and climate change (see below) and the reference against which other greenhouse gases are measured. Unless otherwise indicated the terms 'carbon' or 'carbon dioxide' are used in this report to refer to a combined measure of greenhouse gases (CO ₂ e or CO ₂ equivalent), of which carbon dioxide is the most common. |
| Carbon Neutral | The term "carbon neutral" is used in this report in line with the original declaration of a Climate Emergency in Lewisham. Carbon neutrality balances greenhouse gas emissions with carbon removals. As defined by the Committee on Climate Change, a net-zero or carbon neutral target requires "deep reductions in emissions, with any remaining sources offset by removals of CO ₂ from the atmosphere". In the context of Lewisham's target this means additional carbon removal and storage activity at the borough level or 'carbon offsets' funding an equivalent removal outside the borough. |
| Carbon Offsetting | Carbon offsetting enables individuals and organisations to compensate for any emissions they cannot avoid by paying for a carbon credit, typically a payment for an equivalent amount of emissions to be reduced or removed elsewhere. These emissions savings are generated through the implementation of a variety of projects such as planting trees and installing solar panels. Offsetting should be seen as an option of last resort and there is no commitment by Lewisham Council to fund carbon offsets to meet the aspiration to be carbon neutral by 2030. |
| Climate | Climate is usually defined as the average weather, or more rigorously, as a statistical description in terms of the mean and variability of relevant quantities over a period of time ranging from months to thousands or millions of years. The relevant quantities are most often surface variables such as temperature, precipitation, and wind. |
| Climate Change | Climate change, as used by the United Nations International Panel on Climate Change, refers to a change in the state of the climate that can be identified by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties, and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer. |
| Fuel Poverty | The Government's definition of fuel poverty for England and Wales states that a household is said to be in fuel poverty if: they have required fuel costs that are above average (the national median level), and, were they to spend that amount they would be left with a residual income below the official poverty line. There is a direct link between living in cold and damp conditions and poor health outcomes. |
| Greenhouse Gases | Greenhouse gases are those gaseous constituents of the atmosphere which absorb and emit radiation at specific wavelengths within the spectrum of thermal infrared radiation emitted by the Earth's surface, by the atmosphere itself, and by clouds. This raises global temperatures with a consequential impact on climate. Water vapour (H ₂ O), carbon dioxide (CO ₂), nitrous oxide (N ₂ O), methane (CH ₄), and ozone (O ₃) are the primary greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere. |
| Scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions | Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions are a method of defining, measuring and reporting carbon emissions on an organisational or an area basis. Scope 1 covers direct emissions from owned or controlled sources. Scope 2 covers indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling. Scope 3 includes all other indirect emissions including in particular the supply chain. |

Is this report easy to understand?

Please give us feedback so we can improve.

Go to <https://lewisham.gov.uk/contact-us/send-us-feedback-on-our-reports>