Brent Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy Update (2026-2030)

Framework for Public Engagement
Autumn 2026

INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

The council first declared a climate and ecological emergency in July 2019 and pledged do all reasonable in our gift to aim for carbon neutrality by 2030 and work with government to achieve the national 2050 target.

Over the past seven years since this declaration, the council has worked alongside our communities to put this goal into action. Following on from the invaluable work of the Brent Climate Assembly, the borough's first Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy (2021-2030) was adopted in April 2021. The Strategy mirrored the priorities for action put forward by the Brent Climate Assembly, and therefore aptly captured the views of Brent's residents on where to focus climate action over the coming years.

The Strategy provided a pathway of delivery towards the 2030 carbon neutrality goal and encapsulated Brent's ecological ambitions with the objective of also becoming 'one of the greenest, most biodiverse and climate-resilient boroughs in London'.

The core of comprehensive climate action can be broken down into three main elements: (1) emissions reduction, (2) supporting nature and biodiversity, (3) adapting to extreme weather. This is ultimately what the strategy's aims sought to tackle, with communities at the heart of each of these elements. We are pleased that substantial progress has been made on each of these three elements since it was adopted.

For example, firstly, the borough's carbon emissions have fallen by 18% since 2019 with an estimated 185,600 less tonnes of emissions emitted within the borough boundary according to the most recent government dataset (2024). The council's own footprint has also fallen by a further 13.8% (2025-26), having now reduced by 75.8% since 2010. Secondly, to support nature and biodiversity, we created a separate Green Infrastructure Vision and have put this into action through a range of actions delivered to enhance the borough's nature and biodiversity.

Finally, we created and adopted a Climate Adaptation and Resilience Framework which sets out the key considerations for the borough in dealing with flooding, extreme heat and drought in the face of a rapidly changing climate. This document complements the council's Flood Risk Management Strategy. We were the second borough in London to develop a dedicated plan for climate adaptation and resilience, highlighting how seriously the borough is taking this issue.

More extensive detail on achievements to date across the five key themes, and in response to these three core elements can be observed within the sections for the five key themes which follow-on later this document. An overarching summary can also be found on the council's website.

However, we recognise that there is much more to do. The risks posed by the climate emergency are clearer than ever before – with extreme weather records continuing to be broken regularly. We also recognise that the key objectives of the 2021-2030 Climate Strategy were working to a timeline of aspiring to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 on both a borough-wide basis, and for our own estate and operations. This date is fast approaching and no longer considered to be a realistic aim *on a borough-wide basis*. However, Brent Council remains committed to doing all reasonable in our gift to achieve net zero emissions from its own operations and estate by 2030.

We therefore believe it is the right time to review our existing Climate Strategy, and work with communities towards the creation of an updated document which will be the focal point for the next four years. The challenges facing councils in 2026 are like those which faced us during the creation of the initial Climate Strategy in 2021 and have in many ways intensified. The rationale for pursuing a document covering a shorter timeframe rather than another long-term strategy is to ensure that the document has a sharper focus on what is realistically achievable, deliverable and will continue to accelerate pushing the borough's climate and environmental goals in the right direction within this period.

The council cannot tackle the climate emergency on its own. It is integral that Brent's communities remain at the heart of both the creation and delivery of this new strategy, as this document will seek to convey.

DEVELOPING A NEW CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY STRATEGY

AIMS OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document is a framework for engagement. It has been developed as a mechanism for engagement with residents as part of the development of an updated Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy. It aims to set out the key considerations for climate action in Brent as things stand in 2026 and the direction of travel for potential activity over the next four years, which will be further shaped with Brent's communities. It will also align to our new Council Plan, which will also cover the next four years and is due to be published this Autumn.

THE FIVE KEY THEMES

The five key themes in the Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy mirrored the top five priorities put forward by the Brent Climate Assembly. Based on our experience of delivery over the past five years, and how valuable the Climate Assembly was, we believe there is a strong rationale for retaining the existing five themes. All of them remain as relevant now to accelerating climate action as they were in 2021 and cover the breadth of topics where environmental action should be focused in the borough.

The five key themes are: (1) Consumption, Resources and Waste; (2) Sustainable Travel; (3) Homes, Buildings, and the Built Environment; (4) Nature and Green Space; (5) Supporting Communities. Adapting to climate change is interwoven throughout.

DELIVERY PRIORITIES AND ACTION PLANS

It is proposed that, to reflect our intention to develop an updated strategy that is achievable and deliverable, three key delivery priorities will sit underneath each of the key five themes. This will be supported by a more detailed and specific set of individual actions which will accompany the creation of the updated strategy document.

KEY PRINCIPLES

Taking action to tackle the climate emergency has wider 'co-benefits' for our communities beyond just emissions reduction. It is our intention that eight key principles will run through all council and community climate activity that will be delivered over the next four years. The proposed key principles are set out below:

1. Climate action that supports households with the cost of living and health and wellbeing
2. Climate action that boosts the local green economy and helps local businesses with the cost of doing business
3. Taking climate action within communities via the Green Neighbourhoods model, continuing and expanding the existing schemes in Church End & Roundwood; Kingsbury; St Raphael's Estate; South Kilburn
4. Leading by example as a council with emissions reduction across its own corporate estate and operations
5. An intelligence-led approach to borough-wide action where it is needed most
6. Improving Brent's resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change, particularly in support of the most vulnerable
7. Connecting people with nature via Brent's open spaces and waterways
8. Inspiring and empowering Brent's communities to deliver climate action by continuing to build community capacity and break down barriers

BRENT'S INFLUENCE OVER TACKLING THE CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY

Tackling the climate emergency requires a joined-up response, ranging from international actors, national governments, regional governments, local authorities, schools, businesses, housing associations, voluntary organisations, faith communities and residents. The London Borough of Brent is one part of a very complex picture, and it will be important for the creation of an updated strategy to be grounded in realities of what the council and its communities can directly influence, and what is more difficult to influence.

The council has varying levels of influence over each of the core of comprehensive climate action: (1) emissions reduction, (2) supporting nature and biodiversity, (3) and adapting to extreme weather.

There are two main considerations for emissions reduction in Brent: direct territorial emissions and indirect consumption emissions. Carbon dioxide (CO_2) is one of many greenhouse gases, but it is the biggest contributor to the climate emergency. Within Brent, direct carbon emissions arise from three major sources: energy use in homes, energy use in buildings and road transport. We have different levels of influence across and within these aspects.

This split is emitted within the borough boundary as follows:

- **Domestic (Homes)** = 38% of the borough-wide carbon footprint
- **Transport** = 26% of the borough-wide carbon footprint
- **Commercial Buildings** = 16% of the borough-wide carbon footprint
- **Industrial Buildings** = 12% of the borough-wide carbon footprint
- **Public Sector Buildings** = 7% of the borough-wide carbon footprint

The council's own carbon footprint from its corporate estate and operations comprises around 0.5% of the borough's overall carbon footprint, and the council's housing stock is around 6% of the borough's total number of domestic properties.

Indirect consumption emissions are greenhouse gas emissions which arise from the products we buy, how much we recycle, the types of food we eat and how we travel outside of the borough boundary. These wider indirect emissions arising from our daily behaviours are more difficult to measure but are estimated to be over four times as high as the direct emissions from homes, buildings and road transport.

A Local Area Energy Plan for Brent has recently estimated that it would cost between £10.2billion and £10.6billion of investment to achieve net zero in the borough, across varying timeframes. Funding remains the most significant barrier to accelerating climate action. This is a level of capital investment that the council simply cannot provide on its own. We have been successful in obtaining £17million in external grant funding to support climate action in the borough, but this also highlights the discrepancy between what is available and what is required.

Supporting nature through biodiversity initiatives and adapting the borough to enable it to become more resilient to extreme weather, also require funding both in terms of initial delivery and ongoing maintenance. We do not have investment estimates in the same way as the Local Area Energy Plan sets out for these elements, but the upfront investment costs are likely to be a similar challenge.

This is not to say we will not continue to be as ambitious as possible. The council will continue to utilise what direct levers it can pull to decarbonise via our estate, operations, policies and placemaking abilities alongside our role as a community convenor to support and empower different parts of the community to collectively do all that we can to tackle the climate emergency over the next four years. The work undertaken to date has already made Brent a lower-emission, greener and more resilient borough than we were five years ago; the updated strategy must continue to accelerate that trend wherever possible.

THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Climate action must be a collective endeavour. The scale of the challenge and risk of inaction are too great for it not to be. Every single individual living, working or studying in Brent has a stake in tackling the climate emergency and avoiding the catastrophic effects of climate change.

The council has sought to put communities at the heart of its climate action work since the original declaration of a climate and ecological emergency in 2019. We have brilliant, inspiring individuals and communities here in Brent, and the last five years have shown just what can be achieved by working together. Just some of the examples include:

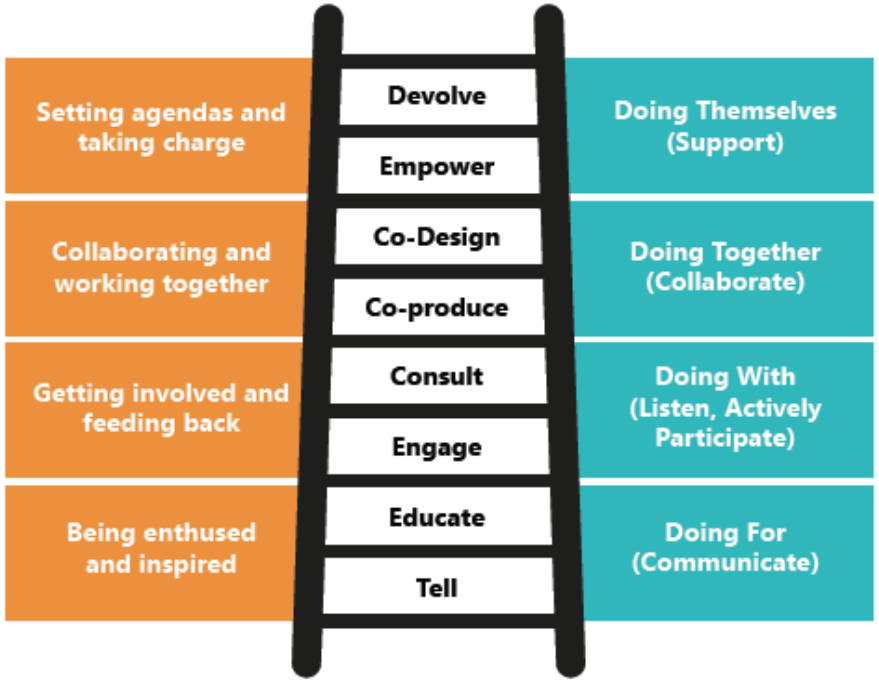
- 4,800 members of the Brent Environmental Network
- 105 community environmental projects funded by the Together Towards Zero Small Grants Scheme
- 127 organisations signed up to the Brent Climate Charter
- 40 businesses are part of the Brent Green Directory
- 53% of our Schools now with completed or draft Climate Action Plans
- 25 Faith organisations utilising the Brent Faith Climate Action Plan
- Exemplary community co-design of the Church End & Roundwood Green Corridors scheme
- Numerous Community Tree Planting Days
- 3 community focused Climate Action Films: This Ain't Normal, Roots of Brent, Faces of Climate Change

This has all contributed to Brent becoming a greener, more climate-conscious and climate-friendly borough.

We want the next strategy and next four years to go even further in placing communities at the heart of this programme. We will aim to ensure that climate action reaches the broadest number of people and communities in the borough as possible and making sure that it is reflective of the diversity of our borough.

Our aim is to continue to make sure that climate action is inclusive, equitable and that communities are ultimately empowered with the knowledge, skills and resources to be able to take action themselves wherever possible.

The ladder of community engagement:



PROCESS FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

We will be engaging with Brent's communities on the development of an updated Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy over the next couple of months. We will do this through a combination of workshops, roadshows and online engagement, with participation seeking to reflect Brent's diverse communities throughout.

FOCUS OF THE ENGAGEMENT

The objective of this strategy update is to ensure that our actions are grounded in being realistic and deliverable.

We will therefore be seeking community views on the three *Delivery Priorities* under each of the key five themes, and what actions they would ideally like to be included. We will also seek to understand the areas that communities feel that they themselves want to be empowered to do more on, and how we can collectively break down barriers to achieving this.

We will also seek to get a sense on whether our communities wish for a specific target for carbon neutrality in the borough to be retained, and if so, their preference of timescale.

PHASE 1 (September 2026)

We will launch a questionnaire via the council's online 'Have Your Say' web pages where residents and organisations can provide their views.

PHASE 2 (October - November 2026)

We will undertake a series of workshops and community engagement events/roadshows across the borough – this will include a borough-wide Climate Strategy Workshop, at least one engagement event in each Brent Connects Areas, youth engagement sessions, schools focus groups, business focus groups, engagement with faith groups, an engagement session with Councillors, engagement with council staff, and engagement with the borough's main trade unions. We will also take this document for discussion to the Brent Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee.

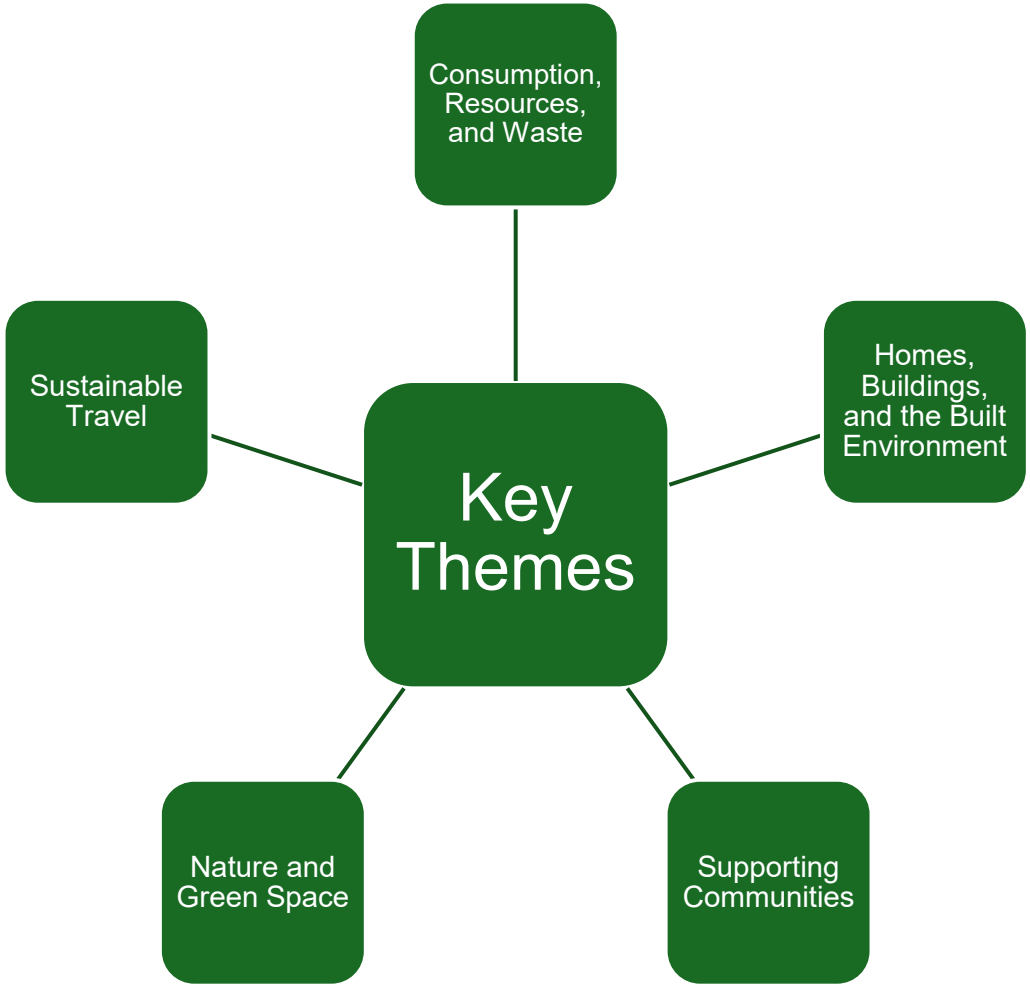
PHASE 3 (November 2026 – January 2027)

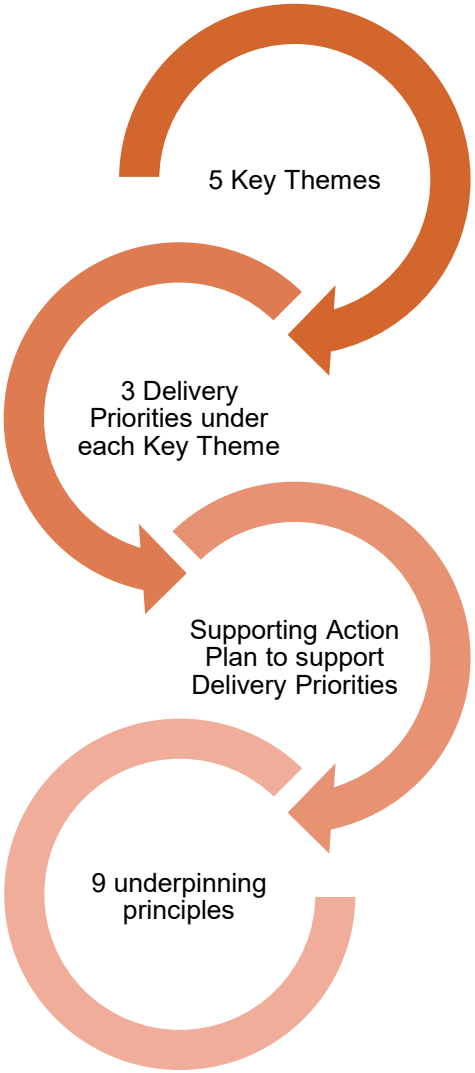
The public engagement process will close, and the council will analyse and reflect on the feedback received, before using this feedback to form the new Climate Strategy document. We will ensure that we close the feedback loop by demonstrating how the feedback informed the Strategy.

PHASE 4 (February/March 2027 onwards)

Effective community engagement does not just stop there. With the ambition of the community continuing to be at the heart of climate action, the adoption of the strategy will see us turn to delivery, in collaboration with the community wherever appropriate.

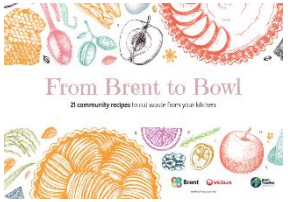
OVERVIEW


Consumption, Resources, and Waste
Sustainable Travel
Homes, Buildings, and the Built Environment
Key Themes
Nature and Green Space
Supporting Communities


5 Key Themes
3 Delivery Priorities under each Key Theme
Supporting Action Plan to support Delivery Priorities
9 underpinning principles

THE KEY THEMES

THEME 1 – CONSUMPTION, RESOURCES, AND WASTE



THEME 2 – SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

THEME 3 – HOMES, BUILDINGS, AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

THEME 4 – NATURE AND GREEN SPACE

THEME 5 – SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

THEME 1 – CONSUMPTION, RESOURCES AND WASTE

Vision for the next four years: Greater awareness within Brent's communities of the need for a more circular economy and the 4Rs (Reduce, Re-Use, Recycle, Recover) with emerging behaviour change reflected within our key waste statistics and through increasing numbers of people engaged through related circular economy events and initiatives.

Desired outcomes: Improved annual household recycling rate; lower household waste per head; more residents borrowing from Library of Things; more residents attending repair cafes, swap shops and sharing spaces; more eco-refill shops established in schools

EXAMPLES OF ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE	**DELIVERY PRIORITY 1:** WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE
• New waste recycling service rolled out – collecting on average 500 tonnes of paper and card from the blue sack each month and a participation rate of 80%, • 24,000 new food waste caddies rolled out • Launched the Library of Things at Willesden Green Library with 2,150 borrows from 1,948 borrowers since opening • Free programme of re-use and repair cafes – 11 delivered to date • 10 x Eco-Refill Shops set up in Brent Schools • From Brent to Bowl Community Cookbook created • Street Swaps and Sharing Spaces events delivered	We will seek to continue to improve the waste infrastructure which will support tackling the key environmental issues that remain within Brent's waste stream and aligning with the government's Simpler Recycling policies. For example, continuing to make it easier for people to recycle food waste (food waste caddies roll-out; on-street bins for flats above shops; trialling improved waste collection at communal sites) to reduce contamination. We will seek to combine this work with dedicated communications/engagement campaigns to embed more sustainable behaviours with regards to waste and recycling and work closely with the West London Waste Authority to support this aim too.
DELIVERY PRIORITY 2: COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY	**DELIVERY PRIORITY 3:** EXPLORE DEVELOPING A NEW RE-USE AND REPAIR HUB
We will seek to build on the positive work done to date on involving communities in initiatives relating to the Circular Economy (i.e. an economy where products/materials are kept in use for as long as possible). For example, by taking the Repair Cafes to different locations around the borough to ensure everyone can benefit, empowering more residents to run their own local Repair Café events, continuing to boost engagement with the Library of Things at Willesden Green Library, expanding the Swap Shop model retaining and expanding the Sharing Spaces model, encouraging schools to undertake school uniform swaps and rolling out more School Eco-Refill shops where possible.	We will seek to work with the West London West Authority to explore identifying, designing and developing a new re-use and repair hub at a suitable location in the borough, to act as a focal point for Re-Use and Repair Activities and mechanism to educate and engage residents on the importance of the 4Rs and the Circular Economy.

THEME 2 – SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

Vision for the next four years: Delivery of more sustainable travel infrastructure (active travel, electric vehicle charge points, public transport improvements), complemented by an improved programme of initiatives to support people to shift to more sustainable modes of travel within the borough boundary.

Desired outcomes: Increased % of average daily trips made by active travel and public transport; increased % of residents doing at least two x 10 mins of active travel a day; increased number of bike hangars; increased number of EV charge points; increased number of School Streets; improved air quality; increased % of population within 400m of a strategic cycle network.

EXAMPLES OF ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

- Highest numbers of people utilising Sustainable Travel modes in Outer London (68.7%)
- 233 bike hangars installed
- 1,312 electric vehicle charge points installed
- 150 new lime bike docking bays installed
- 34 school streets schemes delivered
- Borough-wide air pollution improvements across NO_2, PM2.5, PM10
- 53% of Brent schools now hold a gold, silver or bronze School Travel Plan
- Launched the Brent Revive and Ride scheme, with 40 refurbished bikes donated for free to local faith and community groups

DELIVERY PRIORITY 1: NEW SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL INFRASTRUCTURE

We understand that parts of the borough can be perceived as being a challenging environment for more sustainable modes of transport. We will therefore continue to improve sustainable travel infrastructure in the borough to make it easier and more desirable for communities to switch away from petrol and diesel vehicles when getting around. This will include starting work on the new Cycleway 72 cycle route from Wembley to Harlesden and developing new routes which provide better connectivity around the borough (particularly between the North and South). We will also seek to deliver more bike hangars, cycle parking, school street schemes, Lime Bike docking bays, and electric vehicle charge points (including trialling innovative solutions like Cross-Pavement Gullies).

DELIVERY PRIORITY 2: EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO TRAVEL SUSTAINABLY

We will complement new sustainable travel infrastructure by continuing to improve the council's support offer to communities to enable and empower more residents to feel confident using sustainable travel methods getting around the borough. This will include: providing residents with a supported pathway into cycling through provision of cycling equipment and support developing cycle confidence from Brent Hubs and faith centres, assessing the potential of the best walking routes in the borough, developing supportive communities for active travel users, working with schools to develop and improve sustainable school travel plans, encouraging and promoting Car Clubs and promotion of TfL initiatives for greater public transport use.

DELIVERY PRIORITY 3: GREEN CORRIDORS

Green Corridors are public realm projects which seek to connect key destinations across a neighbourhood by prioritising active travel infrastructure improvements whilst simultaneously improving the look and feel of an area through enhanced natural, climate resilient infrastructure. The council's first Green Corridor schemes are progressing well in Church End & Roundwood and Kingsbury. Over the next four years, we are seeking to complete the existing plans for these neighbourhoods before seeking to expand these routes outwards to maximise their impact and reach into communities. This will be aligned with strategic considerations for the borough's wider active travel network, to ensure that these plans are joined up.

THEME 3 – HOMES, BUILDINGS, AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Vision for the next four years: To decarbonise and futureproof the council's own estate and operations whilst delivering retrofit work to our housing stock via the Warm Homes Fund and Schools estate (*grant funding dependent*), alongside supporting residents in Fuel Poverty and encouraging buildings across all parts of the community to become more energy efficient.

Desired outcomes: A further reduction in the council's carbon footprint (own estate and operations); a reduction of Brent residents in Fuel Poverty; retrofit measures undertaken on Brent's housing stock; retrofit measures undertaken on Brent's school estate; more projects undertaken to address climate adaptation and resilience across Brent's homes, buildings and public realm.

EXAMPLES OF ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

- 76% reduction in the council's own carbon footprint since 2010
- 1,729 council properties retrofitted with at least one energy efficiency measure
- 1,667 households supported by the Brent Well and Warm Energy Advice Scheme
- Developed a Climate Adaptation and Resilience Framework for Brent
- Developed and implemented a Sustainable Environment and Development Supplementary Planning Document
- Local Area Energy Plans created (Phases 1 and 2)
- Brent Energy Efficient Grant for Buildings small grants scheme launched

DELIVERY PRIORITY 1: A NET ZERO COUNCIL ESTATE *(NON-DOMESTIC)*

The council has undertaken a feasibility study with Turner and Townsend to look at what measures are required to reduce the council's carbon footprint to net zero. We anticipate that it will cost around £6.6m-£7m in capital expenditure to deliver the necessary energy conservation measures. We will therefore explore all the relevant funding routes to put this plan into action over the next few years. As a council, we understand the importance of leading by example as a net zero organisation going into the next decade and will do all reasonable in our gift to achieve net zero across our estate and operations by 2030.

DELIVERY PRIORITY 2: DECARBONISING HOMES AND OTHER BUILDINGS

We will seek to deliver our allocation from the Warm Homes Fund and also seek to maximise any further opportunities that arise from the government's Warm Homes programmes. We will also deliver the South Kilburn Heat Network, eventually connecting and decarbonising 3,00 homes. We will also seek to review opportunities for funding for retrofit measures on the council's school estate via the Department for Education's Education Estates Strategy which is due to become available in 2027. Across wider housing tenure types, we will continue the Well and Warm Service and Warm Homes Local grant to support those in Fuel Poverty. We will also continue to encourage community sectors (such as businesses, housing associations, academies etc) to decarbonise their operations wherever possible.

DELIVERY PRIORITY 3: CLIMATE RESILIENT BUILDINGS AND PUBLIC REALM

The extreme heat and subsequent drought of summer 2026 laid bare the need for buildings of all types and the wider public realm to be futureproofed for a changing climate. Brent will utilise our Climate Adaptation and Resilience Framework, Extreme Heat Study for Harlesden and Stonebridge, Opportunities Mapping Study for Sustainable Urban Drainage and upcoming review of both the London Plan and our Local Plan as a basis for solutions to start to adapt homes, buildings, new developments, and wider public realm to the threats posed by extreme heat, flooding, drought and extreme cold in particular.

THEME 4 – NATURE AND GREEN SPACE

Vision for the next four years: To make Brent a visibly greener borough, through more tree planting and enhancements of nature and biodiversity, with cleaner waterways and a new reinvigorated partnership with our residents on protecting nature and keeping the borough's environment clean.

Desired outcomes: More trees planted; cleaner waterways; increased number of improved green spaces; more residents engaging with nature education settings; more schools taking active steps to support nature and biodiversity on their sites; more community/council partnerships for local greening

EXAMPLES OF ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

- Delivered award-winning enhancements to Brent's parks
- 3,600 new trees planted since 2022
- New community gardening initiatives (e.g. North Brent Community Garden)
- New community orchards (e.g. Fry's Orchard)
- Enhanced biodiversity and nature-based activities – such as bird, bat box and planting (e.g. Willesden New Cemetery)
- New rain gardens and swales (e.g. Kensal Corridor, Church Path, Leybourne Open Space)
- Green and Healthy Streets Schemes (e.g. Leopold Primary, Oakington Manor)
- Developed a Green Infrastructure Vision for Brent

DELIVERY PRIORITY 1: TREES, NATURE CONSERVATION AND BIODIVERSITY

Guided by our new Tree Strategy, over the next four years we will maximise the huge role that trees must play in response to a changing climate. We will take a strategic approach to planting, trialling species that can equally withstand extreme weather, provide shade for cooling, and avoid damage to adjacent property, whilst targeting the areas of the borough felt to be in most need. We will complement this by enhancing our natural environment wherever possible, seeking to support biodiversity, local ecosystems and habitats for wildlife. Ongoing maintenance of natural green infrastructure is key to its success and survival, and we will need to cultivate widespread community action to support this in the coming years.

DELIVERY PRIORITY 2: BLUE SPACES AND WATERWAYS

Brent has several rivers and canals which flow through it, alongside an invaluable 'Site of Scientific Interest' in the Welsh Harp Reservoir. However, we also know that these blue spaces are not being maximised to their potential from an environmental perspective. We will work with the relevant external agencies to seek to resolve well known flooding issues in the borough in particular in relation to the Wealdstone Brook and Wembley Brook, alongside wider efforts to clean-up our waterways and support the biodiversity that thrives in these settings. Cleaning up our waterways will be a borough-wide effort, requiring agency and community support and a step-change in behaviour in relation to littering and increased care for our local environment.

DELIVERY PRIORITY 3: NATURE-AWARE, CLIMATE-RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Communities will continue to have a substantial role to play over the next four years in pushing Brent forward to be the greenest borough it can be. We will also ensure that communities are supported in understanding the ever-growing risks to nature as we know it and how extreme weather will be felt locally. By utilising and building on the work of settings like the Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre and Roundwood Nature Connection Centre, we will use education and a tangible connection to nature to enable a greater focus on what residents can do to take action to urgently support protecting local ecosystems and natural resources like water.

THEME 5 – SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

Vision for the next four years: To strengthen existing partnerships on climate action and continue to forge new ones, covering all key sectors of Brent's communities from Schools to Businesses, with a renewed emphasis on empowering and accelerating communities taking action themselves

Desired outcomes: Establishing a new public Climate Action Forum; increased membership of the Brent Environmental Network; more projects delivered via the Together Towards Zero scheme; more sign-ups to the Brent Climate Charter/Green Director; more schools with Climate Action Plans; more Faith communities actively engaged and utilising the Faith Climate Action Plan

EXAMPLES OF ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE:

- 4,800 members of the Brent Environmental Network
- 105 projects funded by the Together Towards Zero Small Grants Scheme
- 127 organisations signed up to the Brent Climate Charter
- 40 businesses are part of the Brent Green Directory
- 53% of our Schools now with completed or draft Climate Action Plans
- 25 Faith organisations utilising the Brent Faith Climate Action Plan
- Community co-design of the Church End & Roundwood Green Corridors and community tree planting days
- 3 community focused Climate Action Films: This Ain't Normal, Roots of Brent, Faces of Climate Change

DELIVERY PRIORITY 1: ESTABLISHING A NEW BRENT CLIMATE ACTION FORUM

Since 2021, the Brent Environmental Network has acted as the key means for bringing together environmental action across the borough. The Network now has 4,800 members since launching in 2021 and consists of residents, community groups, businesses, schools and faith groups amongst others. We will further strengthen this network by developing a new dedicated Climate Action Forum, to spearhead community climate action across the borough. The forum will be designed to be inclusive and representative of Brent's wonderful diversity, to ensure that all key sectors are empowered to play an active role in climate action across the borough.

DELIVERY PRIORITY 2: SUPPORTING THE MOST VULNERABLE

Evidence suggests that the worst effects of extreme weather will affect some groups more than others. Older adults, young children and babies, people with disabilities or long-term health conditions, low-income households, people from ethnic minority groups, homeless people, carers and outdoor and manual workers, are known to be at most risk. We will seek to develop and deliver projects that are designed to offer support to the most vulnerable residents wherever possible – whether this be in relation to decarbonisation, adapting to extreme weather or protecting nature/accessing green space.

DELIVERY PRIORITY 3: EMPOWERING EVERYONE TO TAKE ACTION

There are many fantastic individuals, groups, and organisations across the borough who have played a part in tackling the climate and ecological emergency. We will build on this foundation to empower even more people. Whether this be through making our procurement processes as environmentally sustainable and inclusive as possible, boosting green skills within our local economy, funding the Together Towards Zero small grants scheme, supporting schools to develop and implement School Climate Action Plans, supporting businesses via the Brent Climate Charter or through Faith Communities leading by example in local communities, united around protecting the environment.

GREEN NEIGHBOURHOOD PILOT EXPANSION

Green Neighbourhoods are specific local areas where we are testing new ways to tackle climate change and improve the environment. By focusing our efforts in these pilot areas, we can learn what works and seek to apply those lessons across the borough. The programme aims to make neighbourhoods greener, support local communities, and encourage more sustainable ways of living. Brent currently has four Green Neighbourhood pilot areas, split into two types: *Neighbourhood-led* and *Development-led*. These projects have been running since early 2023.

Neighbourhood-led Green Neighbourhood pilots are areas where there were already sustainability projects, community groups, or opportunities to make quick environmental improvements with support from residents. Church End and Roundwood and Kingsbury are our current Neighbourhood-led Green Neighbourhood pilot areas.

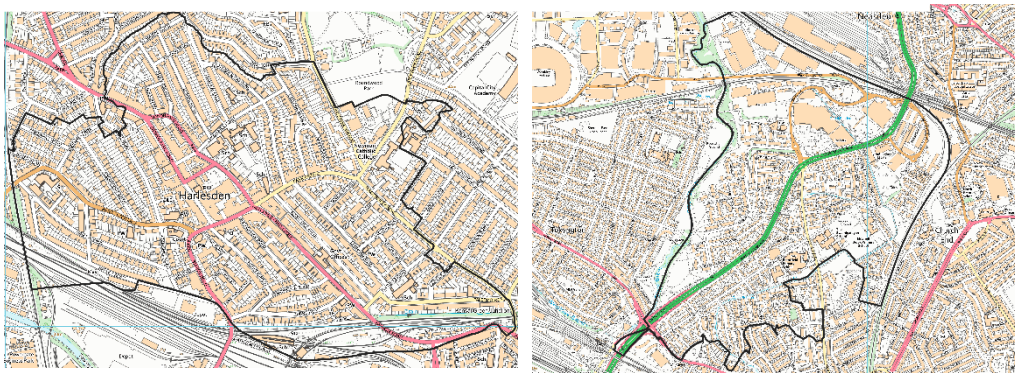
Development-led Green Neighbourhood pilots are areas with new developments planned, where sustainable features such as energy-efficient buildings, walking and cycling routes, green spaces, and low carbon infrastructure can, wherever possible, be built in from the start.

Good climate action progress has been made in the two neighbourhood-led pilot areas, with progress slower than anticipated in South Kilburn and St Raphael's Estate due to the economic climate and slowdown in development schemes in recent years. As things stand, as part of the development of a new programme we are intending to retain the existing four Green Neighbourhood pilot areas to enable each area to complete key projects currently underway and for each area to realise its full potential of the concept.

We will review the potential for expanding the boundaries of the Church End and Roundwood and St Raphael's Estate areas to align to the Pride of Place programme, and the opportunities that this new programme may provide to make these local areas even greener and more environmentally sustainable.

Existing Green Neighbourhoods boundaries

Pride In Place programme boundaries (left: Harlesden; right: St Raphael's



OPTIONS FOR CARBON NEUTRALITY GOAL

Part of the necessity for undertaking this strategy review is the need to consider the achievability of the existing 2030 carbon neutrality aspiration (on a borough-wide basis) given this is only three years away.

The London Borough of Brent, along with four other West London Boroughs, have taken part in the development of a Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) - working alongside Ramboll, Energy Systems Catapult, the Greater London Authority (GLA) and other stakeholders to create a shared, evidence-based pathway for achieving a carbon neutral energy system.

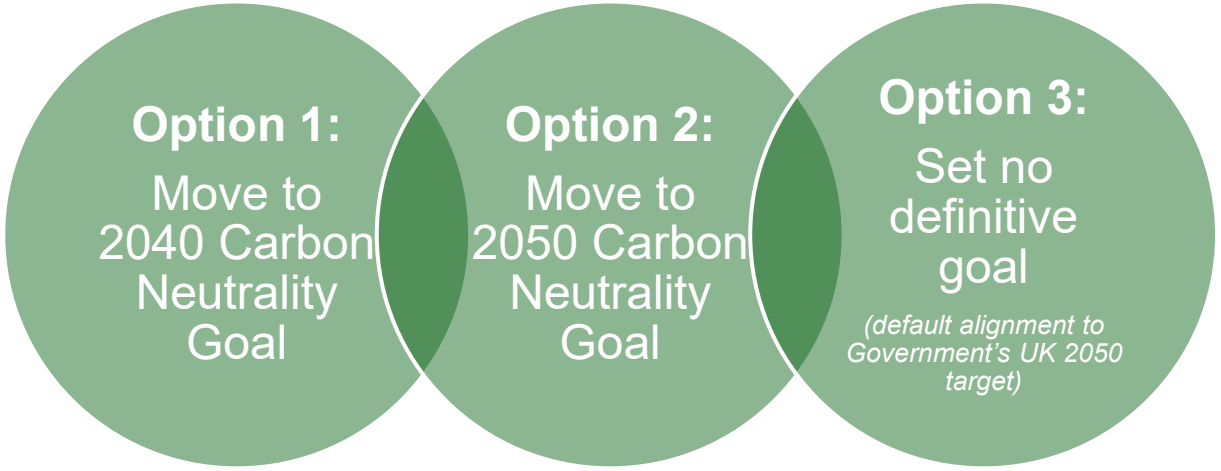
It is clear that the Council cannot deliver the full set of actions required to reach carbon neutrality on its own. Most of the changes identified in the LAEP, from large-scale retrofit and clean-heat deployment to network reinforcement, EV charging expansion and local renewable energy, depend on a wide coalition of actors, including residents, landlords, housing associations, private developers, community energy groups, technology providers, finance partners, and the electricity and gas network operators.

Many interventions also rely on regional coordination through the GLA and West London partners, and on national policy, regulation and funding frameworks led by Government and Ofgem.

The LAEP looked at a range of different scenarios to decarbonising the energy system in Brent, according to different timescales and interventions. The total cost of capital investment required for the local area ranged from an estimated £10.2bn - £10.6bn. As stated on page four on this document, this is a level of capital investment that the council alone simply cannot provide on its own.

- 2030 - £10.2bn = 2.7megatonnes of CO_2 emitted over the timescale
- 2040 - £10.5bn = 4.7megatonnes of CO_2 emitted over the timescale
- 2050 – £10.6bn = 7.4megatonnes of CO_2 emitted over the timescale

We will engage with residents on these challenges and realities, and consider the feedback received. It will be important to be honest with residents throughout this process on the ongoing challenge that a lack of funding and resources poses.



MONITORING

CARBON EMISSIONS

The UK government produces an annual breakdown of carbon dioxide emissions by Local Authority area as a subset of its annual inventory of greenhouse gas emissions. The complexity of carbon accounting means that this dataset is only available with an 18-month time lag. It is through these figures that we have been able to deduce that Brent's territorial carbon emissions have reduced by 18% since 2019 and the adoption of the previous Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy. As long as the government do not change this reporting system, this will be retained as a core measure that progress will be measured against over the coming four years.

BRENT'S CLIMATE ACTION DATA DASHBOARD

Since the creation of the previous Strategy, we have also created a new Climate Action Data Dashboard which outlines progress from 47 key indicators across each of the five key themes. These indicators act as 'proxy' indicators for progress which contribute to the key environmental sustainability aims of the strategy. This will also be the mechanism to support reporting across the two other core elements of climate action, beyond just carbon emissions, supporting nature and biodiversity and adapting to extreme weather. Where it is possible to do so, the dashboard not only shows Brent data, but provides benchmarking data against other Local Authorities – split according to the West London sub-region, and Inner/Outer London Boroughs.

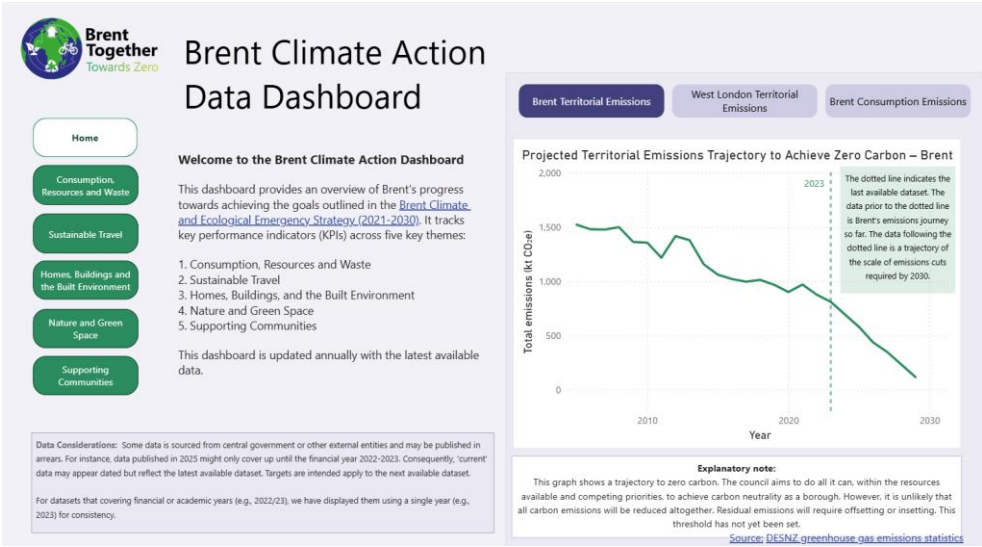
The current dashboard has been live for approximately two years and is updated on an annual basis. It is published annually due to the capacity required to collate new data and because many of datasets are only available on an annual basis.

The data dashboard will be retained as part of the monitoring of a new Climate Strategy, with the current datasets to be comprehensively reviewed in advance of the 2027 iteration to ensure that they align with the new strategy – due to published in early 2027.

DELIVERY PLAN REPORTING

The Strategy will be accompanied by a delivery plan that will be kept live and fluid for maximum flexibility, and we will report on delivery progress annually.

This will be complemented by regular news updates which are provided through the council's existing communications and engagement channels, such as, but not limited to, council news, social media, local Environmental network meetings, and the Brent Environmental Network newsletter.



NEXT STEPS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STRATEGY

September-November 2026	November 2026-January 2027		February/March 2027	February/March 2027 – December 2030
Engagement →	Analysis of feedback →	Strategy Drafting →	Cabinet approval →	Delivery and sustained action

[Timeline above subject to change]

As outlined above and on page six of this document, it is our intention to complete the process for refreshing the council's strategy and for Cabinet approval to be obtained by February/March 2027. All residents who engage with this process, should they provide their contact details, will be kept up to date on the progress of this document and how community engagement feedback has supported the creation of a final document.

Climate Action can only be achieved through communities and public authorities working in tandem around common environmental goals. Much has been achieved in the past five years by working to this ethos. The next four years provide an opportunity to build on this and to accelerate climate action, and the transition towards a society which is low carbon, greener in every sense, and futureproofed to the risks posed by extreme weather.

We hope that you engage with this process and join on this journey both now and into the future.

Brent Together
Towards Zero

GLOSSARY

Active Travel Making journeys in a physically active way, such as walking, cycling, wheeling or scooting.	**Carbon Offset Fund** A fund paid into by new developments in the borough, to be used for projects which reduce carbon.	**Decarbonise** To stop or reduce carbon dioxide being released into the atmosphere as the result of a process, for example the burning of fossil fuels.
Adaptation Preparing for the effects of climate change, reducing exposure and vulnerability to harmful climate impacts.	**Carbon Neutrality** Reaching a point where the amount of carbon in the atmosphere is no longer increasing.	**Docking Bay** A dedicated, marked out, signposted location for on-street bicycle parking, typically reserved for e-bikes such as those operated by Lime.
Air Quality A measure of air pollution levels, which affect human health and the environment.	**Circular Economy** Products/materials are kept in use for as long as possible, minimising resource consumption, waste and greenhouse gas emissions.	**Drought** A prolonged period of below-average rainfall, leading to water shortages that can affect people, businesses, and the natural environment.
Bike Hangar An on-street storage unit that can accommodate approximately six bicycles.	**Climate and Ecological Emergency** The crisis caused by human activity, which is threatening the environment, health, and livelihoods.	**Eco-Refill Shop** Somewhere that residents can buy many store-cupboard essentials and cleaning products without the packaging. Residents take along their own containers and refill them or borrow containers and return them.
Biodiversity The variety of living things in an area, including different plants and animals.	**Climate Resilience** The ability to anticipate, prepare for and address hazardous impacts related to the climate (e.g. flooding, drought, heatwaves).	**Ecosystem** An area where plants, animals and other organisms, work with weather and landscape to form a bubble of life.
Blue Space Natural or artificial water environments (i.e. rivers, canals, reservoirs etc).	**Consumption Emissions** Carbon emissions created in the making of the goods and products we buy, such as food, clothing, furniture and other products.	**Emissions** An amount of a substance that is produced and sent out into the air that is harmful to the environment, such as carbon dioxide
Built Environment The parts of the places in which we live that have been built by people, for example buildings and streets, rather than the parts that exist in nature.	**Cool Spaces** Public or community spaces designated as places where people can go to cool down during periods of extreme heat, helping to reduce health risks for vulnerable residents.	**Energy Efficiency** Using less energy to perform the same task.
Carbon Emissions Carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere from burning fossil fuels like oil, coal and gas.	**Data Dashboard** A collection of datasets stored collectively in one location.	**Equitable** Treating everyone fairly and in accordance to their needs.

Food Waste Caddy A small container that collects residual food waste from meals.	**Net Zero** The point at which a country, industry, company, etc. removes as many emissions from the atmosphere as it produces.	**School Travel Plan** A document developed by schools to enable staff and pupils to travel to school via environmentally sustainable methods.
Footprint (Carbon) Someone's carbon footprint is a measurement of the amount of carbon dioxide that their activities produce.	**NO_2** Nitrogen Dioxide – a gas which is mainly produced during the combustion of fossil fuels and can cause harm to health, used as a scientific measurement of poor air quality.	**Sharing Spaces** Community events which enable residents to fix items, learn and gain skills from experts and other residents.
Fuel Poverty When a household cannot afford to keep adequately warm (or cool) due to low-income, high-energy costs, or inefficient housing, increasing vulnerability to extreme weather.	**PM2.5** PM refers to Particulate Matter. PM is everything in the air that is not a gas, some of which can be toxic. Particulates are classified according to size. Less than 2.5 micrometres in diameter = PM2.5.	**Sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS)** Systems which use a natural approach to drainage to deal with water and prevent flooding.
Greenhouse gases Any gases that trap heat in the earth's atmosphere and cause global heating.	**PM10** PM refers to Particulate Matter. PM is everything in the air that is not a gas, some of which can be toxic. Particulates are classified according to size. Less than 10 micrometres in diameter = PM10.	**Swales** Grass ditches which help to drain water and prevent flooding.
Habitat The natural environment in which an animal or plant usually lives.	**Proxy** Someone or something that takes the place of another person or thing, or has the same meaning, purpose, etc. as them or it.	**Swap Shops** A community event in which articles no longer wanted may be exchanged for other articles.
Heat Network A heat network is a system that pipes hot water from a central energy source to multiple buildings for heating and hot wate	**Repair Café** A community event which allows residents to bring broken items (typically electricals, bikes or clothing) to be fixed.	**Territorial emissions** Emissions generated within a certain geographic area, principally from energy use in homes and buildings and from road transport.
Inclusive An inclusive group or organization tries to include many different types of people and treat them all fairly and equally.	**Retrofit** Altering existing buildings to reduce the amount of energy and carbon emissions they use.	**Waterways** Narrow areas of water, such as a river or canal.
Library of Things A storage kiosk that lets residents borrow household items for lower prices than buying the product new.	**School streets** School street closure schemes – where cars are prevented from going up to the school gates at drop off and pick up times.	