

Year 1 — Annual Progress Report on Council Climate Implementation Plan 2023–2026

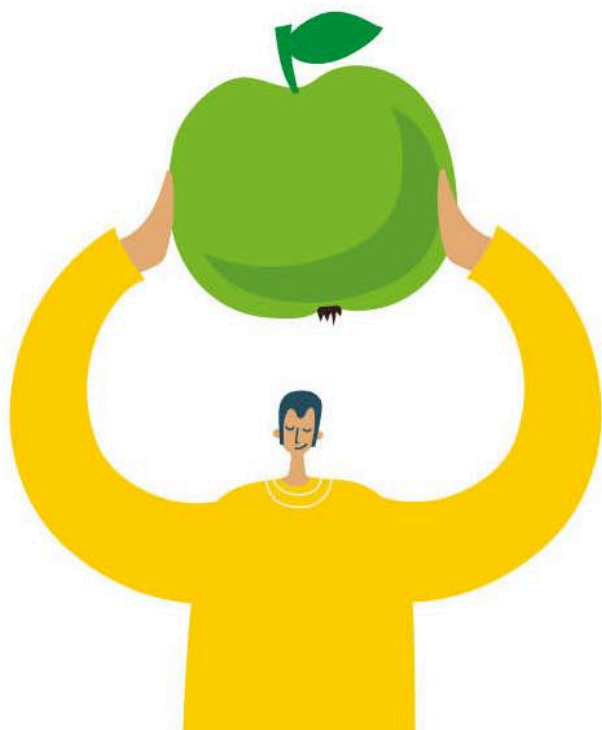


Year 1 — Annual progress report on Council Climate Implementation Plan 2023–2026 September 2024

Accessibility statement

If you need any information in this document in a different format, please email:
consultation@hackney.gov.uk

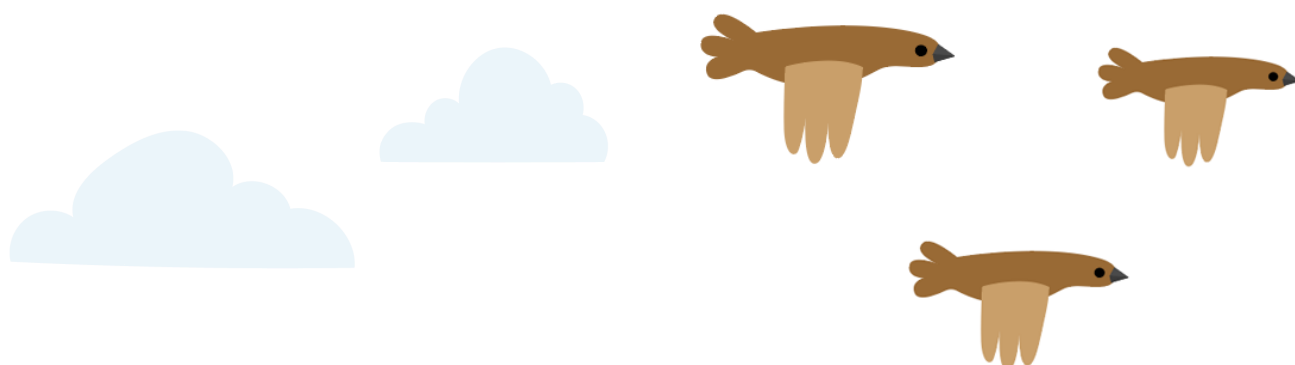
We'll consider your request and get back to you in five working days.



Contents

Summary	4
List of climate-related strategies and plans	4
Headline progress	5
Progress by CAP theme	6
Adaptation	7
A.1 Overheating	7
A.2 Flooding	8
A.3 Conservation & Resilient Planting	8
A.4 Community Preparedness	8
Case study: Hackney Citizens' Climate Jury	10
Case study: Hackney Heatwave Survey	11
Buildings	12
Strategies	12
Awards	12
B1. Retrofit	12
B.2 Gas Phase-out	13
B.3 Embodied & Operational Carbon of New Builds	15
B.4 Renewable Power	15
Case study: Hackney Community Energy Fund	16
Case study: Colville Heat Network Project	17
Transport	18
Strategies	18
Awards	18
T1. Clean Fuels	18
T.2 Walking and Cycling	20
T.3 Car and motorbike traffic	21
T.4 Freight and Delivery Traffic	21
T.5 Green and Resilient Streets	22
Case study: Zero Emissions Network (ZEN)	23
Case study: Children cycle training	24
Consumption	25
Strategies	25
Awards	25

C.1 Waste	25
C.2 Food	26
C.3 Consumption emissions	27
C.4 Investments and Finance	29
Case study: The Estates Recycling Programme	30
Case study: Hackney Community Municipal Investment	31
Environmental quality	32
Strategies	32
EQ.1 Air quality	32
EQ.2 Biodiversity	33
EQ.3 Water	35
Case study: Smoke control order	36
Case study: DEFRA project Air Aware	37
Green Economy	38
Strategies	38
GE1. Green Economy	38
Case study: Supporting Hackney's green businesses	41
Case study: Festival of learning	42
Commitment priorities for the next two years	43
External funding	45
List of climate e-news	47



Summary

This report provides a progress update of the Council's key practical and strategic actions to support its climate response up until March 2024¹. The list is not exhaustive and is structured around the themes established in the [Climate Action Plan \(CAP\)](#) approved in May 2023, highlighting some of the key outcomes achieved. The report provides a summary of the Council's progress across the climate themes:

- Adaptation
- Buildings
- Transport
- Consumption
- Environmental Quality
- Green Economy

The report includes case studies across the climate themes, outlines the Council's activities to secure external funding, and concludes with a summary of communications releases related to the Council's ongoing climate response initiatives over the last year.

List of climate-related strategies and plans

The Council main climate strategies and plans are:

- [Climate Action Plan 2023–2030](#)
- [Council Climate Implementation Plan 2023–2026](#)

There are a range of subsidiary plans which support the delivery of the Council's climate response include:

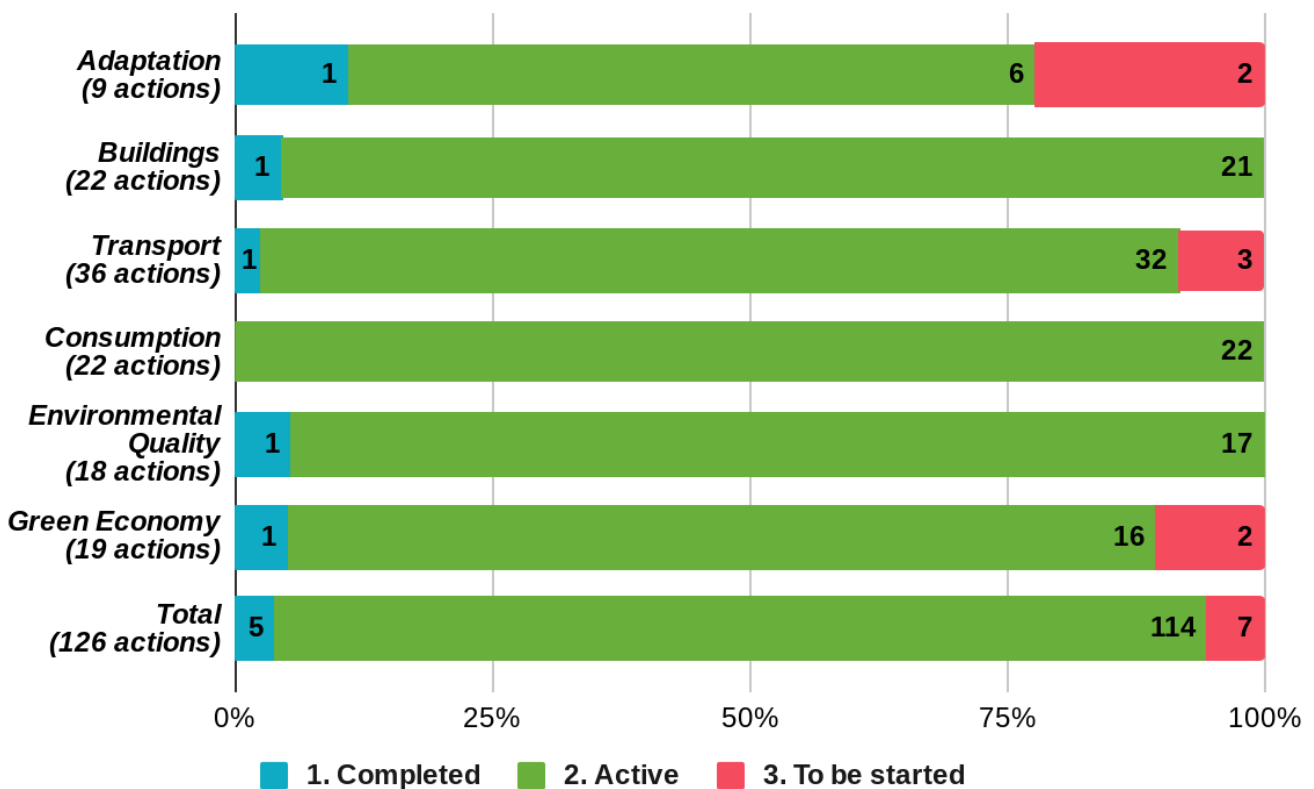
Air Quality Action Plan	Hackney Transport Strategy
Green Infrastructure Strategy	Reduction and Recycling Plan
Local Nature Recovery Plan	Sustainable Procurement Strategy
Parking and Enforcement Plan	Transport Local Implementation Plan
Contaminated Land Strategy	Local Plan

¹ The original reporting period has been updated to March 2024, therefore, year 1 period covers nine months from 1 July 2023 to 31 March 2024. The Council has included some specific progress reports on activities post March 2024 to provide continuity with year 1 work.

Headline progress

The Council Climate Implementation Plan outlines a comprehensive set of actions to be carried out over the next three years², contributing to the goals and objectives of the individual CAP themes.

The image below shows a summary of the progress the Council has made in the first year of implementation for the period from 1 July 2023 to 31 March 2024. The key indicates the status of each action.



Key:

- 1. Completed (blue):** Actions completed within the year 1 timeframe
- 2. Active (green):** Actions in planning phase, in progress, or nearing completion
- 3. To be started (red):** Actions that did not start within the year 1 timeframe

During Year 1 of the Council Climate Implementation Plan, five actions were completed, 114 actions are in active status, and seven actions had not yet started, out of a total of 126 actions.

² The Implementation Plan covers three years, with Year 1 from 1 July 2023 to 31 March 2024, Year 2 from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, and Year 3 from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

Progress by CAP theme



Adaptation

Ensure that we are prepared for and resilient to the impact of the climate emergency. Protecting our most vulnerable residents.

A.1 Overheating

The Council collaborated with partners to increase the number of cool spots available across Hackney; details can be found in the [London Cool Spaces Map](#). There are currently:

- five parks with hot weather amenities; and
- 10 cool spaces including seven libraries, (plus one on the border in the borough).

The Council has produced a [leisure map](#) showing where residents can find 25 drinking fountains within the borough.

Overheating mitigation measures have been embedded within new draft area action plans³ ([Stamford Hill Area Action Plan](#) approved by Cabinet in February this year, and [Future Shoreditch Area Action Plan](#)) as well as supplementary planning guidance such as the [Dalston Supplementary Planning Document](#).

The Council continues to participate in London Councils Resilient and Green working group led by Southwark Council which provides a collaborative setting to deliver four key work packages:

- Reviewing London's governance and partnership arrangements on climate resilience & adaptation;
- Creating a framework for local planning on adaptation-related data and information sharing;
- Developing a blueprint for borough adaptation plans; and
- Developing borough guidance on identifying, mitigating and managing climate risks.

The Council assessed its Emergency Response Plans to ensure extreme heat risks are adequately reflected, with special attention to vulnerable groups. Activities included leading a focused session with the [Borough Resilience Forum on extreme summer weather](#), as well as participating in a [Greater London Authority-led heat emergency exercise \(Helios\)](#), both in June 2024.

³ Area Action Plans are planning documents to provide detailed policies and proposals for particular areas that require focused development or regeneration.

A.2 Flooding

The Council continued to deliver projects for smaller Sustainable Drainage Systems⁴ (SuDS) in flood-prone areas, 11 SuDS were delivered, with over 730 sqm of hard standing surface de-paved and approximately 2600 sqm of surface run-off diverted from the sewer system. External funding has also been secured (subject to final approval by the Environment Agency) for implementation of two larger flood alleviation schemes in 2024/25 and 2025/26.

A [scoping report](#) to identify areas of groundwater and surface water flood risk in the borough has been completed. A preliminary [groundwater](#) and [surface water flood risks map](#) [particularly for properties with basements] has been created, indicating the number of basements in the borough that are potentially at risk.

The Council is working on producing a practice guide on basement developments to ensure all future basement developments are resistant and resilient to flooding. The aim is to complete this work by the end of 2025.

A.3 Conservation & Resilient Planting

Parks and greenspace management plans were updated for 2023 to better embed climate resilience and biodiversity objectives. There are 31 management plans (MP) in total with associated action plans for each MP updated annually.

A scope to inform the development of the Urban Forest Plan has been drafted. An Urban Forest Plan is a component part of a wider Green Infrastructure Strategy. It operationalises the objectives of the Green Infrastructure Strategy in relation to the management of the borough's stock of trees.

A.4 Community Preparedness

The [UKHSA Adverse Weather Plan for 2023](#) (AWP) has been reviewed. The AWP seeks to enhance local response capabilities and improve dissemination of health messaging during adverse weather conditions.

[Heat-health action cards](#) have been developed by the Council to support partners and stakeholders in responding to heat-health alerts (HHAs). During the period when the Weather-Health Alert Service runs 1 June to 30 September HHAs will be sent to the Council's Emergency Planning Team, who in turn will cascade the alert to officers that

⁴ Sustainable Drainage Systems are a range of techniques used to manage and mitigate surface water runoff in a more sustainable way than traditional drainage systems. They aim to replicate natural drainage processes, reduce flood risk, and improve water quality.

support or interact with those at risk. To further support the HHAs, a communications programme is in development that will focus on raising public awareness of extreme heat risks, advising of behavioural changes to reduce impacts, especially for vulnerable and at risk groups.

The Council has updated the live Multi-Agency Flood Response Plan in consultation with other Risk Management Authorities within Borough Resilience Forums.

The Council engaged 516 residents on the topic of adapting to climate change and ensuring equity:

- 21 residents were engaged through conversations with local community groups. These face to face interviews focused on hearing experiences and ideas from people most at risk from extreme heat;
- 480 people shared their perception of the risks of heatwaves through an online Community Heatwave Preparedness Survey. The survey gathered insights on readiness and support preferences for extreme heat events; and
- 15 people, recruited to reflect the local population of Hackney, took part in the first Citizens' Climate Jury and over four sessions discussed ways to address extreme heat risks. They created nine high-impact recommendations on community support, green infrastructure, and policy.



Case study: Hackney Citizens' Climate Jury

The [Hackney Citizens' Climate Jury](#) brought together a diverse group of residents to develop recommendations to protect vulnerable populations from increasingly severe heatwaves. This deliberative democratic process empowered citizens to scrutinise evidence, hear from experts, and co-create solutions with support from Council officers and organisation experts.

Over four sessions between April and May 2024, 15 jurors, selected through civic lottery, gained in-depth understanding of extreme heat risks. They prioritised issues, brainstormed initial ideas for immediate and longer-term actions, and through consensus, finalised nine high-impact recommendations spanning community communications and support, green infrastructure, and policy. Jurors directly presented their work to the Mayor and Senior Council Leadership, demonstrating localised democratic engagement.

The Council is committed to implementing the jury's recommendations in its Climate Action Plan. This process will be monitored and could serve as a model for other boroughs and cities globally seeking to build climate resilience through inclusive, informed citizen engagement.

The [Citizens' Climate Jury video](#) highlights key aspects of the project including jurors' views.



Case study: Hackney Heatwave Survey

As part of the Citizens' Climate Jury engagement, a Community Heatwave Preparedness Survey was conducted, assessing readiness and support preferences for coping with extreme heat events.

With 480 participants, the survey highlighted the need for infrastructure improvements like green spaces and accessible areas. Valuable insights on effective support during heatwaves were gathered, emphasising advice from national organisations and institutions.

Recommendations included ensuring housing is resilient to extreme heat, enhancing shading options and advocating for increased government support as well as citizen education initiatives.

The survey findings will guide the borough in expanding adaptation and resilience activities. This includes implementing measures based on community needs, collaborating with stakeholders to enhance infrastructure, raising awareness, and supporting vulnerable groups in preparing for and managing heatwaves effectively.

Buildings

Removing gas boilers, adding solar panels, and decreasing energy use in our buildings, reducing fuel poverty.

Strategies

The new Housing Strategy has been rescheduled to align it with the Local Plan Review, due to start in mid-2025. Notwithstanding, a Housing Strategy Position Statement will be taken to Cabinet in the Autumn, which will cover the period 2024/2025. The new Housing Strategy will be for 2025–2030.

A new five-year Private Sector Housing Strategy 2024–2029 has been developed and will be published in 2024/25. This strategy will commit to supporting Council-wide carbon reduction action across all housing tenures in the borough, and will engage with private sector landlords to achieve carbon neutrality. It will include initiatives to support energy efficiency standards in Hackney's private homes, and commit to research on how landlords plan to meet future higher EPC standards and the potential barriers they face.

Awards

The Council won the [Planning to address climate change](#) category at the 2024 Planning Awards for the The Low Carbon Development Toolkit⁵. The tool was a collaborative effort led by the Council in partnership with London boroughs and [London Councils](#).

B1. Retrofit

The [Green Homes Grant programme](#) supports home energy efficiency improvements for low-income residents in Hackney. It's delivered in partnership with contractors who extend resident's applications to secure funding from other suitable schemes. The programme not only helps reduce energy consumption but also supports residents with additional services like safeguarding and benefits advice. Additionally, a dedicated energy advice service, enhancing residents' ability to manage energy costs whilst contributing to overall well-being. A total of 56 households have had energy measures installed in their homes so far, including solar PV and LED lighting. Phase 3 is ongoing, focused on EPC D+ properties and prioritising insulation measures like loft and cavity wall, as well as decarbonisation of heating.

⁵ The Low Carbon Development Toolkit is a targeted collection of documents to aid boroughs' planning teams in achieving better low carbon outcomes across the built environment.

The delivery of approved [Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund 3B](#)⁶ projects is currently progressing at 10 key locations in the borough, including London Fields Lido, Clissold Leisure Centre, Queensbridge Leisure Centre, Homerton Library, Millfields School, Holmleigh School, Daniel House, and Stoke Newington Town Hall and Library.

The application for [Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund 3C](#) projects for the 2023 round, was successful. Delivery is scheduled for 2024/2026, with the total project cost at £29.5 million, and an expected grant of around £13 million will be awarded towards 17 projects including Hackney Service Centre, Hackney Town Hall, Median Road Resource Centre, Clissold House, Tomlinson Centre, Queensbridge School, and up to ten school sites.

These projects are estimated to result in savings of 3,300⁷ tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e)⁸ per year.

These measures are intended to reduce carbon emissions from heating. The reduction is significant, with an estimated 85% decrease in emissions when compared to a scenario where these measures are not implemented.

The Council is utilising funds from the [Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund](#)⁹ to improve the energy efficiency of its street properties . So far, 321 dwellings have been surveyed to determine the best measures to implement. Around 80% of those surveyed are eligible for work. A procurement is under way to assign contractors to deliver the works.

Retrofit guidance has been incorporated into all revised Conservation Area Appraisals that were adopted in 2023/2024. A draft version of website guidance has been created and preliminary work on low carbon elements of the Retrofit, Extension and Alterations Supplementary Planning Document has started.

The Council has successfully applied for funding to decarbonise four traveller sites across the borough. These works will see solar panels, hot water connections and monitoring devices installed on all sites.

B.2 Gas Phase-out

[Hackney Light and Power](#) (HLP) continues to develop plans to formally establish itself as an independent municipal energy company. A business plan is in development, setting out the company structure, key projects, operations and services, legal and regulatory requirements, financial projections, risk assessment, marketing and customer acquisition

⁶ The Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme provides grants for public sector bodies to fund heat decarbonisation and energy efficiency measures.

⁷ The average lifetime of the measure is 20 years, therefore there is a potential lifetime savings of over 65,000 tCO₂e

⁸ The unit for greenhouse gases emissions. It stands for tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, whereby the 'equivalent' means all types of greenhouse gases that contribute to the climate emergency.

⁹ Funding to improve the energy performance of social homes in England.

strategy, implementation plan and the steps required to appoint a board of directors. The *HLP transition to Municipal Energy Company group* meets monthly to progress this workstream. The Council has also met with external contacts to gain insight about the variety of municipal energy company models that are in place.

The Council is participating in and supporting the GLA-led commission to develop a sub-regional Local Area Energy Plan. This encompasses eight north London Boroughs and is scheduled to be completed in Autumn 2024.

In January 2024, the Council started its participation in the Danish District Heating Mentor Programme. This programme was launched in 2020 by the Danish Embassy in London. It pairs Danish district heating experts with UK local authorities, fostering knowledge exchange to bolster the UK's expanding district heating sector.

Significant work has been done to evaluate the efficiency of the communal heating networks in the Council's social housing. In combination with further studies on two of the largest heat networks, the Council is developing a roadmap to improve the efficiency of existing communal heat networks and also develop a 'fair charging' policy for the residents.

Progress has been made with the development of the heat network at Woodberry Down. A feasibility study has been completed with four options for delivery identified. This project aims to be integrated into the work of heat network development within Hackney Light and Power.

The [Colville Heat Network project](#) has been approved and will connect over 1,300 homes in the Colville and Britannia developments, the Britannia Leisure Centre, City of London Academy Shoreditch Park and, subject to confirmation, Shoreditch Park Primary School in the Hoxton area. The project has the potential to provide a scalable, replicable solution for deployment across the borough with the potential to expand and decarbonise the wider area (including the existing Shoreditch Heat Network) in the short to medium-term.

[Community Energy London's Annual Conference 2024](#) was held in partnership with the London Borough of Hackney on 18th July.

B.3 Embodied & Operational Carbon of New Builds

The Planning Validation Checklist has been updated to ensure that applications for major planning projects and large regeneration initiatives comply with circular economy requirements and are submitted with all the necessary details for assessment.

A New Homes Programme brief — see *Section 5.2 Contributing to Hackney's sustainability objectives* — has been completed aligning more closely with the specific

goals of the Hackney [Climate Action Plan](#). These standards are now being enacted, reviewed and monitored across circa 400 new homes supported by the appointment of a cross-programme Environmental Consultant.

The evidence base to enable review of carbon pricing working collaboratively with a number of other London local authorities has been finalised. A Cabinet report on the recommended carbon pricing options is currently being developed for submission later this year.

In the reporting period between 1 July 2023 and 31 March 24, £473,209.25 was received in Carbon Offset Funding¹⁰. The payment towards the Carbon Offset Fund is secured through S106 and is based on a cross London cost of Carbon proposed by the GLA. During this period £866,000 was allocated to support the second round of the Community Energy Fund and a residential solar PV pilot project.

B.4 Renewable Power

The [Hackney Community Energy Fund](#)¹¹ Round 2 closed in January 2024 and resulted in 15 community organisations being awarded a range of capital and feasibility grants. Round 3 closed in July 2024 and awarded 17 organisations (three for solar panels, four for energy efficiency measures and ten for feasibility studies).

A report was approved at Cabinet in January 2024 [see [Item 17](#)] to agree on the approach for setting up Hackney's branded residential solar project to enable the supply of locally generated solar power to residents in the Borough. Up to £1.96 million of capital investment has been approved to enable the design, installation and operation of a solar-powered system as outlined in the Cabinet paper.

28 Local authority maintained schools (nearly 50% of the schools managed by the Council) had lighting upgrade projects completed. Schools are also delivering solar panel projects, with one completed in the past year and three more expected to be completed later this year.

Solar panels have been installed at Webb Estate Community Hall, Concorde Centre, and Queensbridge Leisure Centre as part of the plan to install 1 MWp. Work is in progress to complete the project by the end of 2024, with installations planned at Wrens Park Community Hall and the Hackney Mortuary.

¹⁰ Where it is not feasible to achieve a zero carbon development on-site, any shortfall is provided through a payment in lieu contribution to the Hackney Carbon Offset Fund.

¹¹ Hackney Light and Power annual scheme which launched in 2022 and provides financial support to non profit organisations such as schools, faith groups and charities to improve the energy efficiency of publicly used buildings.



Case study: Hackney Community Energy Fund

The annual [Hackney Community Energy Fund](#) (HCEF) was launched in 2022 to support public institutions and not-for-profit organisations based in Hackney, such as schools, faith groups and charities, to work closely with local community energy groups to improve the energy efficiency of publicly-used buildings.

The fund enables Hackney not-for-profit organisations to:

- reduce their energy costs
- create warmer and more energy-efficient buildings
- reduce carbon emissions and tackle climate change
- engage with their communities on topics relating to their project
- grow the local community energy sector and green economy
- bring a range of stakeholders into Hackney's net zero journey

The Council distributed nearly £1m in funds over the three rounds, and 39 local not-for-profit community organisations are being supported to install clean power or energy saving measures. These measures will help to save 160 tCO₂e each year.

[HCEF](#) will be the biggest community energy fund by a local authority in England.



Case study: Colville Heat Network Project

The [Colville Heat Network \(CHN\) project](#) is part of the Council's initiatives to significantly reduce carbon emissions by transitioning to a low-carbon district heating system. This project is in line with the UK government's target of an 80% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2050 and the Council's wider goal of achieving net zero emissions by 2040.

The CHN will replace existing Combined Heat and Power (CHP) and boiler systems with high-efficiency Ammonia Air Source Heat Pumps, providing a template sustainable heating solution for housing, schools, and leisure centres across the borough. The Council has secured £14 million, including £2.9 million from the [Green Heat Network Fund](#)¹², and expects to reduce a further 100,000 tCO₂e against previous estimated carbon emissions over its lifetime, making a significant individual contribution to the borough's environmental targets. The Council has also implemented comprehensive financial modelling to ensure the project's cost recovery and sustainability over a 40-year period.

The Council's next steps involve procuring contractors to oversee the project's development and implementation and finalising the Heat Charging Policy to ensure equitable heat tariffs for all residents. The Council will continue to conduct feasibility studies for potential expansions of the network, including integrating with the Shoreditch Heat Network.

¹² Capital grant support for the development of new and existing low and zero-carbon heat networks.

Transport

Reducing emissions from the transport network, improving air quality and helping residents live an active and healthy lifestyle.

Strategies

Preparatory work for the 2025–2030 Transport Strategy continues with the intention to have an updated strategy document for adoption by the end of 2025. To support this the Council has:

- updated the through traffic study;
- commissioned a new Cycle Network Plan;
- commissioned an update to transport related Development Management guidance; and
- reviewed the need for further data analysis.

Awards

The Council's Parking Policy has come out [top across all London boroughs](#) in an independent assessment delivered by the environmental charity [Possible. Inspiring climate action](#) into the effectiveness of London's parking policies at tackling climate change.

Hackney's Boroughwide Transport Projects has been shortlisted in the 2024 [National Transport Awards](#) for the category Exemplary contribution to Net Zero.

T1. Clean Fuels

The Council has made significant progress in establishing the electric vehicle (EV) charging network to support the growth for electric vehicles in the borough. The [EV network map](#) has been created to display the potential locations of EV charge points, aiming to engage with residents and ensure accessibility. Key milestones in the programme include:

- Public launch of the EV programme at Follingham Court estate, marking the completion of the first estate installation. A public ribbon-cutting event in February 2024 celebrated this achievement and provided an opportunity for further community engagement.
- Installation is progressing at a rate of 30-50 sites per month, with work plans in place to enable a faster installation schedule. The Council has already installed 411

EV charging points across the borough and is committed to providing over 2,500 by 2026. This initiative will create one of the most concentrated networks of EV charge points in the country.

- [Hackney Light and Power Discounted Charging Tariff](#) has been introduced to provide residents with more affordable EV charging options, encouraging the transition to electric vehicles.

The Council introduced a new emission based charging scheme for resident and business vehicle permit holders with an increased diesel surcharge, to incentivise drivers to move away from higher polluting and diesel vehicles. Emissions-based charging has also been extended to vehicle permits on Council housing estates.

The Council progressed several actions related to its boroughwide vehicle emissions and parking policies with the target impacts set out below.

- Short Stay Parking Sessions
 - Overall, the number of short stay parking sessions has decreased by 25% compared to the 2019 baseline;
 - Sessions for diesel vehicles have decreased by 40%.
- High Polluting Vehicles
 - The proportion of high polluting vehicles has decreased by 7%, from 41% to 34% of all permitted vehicles within the borough;
 - The decline is driven by a new 13-band emission-based charging scheme for resident and business vehicle permit holders, which includes an increased surcharge for diesel vehicles.
- Vehicle Permits
 - The number of permits issued to diesel vehicles has decreased by a third, from 28% of all permits in 2019 to 18% currently;
 - Permits for electric vehicles have increased from 1% of all permitted vehicles in 2019 to 4% now.
- Average CO2 emissions per vehicle have reduced by 5%, from 143 g/km to 136 g/km.

The Council supported the proposed expansion of the [Transport for London – London Ultra Low Emission Zone \(ULEZ\)](#) across the borough, and the implementation of the expanded ULEZ has been completed.

According to the [London-wide ULEZ Six Month Report](#), since ULEZ was extended to include Greater London, levels of air pollutants have dramatically decreased in London. Roadside NO2 concentrations are estimated to be 24 % lower in inner London than they would have been without the ULEZ and its expansions. Full Report can be seen [here](#).

The Council's fleet currently operates 106 battery electric vehicles, which account for approximately 18% of the total fleet. Apart from the Housing fleet almost all other (non

electric) vehicles in the fleet are running on renewable biofuel known as Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil¹³ (HVO). The use of HVO biofuel helped reduce the fleets' carbon footprint by 90%.

T.2 Walking and Cycling

In 2023/24 the cycle training was provided to over 1,247 children with over 4,900 children taking part in road safety activities.

The [Zero Emissions Network](#) provided trials to businesses wanting to test out a cargo bike, e-bike, use a car club, or try a cargo bike courier. It also has a grants scheme for SMEs to purchase their own cargo bike, with 17 Hackney businesses awarded a grant last year.

Two main campaigns aimed at promoting walking and cycling are in place:

- [Walk Once a Week](#) (WOW) Campaign and nine Hackney's schools are participating in the campaign; and
- [TfL Travel for Life Programme](#) (formerly TfL STARS) where eight schools are targeted to participate in the programme.

The Council is making significant progress with expanding the cycle network to better support active lifestyle choices for residents. There are three current schemes underway:

- The Crossway Scheme in Dalston has been successfully completed, providing new cycle hire bays for residents;
- The Lea Bridge Cycle Scheme is on track for completion and includes:
 - The Lea Bridge Roundabout — completed;
 - The Sandringham/A10 Scheme — on track for summer 2024 completion.
- The Queensbridge Road Scheme is currently under construction with good progress being reported and due completion by mid-September 2024.

The [cycle hangar installation programme](#), which began in October 2023, is ahead of schedule with 202 additional hangars installed. Currently, six to eight hangars are being installed weekly in high-demand areas. With an original target to deliver 675 hangars by April 2026, the programme is on track to be complete by the end of 2025.

¹³ is a renewable diesel alternative produced from vegetable oils or animal fats through a hydrotreatment process.

T.3 Car and motorbike traffic

Streetscape upgrades will be further enhanced on Amhurst Road in 2024–2025 as part of the Liveable Neighbourhood scheme which aims to improve the urban environment by reducing traffic, promoting walking and cycling, and improving public spaces.

The Council has introduced 19 [Low Traffic Neighbourhoods](#) (LTNs) since 2020. Now over 70% of eligible roads in Hackney are covered by a low traffic zone. This is 50% of the total area of Hackney and more than any other London borough.

- Work is underway in Hoxton East, Dalston, and Chatsworth Road to increase the coverage of LTNs in the borough;
- A recent decision was made regarding the hours of operation of the bus gate in the London Fields LTN which now operates 7am to 7pm;
- Additionally, there is an ongoing consultation for the implementation of the Hackney Downs LTN.

The Council is currently working on delivering a pilot feasibility scheme to test the large-scale deployment of electric vehicle (EV) car clubs. The pilot scheme involves 35 EV car club vehicles and is expected to begin in October 2024, pending the delivery of EV infrastructure and the availability of EVs. The long-term procurement plans in place are to acquire an additional 150 electric car club vehicles by 2026.

T.4 Freight and Delivery Traffic

Work is underway to identify locations for new cargo bike hubs combined with other micro mobility/shared transport options, and to convert the entire [cargo bike share network](#) (currently paused) into an open facility. New cargo bike share is planned to be implemented in 2024 on Dunlace/Chatsworth Road. Additional models of cargo bikes with open boxes will be introduced. Funding has also been secured for a cargo bike share initiative in Dalston, through the Cross River Partnership.

The Council awarded seventeen cargo bike and ebike grant schemes to local businesses.

The Council has developed relationships with cargo bike operators in the borough ([Zedify](#) and [Zhero](#)), as well as [Pedal Me](#) who are running cargo bike training for the [Zero Emissions Network](#).

T.5 Green and Resilient Streets

The following SuDS schemes have been completed:

- Oldhill Street / Stamford Grove East Junction
- Albion Drive
- Cycleway 23 — Crossway
- Micawber Street
- Clissold Crescent
- Shepherdess Walk
- Wayland and Sandringham Road
- Gore Road LTN entrance

The Council restarted the community parklet scheme in 2023 and delivered the first parklet on Ardleigh Road in August. There are five current live applications going through the review process. The Council is now offering a grant scheme to help prospective parklet keeper applicants install and manage their own parklets.

52 school streets are currently in place in the borough. These cover 91% of state primary schools and 31% of state secondary schools. The Council aims to make these school streets permanent through experimental traffic orders, including Mossbourne Riverside and The Olive School (expansion). Additionally, work is being undertaken so that Urswick Secondary School will be covered by a school street starting from September 2024.

The Council awarded a contract for the installation of air pollution screens (green screens) at schools and completed the installation at 10 locations.

The Main Roads Programme has been further developed, the scope of which was detailed in the Local Implementation Plan, agreed by [Cabinet in January 2023](#).

The Council has completed its comprehensive initiative to upgrade its street lighting infrastructure. 11,000 traditional lighting units have been replaced with energy-efficient LED technology. The Council has achieved significant reduction in annual carbon emissions, dropping over 65% from 2,447 to 789 tCO₂e. In terms of energy consumption, the annual usage had decreased over 45% from 6,414,284 kWh to 3,543,582 kWh by the end of the financial year 2023/2024.



Case study: Zero Emissions Network (ZEN)

The [Zero Emissions Network](#) supports businesses and residents to shift towards sustainable transport. Cargo bikes are an increasingly popular choice of transport, as they are fast, reliable and sustainable with health benefits to the user, and ZEN works to make it easier for businesses and residents to transition to using them.

Firstly, ZEN provides trials for businesses who want to test out a cargo bike, e-bike, use a car club or try a cargo bike courier. ZEN also has a grants scheme for SMEs to purchase their own cargo bike with 17 Hackney businesses awarded a grant last year.

Residents can also benefit from many of the [ZEN partner offers](#).

ZEN has recently expanded and now works with partner boroughs Tower Hamlets, Newham, City of London and Westminster.



Case study: Children cycle training

Cycle training teaches youngsters the skills they need to ride more safely. The Bikeability scheme rewards youngsters for taking part in cycle training by working their way through three different levels as they move from primary to secondary school.

As part of the 10 x 10 Programme for 10 years old, every child in this group will have the opportunity to learn how to ride a pedal cycle. In 2023/24 over 1,247 children trained and over 4,900 children took part in road safety activities. Objectives are to steadily increase both cycle training and consequently road safety awareness participation by:

- Increasing uptake for SEN pupils by enabling access to adapted pedal cycles and specialist instructors;
- Implementing more holistic cycle training initiatives providing cycle training sessions for the entire school over a period of 2 years;
- Increasing teacher participation in schools for cycle training and where feasible providing in house cycle instructors;
- Enhancing family cycle training schemes by developing further community hubs within the borough, increasing from one hub (Shoreditch Park Primary) to three over a 2 year period.

Consumption

Changing what and how we buy, use and sell.

Strategies

A draft of the new Sustainable Procurement and Insourcing Strategy (SPIS) has been prepared providing Council procurement staff, colleagues and partners with a framework of strategic priorities, commitments and targets. The Strategy aligns with the requirements of the National Procurement Policy Statement (NPPS), whilst ensuring the systems, capability and capacity of internal procurement teams supports the borough's [Climate Action Plan](#). The Council is in the final stage of stakeholder consultations working towards submitting the new Strategy for Cabinet endorsement later this year.

Awards

The Flats Above Shops (FLASH) food waste trial was shortlisted at the following awards:

- LARAC Conference Celebration Awards 2023 for Best New Idea;
- Keep Britain Tidy Awards 2024 for Climate Action in Practice;
- LGC Awards 2024 for Environmental Services;
- National Recycling Awards 2023 for Food Waste Initiative.

Additionally, the Environmental Operations won the [Best Team of the Year award](#) at the LARAC Conference Celebration Awards 2023.

C.1 Waste

Overall waste levels have seen a reduction, with waste per capita falling by 2 kg and combined waste and recycling decreasing by 4.7 kg per head. Additionally, annual residual waste per household has reduced from 490 to 485 kg. Although there has been a slight decrease in the household recycling rate, now stabilised at 26.1%, this is balanced by increased usage of reuse and recycling centres and higher garden waste volumes. These changes reflect more sustainable consumption habits and the impact of packaging innovations, which are reducing the weight of materials typically recycled. While socio-economic factors like the rising cost of food and packaged materials, alongside pressures from the cost of living crisis, have influenced recycling rates, the overall trend towards waste reduction is a positive step.

In 2023/24, the levels of residual waste per Council housing estate property decreased by 1.5% (9.6kg) in comparison to the previous period. While the recycling rate shifted

slightly from 18.5% to 17.9%, this reflects a broader trend seen across Hackney and North London.

The Estates Recycling Programme is successfully improving waste infrastructure across eight housing estates, including creating new bin stores and closing outdated chutes, to improve recycling accessibility and fire safety, with funding secured for expansion to 24 more estates by July 2027.

The Flats Above Shops (FLASH) food waste trial was conducted in August 2023 and following the trial, it was agreed the service could continue for participating properties, accompanied by ongoing monitoring to ensure service reliability and cleanliness. Despite receiving partial funding from DEFRA, negotiations persist to secure additional financial support for the planned expansion of the service to all FLASH properties.

The Council will maintain the goal of extending recycling collections to the remaining 10% of estates without current provisions by September 2024.

The Council delivered the Zero Plastics Markets project, in collaboration with [Raze](#), which successfully created a unique single-use plastic-free market service. Fruit and vegetable traders have switched to biodegradable bags, eliminating over 100,000 single-use plastic bags since October 2023. The project has also offset more than 55 tCO₂e to date, significantly reducing environmental impact.

C.2 Food

In November 2023, the Council launched and promoted the [School Plates awards](#) programme, which recognises schools that prioritise healthy and sustainable food options. So far, three schools have received the bronze award, and 12 more have signed up to participate. There is scope to incorporate the School Plates programme into the Healthy Schools Awards, further incentivising Hackney schools to join this important initiative.

The Council is leading on a Pan London Food Purchasing commitment to reduce food emissions from London's borough catering contracts. This was showcased at the Council's Annual General Meeting (AGM) in May 2024, where menu adjustments have led to a significant reduction in food emissions. Meat emissions, which contribute 7% to Hackney's carbon emissions, were reduced by increasing the proportion of plant-based options to 60%, up from 25% in 2022. This change resulted in a 69% reduction in carbon emissions from 2022. The AGM, attended by 185 individuals including Mayor Woodley, Councillors, Executive Members, and residents, received overwhelmingly positive feedback on the new menu, with 78% of respondents rating the catering 4.26 out of 5. Encouraged by this success and the high satisfaction levels, the Mayor's team is considering making all future event menus fully plant-based, further demonstrating Hackney's leadership in sustainability.

The [Eat Like a Londoner](#) campaign promoted sustainable eating practices that align with London's net zero emissions pledge by 2030. The campaign was co-led by the Council and ReLondon, with participation from 27 London boroughs. The campaign (outdoor advertising and digital) has engaged Londoners with the focus on reducing household food waste and promoting a plant-based diet. The campaign's website attracted 78,000 visits and 52,000 unique users, offering targeted messages to trigger behaviour changes such as money-saving advice and trying new tastes. Social media platforms, including Facebook and Instagram, showcased above market benchmark engagement levels, demonstrating strong audience interest.

The Council has been actively engaged with residents across seven housing estates supporting the development of their gardening groups and committees. Training has been delivered in partnership with various voluntary and community sector organisations, focusing on estates. In 2024/25, the Council will create three new food growing gardens on Fawcett Estate, Whiston Estate, and Athlon Close. The Hackney Gardeners network provides an excellent opportunity for residents to network, share best practice, and explore the diverse range of gardens across the borough.

C.3 Consumption emissions

The Library of Things based in Dalston Library obtained 1,834 borrows, saving residents circa £195,715, diverting 13.8 tonnes of waste from direct disposal and avoiding 25.4 tCO₂e. It also brought almost 5,000 extra visits to the library.

The Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan 2024–2027 is under development and aims to be complete by Autumn 2024. This plan is designed to align with Council's Climate Implementation Plan, promoting circular economy practices across internal Council departments, residents, businesses, and organisations within Hackney. The strategy focuses on high-impact, low-cost initiatives to facilitate sustainable practices that extend beyond immediate environmental benefits, offering longer-term, innovative solutions with a 10-year vision.

A Circular Economy Zone has been established in partnership with Hackney Wick Development Trust. Circular activities will be delivered in Hackney Wick with a full launch in Summer 2024.

The [Zero Waste Hackney Programme](#) continues to encourage residents to adopt sustainable purchase practices. The programme offers a range of zero waste events and projects to reduce waste, consumption and enable residents to save money amongst other co-benefits. The programme works with internal and external partners to deliver these Council funded initiatives. The focus is to reach all Hackney residents, particularly those who are vulnerable and on lower incomes. In 2023/24, over 500,000 items were reused from the textile banks, clothes swap, give & take events, as well as the lending

service with the Library of Things. Around 1,000 tonnes of waste was diverted, 5.5 tCO₂e avoided with a saving of £400,000 for participating residents.

The Council has continued to work with [Refill](#) on another annual campaign to promote the national Refill app to reduce single-use plastics via signposting residents to businesses where they accept reusable containers and provide refill water stations.

The Council actively promoted [Hackney shops](#) that offer refills and food without packaging. To raise awareness and provide easy access to these eco-friendly options, the [Hackney Zero Waste map](#) was created. This comprehensive map showcases local shops where residents can bring their own containers for refilling household cleaning products and purchase food without packaging. The impact of this initiative has been significant, with the map generating circa 40,000 views.

The Council has delivered:

- Four [Zero Waste Hubs](#): Hubs deliver reuse and repair pop-ups where residents can donate items they don't need, take things they do, and repair their electrical items, textiles and bicycles for free. In 2023/24 approximately 663 residents attended the events with 241 items including bikes, electricals and clothes repaired (or advice on repair was provided). Nearly 4 tonnes of waste was diverted from direct disposal and 15 tCO₂e avoided;
- Four [clothes swaps](#) and repair sessions: 764 attendees in 2023/24, with 3,625 pieces of clothing exchanged, and swaps therefore contributing to extending the lifespan of garments and reducing waste in the fashion industry. Additionally there was an estimated savings of £51,600;
- The Toy Reuse Scheme, circa 760 toys (est 1 tonne by weight) have been distributed helping vulnerable families, including those affected by domestic violence and poverty, as well as refugees and children in hospitals.

The Council promotes furniture reuse to facilitate a transition to a circular economy and encourages residents to use a variety of services, including apps like [Ferris](#) and [TipTapp](#), which enable individuals to give and receive reusable items for free. Also encouraged is the use of platforms such as [Freecycle](#), [Freegle](#) and [LoveJunk](#), where people can give away unwanted items and find preloved furniture and appliances. Residents are signposted to the [British Heart Foundation](#) for free collection service for donating unwanted furniture and household items and to [OLIO](#) which allows for the sharing of household items among neighbours.

156 tonnes of nappy waste have been avoided in 2023/24 working with Real Nappy for London to help parents reduce disposable nappy waste by providing them with a voucher to get started with washable alternatives.

576 tonnes of clothing and textiles were collected in 2023/24 as a result of the public reuse of clothes back across the borough in partnership with TR Aid, Islamic Relief and Oxfam, where clothing and textiles are sold for re-use in charity shops. 30 tonnes were also collected via home collections operated by Traid. An estimated total of 5,469 tCO₂e has been saved through circular clothing collection.

During the [London Climate Awareness Week](#), the Council delivered a series of events kicked off with the Zero Waste Hub, followed by the Nappy Give and Take and the [Hackney Sustainability Day](#) [an event to showcase sustainable actions in Hackney, featuring engaging activities, workshops and exhibition], and concluded with the Abney Park Tour. The week saw a total of 620 attendees, rehomed 300 household items, repaired 13 electricals, 50 bikes, and 13 textiles.

C.4 Investments and Finance

The Council has launched the [Hackney Community Municipal Investment](#) to finance green initiatives. The scheme reached its target and raised £600,000 from 467 investors.



Case study: The Estates Recycling Programme

The [Estates Recycling Programme](#) continues to deliver its Phase 5 programme to 8 Hackney Housing estates. This programme focuses on improving the waste and recycling infrastructure on estates in Hackney by providing residents with centralised bin stores with the correct waste and recycling capacity. The team focuses on moving bins to make them more accessible for residents and closing down out-dated chutes that are no longer fit for purpose.

These improvement works help residents recycle more efficiently as often estates do not have the correct or sufficient provisions to allow residents to recycle and furthermore improve the fire safety associated with chutes and bins. Achievements include:

- Successfully delivering the Phase 5 works across 8 estates, which is expected to double up the recycling rate from the 9.6% baseline to around 19%;
- Creation of 33 new bin stores allowing fairer accessibility to recycling for residents;
- Closure of 58 chutes. Contributing to making estates more safe from the fire risks associated with chutes;
- Successfully awarded £2.2 million from Housing Capital Budget (3-year funding) to roll out these works across a further 24 estates in the borough.



Case study: Hackney Community Municipal Investment

In May 2024, the Council launched the [Community Municipal Investment \(CMI\) Green Loan](#) to help finance green initiatives across the borough. The initiative aims to raise £1 million through a peer-to-peer lending platform hosted by Abundance Investment Ltd., a leader in ethical and environmentally beneficial projects. The CMI Green Loan offers lower interest rates to the Council compared to traditional borrowing sources such as the Public Works Loan Board and qualifies for Individual Savings Account status, providing tax advantages to smaller investors. The financing method was designed to engage residents and local businesses in supporting the Council's climate strategies and to diversify the Council's funding sources.

The funds will be used to implement several green projects, such as installing solar panels on public buildings, developing green spaces, and upgrading energy efficiency in Council properties, significantly contributing to the borough's net zero strategy.

The Council plans to identify additional green projects that can be financed through future rounds of CMI Green Loans, expanding the scope and impact of the initiative.

Environmental quality

Maximising the potential for biodiversity in our green spaces, reducing pollution and helping local ecosystems thrive.

Strategies

The [Green Infrastructure Strategy](#) was adopted in June 2023, prioritising the development and enhancement of green infrastructure to support the Council's vision and goals.

[Hackney's Local Nature Recovery Plan](#) was adopted in June 2023, focussing on; protecting important natural conservation sites; increasing ecological connectivity by linking high-quality habitats; and creating new habitats to enhance and expand existing wildlife areas. Example of how this work has been carried out include:

- The North Marsh Habitats Project, significantly enhancing the biodiversity of Hackney Marshes. The project introduced new habitats including two pollinator gardens, a wildlife pond, bee gardens, and structures designed to support local wildlife like hedgehogs and amphibians. Additional features like 'stepping stone' tree copses extend the habitat across the marshes, linking to existing conservation areas. This initiative is supported by the GLA's Grow Back Greener fund and has already led to an increase in hedgehog sightings, highlighting its immediate positive impact on local biodiversity.
- The Old Lea River Restoration Project, in collaboration with the Wildlife Gardeners of Haggerston, which focuses on ecological restoration to enhance the local natural habitat. This initiative, supported by Rewild London funding, includes planting wildlife-supportive vegetation, managing invasive species, and installing structures to stabilise the riverbank and enhance habitat complexity. The project also incorporates the Urban Riverfly monitoring method to assess water quality and engages local volunteers in conservation efforts, aiming to contribute positively to [Hackney's Local Nature Recovery Plan](#).

EQ.1 Air quality

The Council has adopted air quality policies for Non-Road Mobile Machinery (NRMM) as part of its broader strategy to improve air quality in the borough. These policies align with the [Greater London Authority's Low Emission Zone for NRMM](#), which sets stringent emissions standards for machinery used on construction sites.

The Council is a member of the [London Wood Burning Project](#). Through this, a series of [adverts](#), social media posts and campaign assets were created to raise awareness about the harmful effects of wood burning on health and the environment.

The Council is proposing a new Smoke Control Order aimed at reducing harmful pollution from burning solid fuels, such as wood and coal. This new order will replace the 27 existing orders and cover the entire borough, potentially including waterways.

Improvements to the network of automatic monitoring stations continued in 2023. A station was installed in Dalston Lane in June 2023. By the end of 2023, the network consisted of 2 permanent monitoring stations and 4 hired monitoring stations. NOx and PM10 are measured at all of the hired stations; NOx only at Green Lanes and NOx, PM10, PM2.5 and Ozone at the permanent site in Old Street. The NOx and PM10 monitors at Old Street have been upgraded with newer instruments.

The Council, via a contractor, continues to manage and publish data from the automatic air quality monitoring stations. The data is publicly available on the [AirQualityEngland](#) website. [Breathe London](#) also continues to operate monitoring nodes within the borough and publish the data on their website. To bring all air quality monitoring data into a single site, Air Aware was designed and was launched in October 2023.

The impacts on air quality from traffic schemes continues to be assessed seeking input as required. No further modelling was undertaken in 2023 but additional monitors were installed to gather more comprehensive baseline data.

The Council is one of 31 boroughs that participated in a pan-London anti-idling project – [idling action](#). The campaign aimed to change behaviour around idling by raising awareness of the impacts that vehicle idling can have on air quality.

The Council continued to provide comment and advice on the air quality impacts of new developments and to ensure appropriate mitigation measures are in place.

The Council has progressed actions within the [Air Quality Action Plan](#). An [Annual Status Report](#) which contains details of progress against all of the measures in the Action Plan was submitted to the GLA in May 2024. The report contains all of the borough's air quality monitoring data for the 2023 calendar year.

The Council delivered an air quality awareness raising campaign ([Air Aware](#)) around exposure reduction techniques, focusing on groups impacted the most by high levels of air pollution and pre-existing health conditions.

EQ.2 Biodiversity

Parks and green space management plans continue to be regularly updated to integrate climate resilience principles.

Biodiversity Net Gain requirements have been implemented by the Council to evaluate each planning application based on its complexity and may consider limited outsourcing to other specialists where required.

Biodiversity awareness training was delivered by Core Landscapes for six key Parks and green spaces staff. The Council presented two biodiversity led programmes to 280 building maintenance staff with a core theme of enhancing biodiversity within estates and green roofs. Consultation has also started on a planting strategy for housing green spaces.

The Council supported 50+ community gardens and grow projects across the borough estates, with 13 new projects taken forward in 2023. Increasingly, the Council uses garden projects to engage young people and help people to grow food and eat healthily, with support from corporate volunteers and voluntary organisations. An online gardening forum was established in July 2022 to help share good practice. The forum has been co-producing governance documents for community gardens and promoting good practice through garden walks across housing neighbourhoods.

The Council continued to signpost local groups and support existing Park User Groups for funding bids for parks by:

- Including details of funding in monthly parks newsletter;
- Working with London Fields User Group on Grow Back Greener Funding Bid;
- Working with local experts at Hackney Marshes to deliver GLA — funded biodiversity improvements.

In 2023, the Green Screens programme was split into two phases: design and suitability, and installation. During the design and suitability phase, 25 school sites were visited. While two sites were ruled out as unsuitable, 23 detailed designs were produced in January 2024 and sent out to tender for the installation phase. It is estimated that 10-15 green screens will be rolled out in 2024 as part of the installation phase; a total of 15 Green Screens will be delivered with existing funding by March 2025 with schools prioritised based on traffic levels and suitability.

The Council has achieved the target of 29 [Green Flags](#) and has applied for 31 for 2024.

There have been a number of notable achievements:

- West Reservoir Improvement Project planted approximately 720m² of new reedbeds;

- Abney Park Restoration Project reached practical completion;
- Fairchild's Garden Refurbishment Project reached practical completion on the complete transformation of the Garden.

A Biodiversity Officer has been appointed in July 2024 to support nature recovery in assets managed by the parks and green spaces service. There are also plans to recruit a Biodiversity Net Gain Officer in planning which subject to a successful recruitment should be in place by the end of 2024.

EQ.3 Water

As part of the commitment to enhancing the River Lea, the Council actively participates in the regular meetings of the River Lea Catchment Partnership. The Council also carefully considers the outcomes of any feasibility studies conducted by Thames 21 regarding the potential designation of Bathing Water status for the River Lea.

The Council continued to install water reduction measures during maintenance of Council-owned buildings.

The Council continues regular annual servicing of highways gully pots within Council maintenance (cleaning) responsibility. Over 10,000 gullies were cleaned/maintained between April 2023 to March 2024.

The Council refurbished the New River Path in December 2023, enhancing its accessibility and appeal. The Council submitted a planning application for further improvements to ensure continuous development of the area with a plan to open up the East of the West Reservoir to the general public by June 2024, providing new recreational opportunities and promoting community engagement with the local environment.



Case study: Smoke control order

The Council is proposing a new Smoke Control Order aimed at reducing harmful pollution from burning solid fuels, such as wood and coal. This new order will replace the 27 existing orders and cover the entire borough, potentially including waterways. Within this Smoke Control Area (SCA), residents would only be permitted to burn authorised fuels (also known as "smokeless" wood or coal) unless they have an appliance or stove approved by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Additionally, the Council will seek funding from DEFRA to enable boaters to upgrade their solid fuel appliance bringing them into compliance with the SCA requirements.

During the engagement period, the Council has informed residents about the proposed changes by distributing over 5,000 printed materials, creating a [Citizen Space page](#), conducting evening and weekend face-to-face engagement sessions with boaters, arranging a drop-in advice session with The London Fire Brigade, Money Hub, Traveller Liaison Officer, and Land Water Air Officers, engaging with partner organisations and using social media.

Following the engagement period, consultation responses will be reviewed and presented to the Council Cabinet meeting.



Case study: DEFRA project Air Aware

Hackney is one of the most deprived authorities in England. Communities with higher levels of deprivation tend to experience the highest levels of air pollution and be the least engaged with local council initiatives on sustainability and environment.

The 2-year DEFRA project aimed to disseminate information on air pollution and exposure reduction techniques to encourage positive behaviour change in communities experiencing higher levels of air pollution.

The [Air Aware](#) web tool provides a new, useful and accessible air quality resource for these local communities. It was co-designed over 12-months with local volunteers to ensure relevant content and widespread appeal. It provides a map and graphs showing live local air quality, a referenced info hub to allow independent learning, and an AI powered assistant to answer questions.

Since its launch in October 2023, over 2,000 users have been recorded. A large-scale and targeted promotional campaign has recently concluded, with the next steps to increase usage of the tool further in target communities through discussions, presentations and promotion at events e.g. Sustainability Day.

Green Economy

Creating a new green economy in Hackney.

Strategies

A draft Economic Development Plan (EDP) will be taken for Cabinet approval in Autumn 2024 and will expand upon the Climate Action Plan's objectives of growing a local green economy. The draft EDP is centred on four economic 'missions', one of which is ensuring that 'Hackney's economy is climate resilient and sustainable'. This mission will be driven by three broad strategic priorities:

- All buildings in Hackney are decarbonised;
- Hackney has a strong regenerative and circular economy;
- Residents and businesses benefit from and contribute to a sustainable economy.

Each outcome will be targeted through the delivery of actions and interventions drawing upon the Council's role as a convener, asset holder, local regulator, advocate, innovator and auditor. The EDP recognises that reducing the environmental impact of all local economic activities is ambitious and to a large extent, outside of direct Council control, but that as a local authority it can make a significant difference by creating a supportive environment to help businesses to make the transition to net zero. The EDP also emphasises that addressing the climate crisis is an economic opportunity for Hackney, with the borough already home to the largest proportion of businesses in core or enabling circular economy sectors of any borough in London. The EDP will build on firm foundations to position Hackney as the best borough in London to site a green business.

GE1. Green Economy

A number of green skills accredited courses have been piloted as part of the Jobs & Skills for Londoners programme and include:

- Commissioned Level 2 Certificate in Retrofit for 20 residents;
- Delivered an intergenerational sustainability-focused workshop for 8 residents;
- Delivered an awareness — raising session for 17 advisors;
- Delivered an Environment Awareness and Sustainability in Construction course for 25 residents.

The Council is delivering green skills through adult learning services, with 216 learning opportunities planned under the Jobs & Skills for Londoners initiative and embedding green skills in educational curriculum planning. The borough is set to establish a green

skills hub targeting 300 residents for green jobs over three years, measured by GLA learner data.

The Council continues to support business decarbonisation through advice, technical audits, a pilot grants programme, and the Affordable Workspace Fund, which offers grants for decarbonisation improvements. A 2026 business survey will track the adoption of decarbonisation measures in businesses, underscoring the borough's commitment to sustainability and economic growth.

The baseline for green economy businesses and their support needs has been developed and updated based on the latest data available. Work is ongoing to understand local, sub-regional, and regional green economy labour market dynamics.

The Council actively engages with circular economy businesses and successful partnerships extend to the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park boroughs and the London Legacy Development Corporation, with joint efforts securing funding for business support and small grants aimed at green economy enterprises. Additionally, the Council leverages locally controlled business support programmes to provide start-up and scale-up advice to green economy businesses. Hackney businesses in this sector also benefit from the sub-regional [UK Shared Prosperity Fund](#) business support programme and the local Hackney Impact programme, ensuring comprehensive support for their growth and sustainability.

The Council is working on establishing a Social Value Forum and developing a Social Value toolkit, which will include templates and guidance for staff. The Social Value Forum aims to engage internal stakeholders and partners to explore methods of promoting and maximising social value outcomes, including the creation of green jobs, through Council contracting activities.

The Council delivered a [Festival of Learning for a Greener Hackney](#) to coincide with [London Climate Awareness Week 2024](#). The aim of this festival was to bring residents into the libraries and engage with learning in alternative ways.

The [Eco School Programme](#) has 74 schools registered and 27 [Eco-School Green Flag Awards](#) achieved, including 6 renewals. Engaging approximately 6,000 school children in various activities, the programme underscores the importance of environmental stewardship among young learners.

This academic year almost 60 events have been conducted which include tree planting, climate action and waste prevention assemblies, annual sustainable schools event.

Three [Eco-Schools](#) are taking part in The EcoRefill Scheme and schools have opened 10 refill shops and refilled almost 250 postconsumer plastic bottles with useful household products. Furthermore, 12 schools are taking part in the Energy Sparks programme

which is an online energy analysis tool and energy education programme specifically designed to help schools reduce their electricity and gas usage through the analysis of smart metre data.

Collaborating with University College London, the Council will pilot a project to develop Climate Action Plans compliant with the Council and Department for Education CAP guidelines, focusing on four federations for cross-federation plans.

The Council pledged to engage with young people and develop a Climate Action Curriculum that teaches pupils about the causes of climate change and how they can take action in their local areas. The Council has identified two primary federations to lead on this work and the work stream has been agreed.

The Council created the [Hackney Responsible Business Charter](#) to help build a fairer, greener, and more inclusive local economy in the borough benefiting both residents and local businesses. This Charter is about recognising and promoting the social and environmental commitments that make sense to businesses.



Case study: Supporting Hackney's green businesses

The Council has been working to support the emerging green economy within the borough, with a particular focus on the cluster of green businesses based out of the Olympic Park area.

The Council is partnering with the urban innovation organisation [SHIFT](#) to support innovative sustainability startups to trial new ideas and has worked with the [Hackney Wick and Fish Island Community Development Trust](#) to secure a temporary [circular economy hub in Wallis Road](#).

The Council in partnership with [Hackney Impact](#) is also providing free energy audits to Hackney businesses to identify how they can make their premises more energy efficient in a deliverable, affordable way.

The Council's forthcoming Economic Development Plan will set out a programme of coordinated actions for supporting a thriving green economy in the borough.



Case study: Festival of learning

From 22 - 29 June, to coincide with [London Climate Awareness Week 2024](#), Hackney Adult Learning, supported by the Libraries Service, led celebrations for the [Festival of Learning for a Greener Hackney](#).

The aim of this project was to bring residents into the libraries and engage with learning in alternative ways.

Working with partners within the borough, including Hackney Works, the Council's streetscene and recycling services plus organisations such as ZEST, The East End Trades Guild and Sustainable Hackney, 30 events were delivered across the borough.

There was something for residents of all ages with information about green careers, taking qualifications in Sustainability, learning how to repair your bike. Libraries also put up displays of their green-themed stock and residents received DIY tips from the [Library of Things](#).

Commitment priorities for the next two years

Over the next two years the Council will undertake the following key actions to support the CAP Goals and Objectives:

Adaptation

- Implement a larger flood risk alleviation scheme within the borough.
- Deliver a communications programme on extreme weather risks, focusing on advice for vulnerable and at risk groups alongside others.
- Develop further phases of tree planting to increase tree canopy and solar shading – prioritising hottest areas of Urban Heat Island mapping and vulnerable communities.

Buildings

- Develop net zero roadmap for Council's social housing.
- Develop an area-based Local Area Energy Plan.
- Deliver approved Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund projects at London Fields Lido, Clissold Leisure Centre and Queensbridge Leisure Centre, Hackney Service Centre, Hackney Town Hall, Median Road Resource Centre, Clissold House, the Tomlinson Centre, Queensbridge School, and up to ten other school sites. amongst others.
- Deliver approved Social Housing Decarbonisation project on eligible Council street properties.

Transport

- Develop and consult on an updated Transport Strategy.
- Continue installing EV charging points to provide 3,000 accessible charging points by 2026.
- Continue to expand the cycle hanger network with 4,000 new cycle spaces by 2026.

Consumption

- Publish a Circular Economy strategy action plan.
- Adopt an updated Sustainable Procurement and Insourcing Strategy.
- Implement green bond community wealth investment proposals.
- Develop and implement a circular economy zone in the borough.

Environmental Quality

- Increase biodiversity in parks, open spaces and small urban greenspaces including cul-de-sac parks, pocket parks and open spaces within housing estates and embed in management plans.
- Improve habitats and wildlife spaces via green corridor enhancements where the Council is the landowner or has influence.
- Assess management plans for the watercourses in Hackney as part of future Local Plan review.
- Adopt a Borough-wide smoke control order if approved by relevant bodies.

Green Economy

- Promote new low carbon apprenticeships through the Hackney Apprenticeship Network.
- Provide signposting to regional, national or industry materials that make a compelling case for businesses to decarbonise and provide information on preparing for relevant regulatory changes.
- Develop and deliver a package of support for green economy businesses (sub-sectors) interested in locating to Hackney.

External funding

The Council has submitted a number funding applications to secure external funding to support the Council's climate response – the full list with a description of each is itemised below:

Grant/fund	Description	Awards
Successful applications		
Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Phase 3c	It provides grants to public sector bodies to fund heat decarbonisation and energy efficiency measures.	£4,150,000 and £8,740,000
Traveller Sites grant	Fund to decarbonise four traveller sites across the borough. These works will see solar panels, hot water connections and monitoring devices installed on all sites.	£199,800 ¹⁴
Heat Network Efficiency Scheme (HNES) round 5	Fund to enhance heat networks across England and Wales. The funding, allocated in Round 5 of the scheme, will improve the efficiency of heat networks for the benefit of residents and various other private and public sector organisations.	£114,000
Swimming Pool Support Fund: Phase II — Capital	Reduce the energy consumption level of facilities in receipt of funding, compared to baseline, and support the leisure sector to transition to a position of environmental and financial sustainability.	£345,000
Biodiversity Net Gain Grant 2023/2024	The purpose of this grant is to provide funding to local authorities in England towards expenditure lawfully incurred or to be incurred by them in delivering biodiversity net gain.	£43,000
Biodiversity Net Gain Grant 2024/2025		£43,000
Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding tranche 1	The LEVI Fund supports local authorities in England to plan and deliver charging infrastructure for residents without off-street parking.	£1,360,000
Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure	The LEVI Capability Fund has been provided to support capacity and capability in local authorities to create local EV infrastructure strategies and for the	£46,000

¹⁴ The Council is undertaking detailed surveys prior to formally accepting the grant.

(LEVI) Additional Capability Grant	planning and delivery of local EV infrastructure.	
Green Heat Network Fund (GHNF) Round 7	The GHNF is a capital grant fund that will support the commercialisation and construction of new low and zero carbon heat networks (including the supply of cooling), the retrofitting and expansion of existing heat networks.	£2,938,000
Zero Emission Network	A collaboration between Hackney, Tower Hamlets, City of London, Newham and Westminster to support businesses and residents to adopt cargo bikes and e-bikes for deliveries and work travel.	£176,800 ¹⁵
Hackney Central Super Low Emission Zone	A Hackney project to connect adjacent LENSs, incorporating new green spaces, sustainable drainage, cycle parking, trees, and EV charging points.	£600,000
Total		Nearly £19,000,000

¹⁵ The fund was distributed among five partners, and this figure approximates Hackney's allocation.

List of climate e-news

Title	Description	Date
Adaptation		
Pocket park	Set up of a new pocket park on Marvin Street to enhance community safety and wellbeing.	28th May 2024
Citizens' Climate Jury	First Hackney Citizens' Climate Jury to shape climate action, focusing on preparing for severe heat waves.	16th February 2024
Green flags	29 parks are now rated among the best in the UK in the latest of Keep Britain Tidy's Green Flag Awards.	18th July 2023
Buildings		
Local solar projects	Investments for residents and businesses in local solar projects receiving a fixed interest return.	31st May 2024
Discounted energy from rooftop solar	Discounted electricity generated by solar panels on the building's roof available to residents in 500 Council homes.	2nd February 2024
Transport		
EV charger rollout	Installation of the first of 2,500 new electric vehicle chargers as part of a major infrastructure rollout to decarbonise transport.	6th March 2024
Map of UK's leading EV charging network	Launch of the map showing the locations of over 2,500 planned chargers.	3rd January 2024
Cycle hangar	Installation of 675 new bike hangars to give local residents more secure hangar space.	22th September 2023
Amhurst Road and Pembury Circus transformation	Creation of a new green corridor through the heart of Hackney Central.	13th December 2024

Potholes, pavements and roads	Over £5m spent tackling potholes and maintaining and resurfacing key local pavements and roads.	21st August 2023
New cycleway	New TfL cycle way from Lea Bridge to Dalston to provide a safe route all the way for cyclists looking to travel across the borough from west to east.	5th June 2023
Consumption		
Garden waste subscription	Introduction of a new charge for garden waste collections. This change affects about one-fifth of households currently using the service.	18th March 2024
Bin single-use plastic bags	Single-use plastic bags will no longer be available at markets across the borough.	18th September 2023
Sustainability Day 2023	Low waste and zero single-use plastic event welcoming over 30 organisations to show residents how to lower utility bills, get into cycling, reuse, repair, refill, recycle more, grow their own food, help insulate homes and much more.	26th June 2023
Environmental Quality		
Air Aware	Launch of the tool to show live particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide levels, helping residents to make informed choices about their exposure to air quality.	1st February 2024
Seven year plan to green the grey	Adoption of a green infrastructure strategy and a local nature recovery plan.	27th June 2023
Green Economy		
Green investment	£61 million invested in reducing Hackney Council's impact on climate change in the next three years.	6th September 2023
Greener, more resilient high streets	Highlights on the Hackney Town Centres and High Streets Fund Insights & Impact report.	25th August 2023

