



CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

2026-2030

Working together today to build a more sustainable tomorrow

CONTENTS

Foreword	3
Executive Summary	4
Why We Must Act Now To Save Tomorrow	7
What Progress Has Already Been Achieved?	9
Where Do Redbridge's Emissions Come From?	11
Where Do The Council's Emissions Come From?	12
How Does Climate Action Benefit Me?	13
Engaging Young Minds For A Greener Future	15
Consulting Members On Developing The New Strategy	18
Theme 1: Energy-Efficient Modern Buildings	20
Theme 2: Sustainable, Connected Neighbourhoods	31
Theme 3: A Climate-Resilient Green Borough	40
Theme 4: A Thriving Green Economy	50
Theme 5: Climate-Conscious Communities	58
How can you keep up to date with our progress?	66
How will the Climate Change Strategy be funded?	67
What changes will you make today?	68
Appendix: List Of Related Strategic Documents	69



FOREWORD

The science is clear that we face a climate crisis, and all have a responsibility to take action to reduce our emissions. Here in Redbridge, we are already seeing the impacts of the climate crisis with unprecedented periods of extreme heat and drought, as well as intense rainfall events. These are impacting our residents and means we have a duty to act: both to reduce our own emissions and to ensure we are able to cope with the climatic changes.

Beyond its positive impact on the environment, climate action delivers a broad range of additional benefits such as bringing down energy bills through energy efficiency savings and the increased use of renewable energy, health benefits from cleaner air with a shift away from petrol/diesel vehicles, new economic opportunities through growing the green economy, and community action that strengthens communities whilst creating a cleaner and greener borough. Redbridge Council's previous and planned climate initiatives all make valuable contributions to the broader goals and objectives of the [Redbridge Plan \(2022-2026\)](#) and by integrating climate action into everything that we do, we can improve the quality of life of everyone living and working in Redbridge.

We are proud to present our new Climate Change Strategy which is a comprehensive plan that builds on the progress already achieved in the [Climate Change Action Plan \(2021-24\)](#) and sets out specific actions that will be delivered over the next few years which will continue to reduce emissions within key sectors in Redbridge, secure greater outcomes for our residents and guide us towards our net zero goals.

In this Strategy we aim to deliver a wide range of actions that will enhance our streets and local green spaces, provide residents with greater access to high-quality sustainable transport options, improve the energy efficiency

of our homes and buildings, promote sustainability within the local economy, empower communities to deliver climate action locally, and provide our residents with the tools and knowledge to start reducing emissions at home.

Collective action is needed to deliver the strategy and every action counts. Support from residents, businesses, community groups, faith groups and partner organisations in our borough through actions such as retrofitting our buildings, installing solar panels on our homes, choosing sustainable and active transport methods for journeys, cutting down our meat consumption, reducing the amount of waste we produce and supporting local green initiatives will all have an impact. By working together to face the challenges of the climate emergency head on, we can all ensure that Redbridge is a more prosperous and sustainable borough for generations to come.



Councillor Kam Rai
Leader of Redbridge
Council



Cllr Jo Blackman
Cabinet Member for
Environment and Sustainability

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Global greenhouse gas emissions have soared to unprecedented levels to a point that severe weather events and increasingly extreme temperatures have become more commonplace which having a particular impact on the poorest and most vulnerable.

We need to ensure that everyone living and working in Redbridge can thrive and live a healthy, comfortable life, which is why climate action is essential.

Climate action serves as a powerful tool in supporting broader policy outcomes that benefit everyone living and working in our borough and helps to improve local health outcomes, stimulates the local economy, and bolsters financial resilience within the community.

Whilst the climate conditions have been changing, so has our borough. Redbridge has become more densely populated with the local population increasing by 11.2% over the past decade to 310,130 residents¹. Redbridge has also been growing at a greater rate than the national average of 6.6%, and this has resulted in our borough being ranked in the top 10% of most densely populated local

authority areas in England². We therefore need to consider how to support this growth in a way that is sustainable for the environment and the borough. This places increased importance on an effective sustainable transport system, high quality and energy efficient homes, as well as ensuring sustainable consumption habits and effective waste management.

Investing in flooding infrastructure and adapting our homes will also protect properties from being damaged and ensure that residents can live comfortably in an ever-changing climate. Empowering residents with green skills and supporting sustainability within the local market will improve local economic

outcomes as employment prospects will be improved, high streets will be stimulated, and residents will have access to more employment opportunities.

Supporting the transition to electric vehicles and encouraging active travel within the community will also reduce harmful transport emissions and improve local air quality which will enable residents to lead more active, healthier lifestyles with a reduced chance of developing respiratory conditions. Enhancing our parks and community gardens will also ensure that residents have greater access to high quality green spaces which will support the wellbeing of the community.

1 How life has changed in the City of London: Census 2021 – Office of National Statistics - 2023
2 How life has changed in Redbridge: Census 2021 – Office of National Statistics - 2023



To achieve this, the Council has created a new Climate Change Strategy which sets out the Council's ambition of **becoming a net zero Council by 2040**. The strategy includes **138 actions** that services aim to deliver over the coming years which fall under the following 5 major themes:

1 ENERGY EFFICIENT MODERN BUILDINGS

2 SUSTAINABLE CONNECTED NEIGHBOURHOODS

3 CLIMATE RESILIENT GREEN BOROUGH

4 THRIVING GREEN ECONOMY

5 CLIMATE CONSCIOUS COMMUNITIES

These themes are guided by both data from the borough's emissions profile and community insights to enable the Council to accurately target interventions that will influence emissions reductions across key sectors in Redbridge and boost the economic, social, health and environmental outcomes for our residents. Services across the entire organisation have committed to delivering actions that will support a broad range of priorities which includes improving sustainability within the local business sector, enhancing the energy efficiency of homes in the borough, supporting the transition to electric vehicles through the delivery of key infrastructure, greening urban spaces to boost local biodiversity and supporting residents to access opportunities within the green economy. This robust approach aligns with the major themes and priorities of the [Redbridge Plan \(2022-2026\)](#), particularly the 'Clean and Green' theme, and reinforces the Council's commitment to a more sustainable future.

In addition, analysis of central government data shows that Redbridge ranks in the

middle range for deprivation levels when compared to all areas in England however areas such as Loxford, Clementswood and Valentines rank among the top 10-20% of most deprived areas in the country³. To ensure an equitable transition to net zero, the Council will prioritise actions to address fuel poverty and support underserved areas of the community through the deployment of targeted initiatives, grant programmes and retrofit projects for energy efficiency improvements. By focusing on the most vulnerable communities first the Council aims to promote fairness and inclusivity in our Strategy which will help bridge the gap in energy equity and foster a more resilient and just community.

The Council also recognises that our goals cannot be achieved by working alone and close collaboration with regional and central government bodies and key local organisations will be essential. The borough will need a significant increase in resources and capacity to effectively tackle the climate emergency which is why the Council will identify and apply for additional funding

and engage effectively with national government and external partners to ensure that the needs of Redbridge are met. The Council will also review any emerging green financing mechanisms that may enable services to leverage greater funding for local climate initiatives and officers will also implement robust monitoring and reporting systems to ensure that there is clear transparency on the progress that the Council and borough is making in playing our part in reducing our emissions.

Finally, meeting the challenge of the climate emergency may seem like a huge task to scale but if we all work together and act now, we can secure a safer, more sustainable future for Redbridge and improve the lives of everyone living and working in the borough. We all have an important role to play, no matter how big or small, in ensuring that we reduce our emissions and support the borough's transition to net zero. We will all need to work together to ensure that every resident is protected from the changing climate conditions.

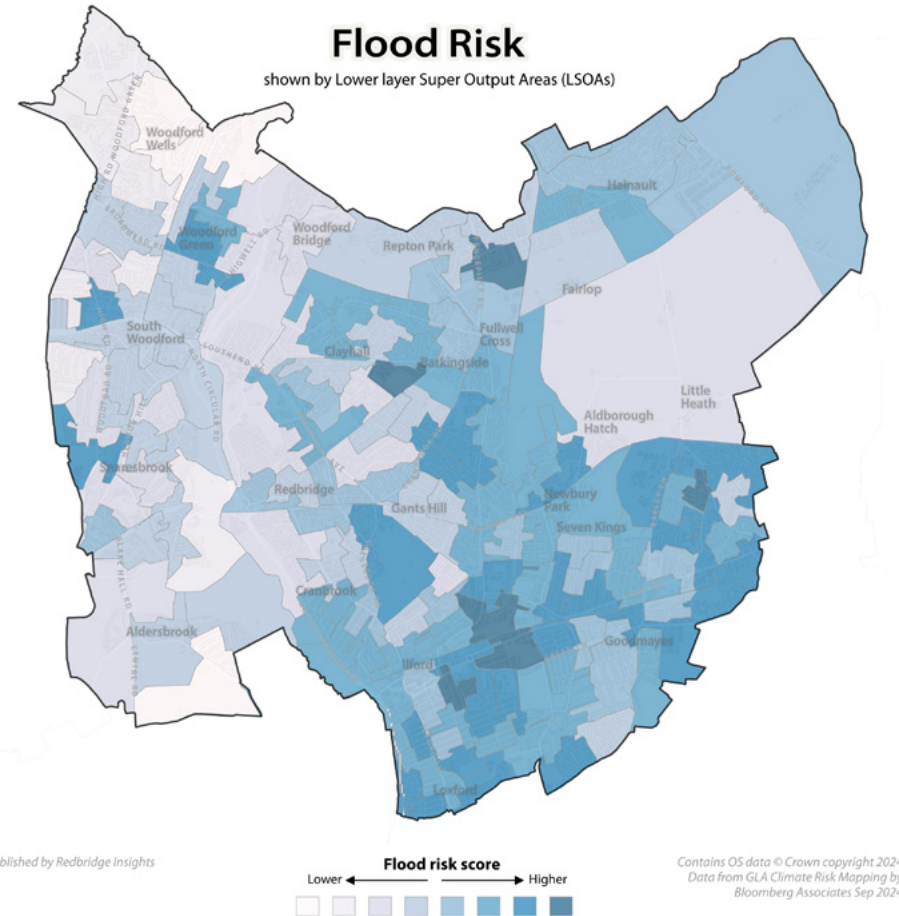
3 Indices of Deprivation – Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities - 2019

WHY WE MUST ACT NOW TO SAVE TOMORROW

The latest report⁴ from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) stated that global temperatures have increased by approximately 1.1 C due to human activity.

The report also emphasised that without significant action global temperatures are expected to soar to 1.5 C above pre-industrial levels in only a matter of decades. If decisive action is not taken now to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions, then we are set to experience more frequent and severe extreme weather events such as heatwaves, flooding, droughts and heavy rainfall. Recent weather events have also reinforced these projections as 2020 was the wettest year on record for the UK with 1,308.7mm of rainfall⁵ being recorded and Storms Ciara and Dennis also brought on heavy downpours which saw some areas receive over a month's worth of rain in just 24 hours^{6,7}.

No borough is immune to these extreme weather conditions and in 2021 Redbridge was hit by very intense rainfall that led to widespread flash flooding which severely impacted local homes and infrastructure⁸. Many properties were affected by the flooding, with water levels rising to around a foot deep in some areas and residents in Peel Place and Clayhall reported significant damage. Infrastructure was also heavily disrupted as the underpass at South Woodford station was submerged and the A&E department at Whipps Cross Hospital had to be temporarily closed. The London Fire Brigade also received over 1,000 calls, and the Council set up emergency response measures to assist all affected residents.



4 AR6 Synthesis Report: Climate Change 2023 – IPCC - 2023
5 Annual Weather Summary – Met Office UK - 2020
6 Storm Ciara Summary – Met Office UK - 2020

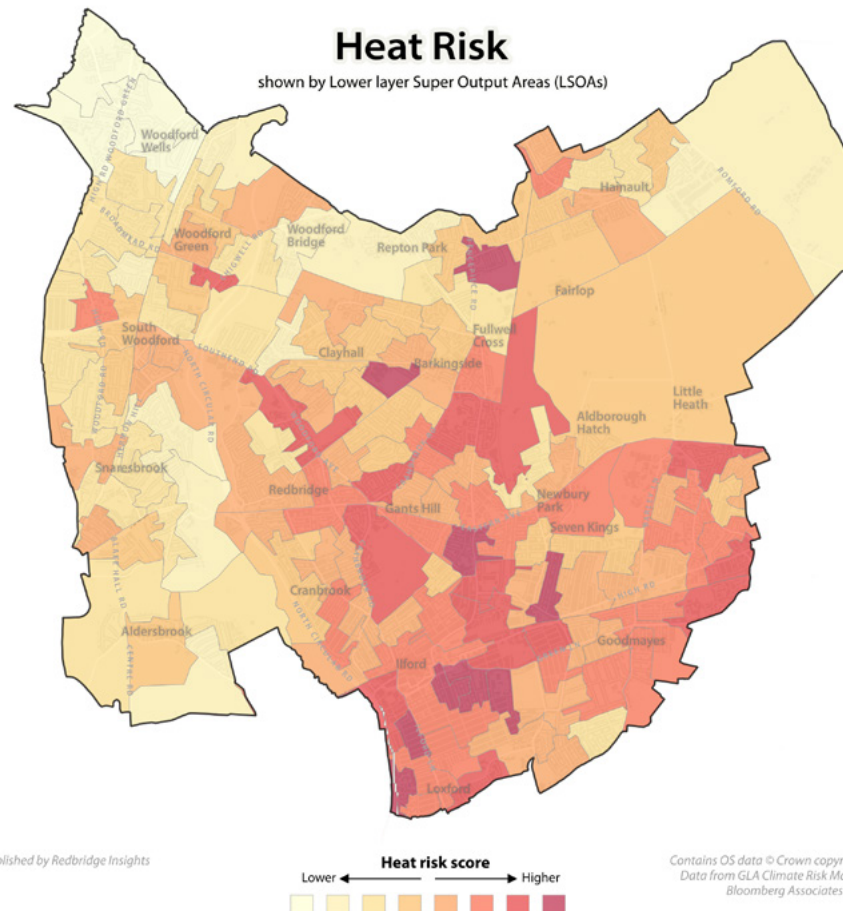
7 Storm Dennis Summary – Met Office UK - 2020
8 Redbridge clean up underway after flash floods close and damage homes - Ilford Recorder - 2021

On the other end of the scale, the UK experienced record-breaking temperatures in 2022 with some areas recording temperatures of over 40 C and this extreme heat contributed to nearly 3,000 excess deaths⁹. In the very same year prolonged dry conditions led to experts from the Environment Agency declaring drought status in areas that included some parts of London as many areas did not receive significant rainfall all summer¹⁰. The latest reports also confirm that June 2025 was the hottest June on record¹¹.

These extreme weather events are only predicted to become more frequent and if we fail to act now residents will face greater health risks, local businesses risk economic losses, and community groups may see social inequalities worsen as resources are strained.

However, if we take urgent and ambitious action now, we will be able to protect the health of our community and local economy by building future resilience. By addressing the climate emergency locally, we can effectively tackle these challenges by reducing emissions in key sectors, implementing protective measures to safeguard residents and installing important green infrastructure that will support local public health outcomes and help create a greener, more resilient borough.

This Strategy outlines the actions the Council plans to deliver to achieve these important objectives, but we will need collective action from everyone living and working in the borough. By making simple lifestyle changes and upgrading your family homes, everyone can play a vital role in supporting the borough's net zero journey and help create a more sustainable future for generations to come.



9 Unprecedented Extreme Heatwave – Met Office UK - 2022

10 Drought declared across eight areas of England – The Guardian - 2022

11 England's warmest June on record and the UK's second warmest since 1884 – Met Office UK - 2025

WHAT PROGRESS HAS ALREADY BEEN ACHIEVED?

In 2019 the Council declared a climate emergency and following a cross-party corporate panel meeting with academics, public bodies and industry experts, the Council created and launched the Change Action Plan in 2021.

In the original document, the Council outlined the organisation's ambitions to become carbon neutral by 2030 and net zero by 2050 which aligned with both regional and national climate targets.

The action plan served as a framework that has guided the organisation's carbon reduction and sustainability efforts over recent years and during this time services from across the Council have delivered a wide range of climate focused initiatives, projects and programmes. These efforts have led to a significant reduction in the organisation's carbon footprint of up to 33.2%¹². Since the launch of the action plan the Council has also recorded a cumulative carbon saving of 31,666 tCO₂e which is the equivalent carbon cost of heating 14,393 households in the UK for an entire year.

The Council has also made significant strides in promoting sustainable travel and improving local cycling infrastructure to reduce our transport emissions. Along with public transport improvements, this has contributed to the Council already achieving the mayoral 2041 target with two thirds of journeys being by sustainable/active travel. Examples of the initiatives that have been delivered include installing over 20km of new cycle lanes and more than 200 cycle racks and bike hangars across the borough. Implementing 26 School Street schemes which help to improve road safety for children travelling into school and reduce air pollution around school sites by limiting traffic during peak times. 563 electric vehicle charging points have been installed and external funding will help ensure further increase this programme in the coming years.

These initiatives all support reducing transport related emissions by ensuring that everyone living in the borough has access to a high-quality transport network and can make the switch to zero-emission vehicles if needed.

The Council has also been working hard to reduce the emissions generated by our buildings as services have been upgrading homes and buildings across the borough so that they are more energy efficient and incorporate renewable energy systems. Over 100 low-income households have been supported with energy efficiency improvements through the Redbridge Go Green Grants programme and all Council-owned buildings and street lighting have been switched over to green electricity which means that the electricity is sourced from

12 Climate Change Annual Report 2024 – Redbridge Council - 2024

verified renewable energy programmes such as wind farms and solar farms. The Council's housing stock has also been comprehensively assessed for energy performance and Building Management Systems have been installed at 35 corporate buildings to enable officers to accurately monitor energy consumption and target interventions more effectively. Over £2m of funding has been secured to retrofit nearly 250 social housing properties.

The Council also engaged with the community to tackle the emissions we generate from waste by delivering actions such as hosting skills-based workshops in the community and promoting educational campaigns. Officers also carried out door-to-door engagement sessions, promoted local repair cafés, supported community led gardening projects and delivered tree planting schemes with schools. These collective efforts further increased community involvement in climate action with over 500 fruit trees being distributed and over 500 children participating in tree

planting schemes. The Council also engaged young people through the Youth Eco Skills Festival and supported schools with climate change adaptation and mitigation measures which included supporting the installation of solar panels at several schools in the borough as well as flood mitigation schemes.

Finally, the Council explored innovative ways to reduce the carbon emissions produced by our vehicle fleet by fitting solar panels to 25 vehicles including refuse trucks, minibuses and vans which harnessed solar energy to help power them. The adapted fleet was the largest in London and following the success of the trial will be further expanded in the new Strategy. The Council also continued to use its role as a commissioner to challenge contractors to deliver services on behalf of the Council with the most sustainable means possible. For example, the Council's Highways contractor, Kenson Highways,

piloted a groundbreaking greener asphalt mix as part of the Highways Maintenance Capital Programme, which significantly reduced the carbon emissions produced by road resurfacing projects and made Redbridge the first borough in London to trial this innovation.

While the Council has made significant progress in addressing the challenges of the climate emergency, there is still much work to be done. The Council plans to broaden the scope of its activities in this new Strategy and influence emission reductions across the largest sectors in Redbridge. Residents, businesses, community groups, schools, faith groups and partner organisations all have an important role to play in reducing their personal carbon footprints and consumption levels to carve out a more sustainable future for Redbridge. By working together, we can build on the successes to date and ensure that our borough remains a healthy, vibrant, and resilient place for generations to come.



WHERE DO REDBRIDGE'S EMISSIONS COME FROM?

To reduce the borough's emissions, we must first understand where they come from. According to the latest data, Redbridge generated 977.8 kilo tonnes of CO2 from the following sectors:

WASTE:



Emissions from disposing of and treating waste accounted for 7.9% of the borough's emissions.

Increasing recycling efforts, reducing household consumption, supporting local initiatives, using home composting methods and disposing of waste properly are all valid ways that you can help reduce these emissions.

TRANSPORT:



The second largest sector of emissions in Redbridge relates to how we all travel around the borough and in particular emissions from petrol and diesel road vehicles.

To help reduce these emissions you can take practical steps such as using active travel methods like walking or cycling more frequently, fully utilising the local transport network, or even switching the family car to an electric vehicle.

INDUSTRIAL:



Redbridge has several industrial areas such as Hainault Business Park and Woodford Trading Estate. Businesses carrying out certain processes and using specific products accounted for 2.8% of the borough's total carbon footprint.

However, business owners can reduce their emissions by adopting more sustainable practices and using more energy-efficient technologies. National policy can also help guide reductions in this area by imposing regulations which further restrict the use of high-emission products.

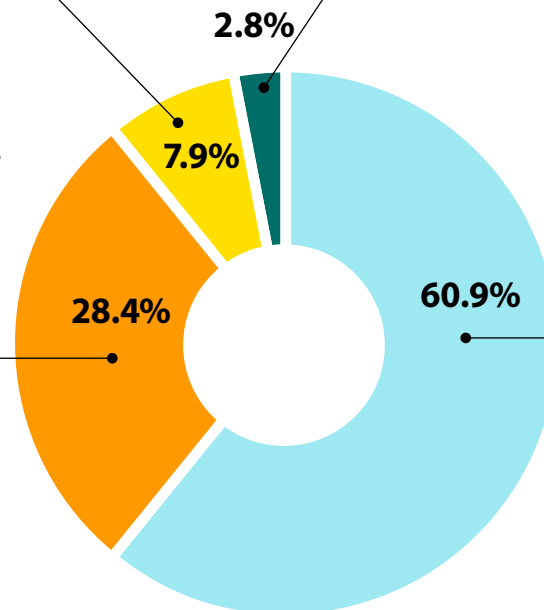
BUILDINGS:



The largest sector of emissions relates to how we heat and power our buildings, homes, equipment, and facilities which burn fuel such as gas and use grid-supplied energy.

Stationary energy contributed significantly to the borough's overall carbon footprint, accounting for a staggering 60.9% of total emissions!

Actions such as making home energy efficiency improvements, switching over to a green electricity tariff and incorporating renewable energy systems can help significantly reduce these emissions and promote a more sustainable environment.



*Data sourced from Scatter Inventory for Redbridge – Anthesis Group – 2020

WHERE DO THE COUNCIL'S EMISSIONS COME FROM?

To reduce the Council's emissions, it is important to know what areas of the organisation generate emissions. To reflect reporting practices within the public sector, the Council generated 5,135 tonnes of scope 1 and 2 CO2 emissions. This represents only 0.5% of Redbridge's. To go into more detail these emissions were generated by the following areas:

COUNCIL HOUSING COMMUNAL AREAS:



The largest category of emissions for the Council are generated by powering the communal areas of Council owned residential properties with gas and electricity.

We can reduce these emissions by making energy efficiency improvements to the properties and only powering spaces when needed.

COUNCIL VEHICLE FLEET:



Services at the Council use a variety of vehicles such as cars, refuse vehicles, minibuses and vans to deliver a broad range of services for residents. In 2024, these vehicles consumed 871,432 litres of petrol and diesel which accounted for 20% of the Council's total emissions.

These emissions can be reduced by using battery electric alternatives and optimising driving routes to cut down fuel consumption.

REFUSE VEHICLES:



The Council's refuse vehicles play a vital role in providing waste collection services for residents. In 2024, these vehicles consumed 460,300 litres of diesel which accounted for 23% of the Council's total emissions.

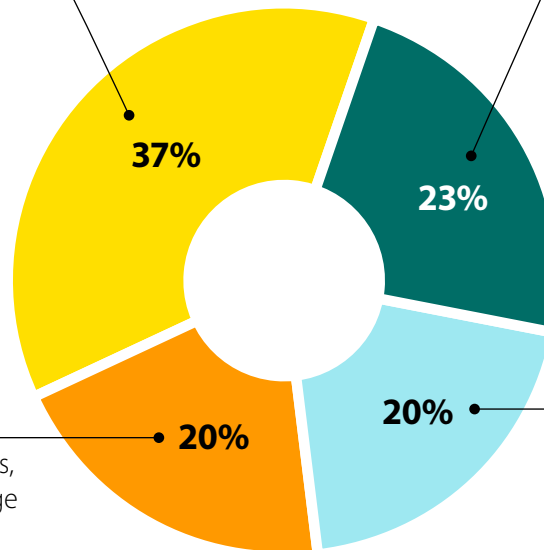
Reducing these emissions is possible by transitioning to battery-electric refuse trucks and implementing route optimisation strategies to minimise fuel consumption and improve efficiency.

COUNCIL BUILDING OPERATIONS:



A sizeable chunk of the Council's emissions are generated by the daily operations of Council owned buildings. This includes the gas used to heat them, cleaning services commissioned to keep the buildings tidy and water used by staff facilities.

These emissions can be reduced by powering buildings only when needed and carrying out targeted measures to improve the buildings energy efficiency.



HOW DOES CLIMATE ACTION BENEFIT ME?

Climate action is linked to every aspect of our lives, offering a broad spectrum of interconnected benefits that boost environmental, economic, social, and health outcomes for residents. These benefits not only help councils meet their sustainability goals but also create a more resilient and vibrant community. To demonstrate the broad range of benefits that climate action can bring, we have outlined some examples below:

1. Economic Benefits

Cheaper Energy Bills: When buildings are more energy efficient and powered by renewable energy, residents have lower energy bills, spend less on home maintenance and households have more dispensable income in the long term.

More Jobs: Climate action stimulates local economies by creating jobs in green sectors such as building retrofit and sustainable infrastructure development. This can mean more employment opportunities for residents which can improve local job prospects and economic stability.

Attracting More Investment: Sustainable practices and initiatives can attract businesses and green technology companies to choose to establish themselves in the borough. This can create a more vibrant local economy and provide residents with a greater level of consumer choice when purchasing goods.

Improving Economic Resilience: Diversifying energy sources and reducing the borough's reliance on fossil fuels makes the local economy more resilient to fluctuations and volatility in the energy market. This means residents will have more stable energy bills which are less vulnerable to any economic shocks and can enable households to carry out more effective financial planning.

2. Environmental Benefits

Reducing Carbon Emissions: Implementing climate policies such as decarbonising transport, improving the energy-efficiency of our buildings, and increasing renewable energy usage can all directly reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions we produce. This means Redbridge will play its part and help contribute to a healthier planet.

Improving Air Quality: Transitioning to electric vehicles and promoting active travel options helps to improve local air quality as less emissions are generated by people travelling around the borough. This means a healthier living environment for everyone as the air will be cleaner, and residents will be less likely to develop respiratory issues and other health related problems.

Protecting Biodiversity: Greening urban spaces and supporting nature conservation helps to protect biodiversity and enhance local ecosystems, making the borough more attractive and sustainable. By protecting biodiversity in Redbridge, we can ensure that animals have access to a broader range of habitats and residents will have access to more shaded areas which provide respite during the hotter periods.

3. Social and Community Benefits

Improving Health and Wellbeing: Better air quality, greater access to green spaces, and high-quality active travel options all contribute to improving the physical health and mental wellbeing of residents. By planting more trees, providing facilities such as cooling centres and ensuring that our buildings are well adapted to harsher weather conditions, we can improve climate resilience within the community and protect the health of our residents.

Supporting Community Cohesion:

Community-led climate initiatives, such as community energy projects or local green skills programs, help to galvanise community action on climate change and connect communities in Redbridge. This helps to strengthen community bonds and create a more cohesive local community.

Enhancing Quality of Life: By cleaning our streets, reducing the amount of pollution from our vehicles and providing more accessible public transport options we can improve the standard of living for residents to enable everyone to live a healthier, more sustainable life.

4. Climate Resilience Benefits

Protecting Residents From Extreme Weather:

Investments in flood defences, sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS), and heatwave mitigation measures helps to protect communities from extreme weather events and safeguard public health. This means improved living conditions for residents as homes will be less likely to be damaged by extreme weather events such as floods. Residents will also benefit from lower recovery costs as their properties will be better adapted which should translate into less financial stress for residents who are impacted.

Improving The Longevity Of Infrastructure:

Reports show that climate-adapted infrastructure (e.g., heat-resistant materials, green roofs, and flood defences) can extend the lifespan of local buildings and reduces maintenance costs in the long term. This means residents will spend less money on repairs and the general upkeep of their properties.

5. Political and Reputational Benefits

Improving Leadership and Increasing Influence:

Ambitious climate action by the Council enables the organisation to gain recognition as a leader on climate change. This means that the Council will have an excellent reputation as an area of innovation and could attract additional funding and resources for local climate programmes here in Redbridge.

Supporting The Community:

Proactive climate action by the Council sets an example for the community by showing that tackling the climate emergency is a priority for Redbridge. This could lead to a greater number of residents and community groups actively supporting and leading local initiatives and schemes which would help to reduce the borough's emissions profile and further strengthen community bonds.



ENGAGING YOUNG MINDS FOR A GREENER FUTURE

The Council is committed to ensuring that the voices, needs and priorities of children and young people in Redbridge are reflected in local decision-making processes and are central to public policies and programmes

In 2021, the Council partnered with UNICEF UK and launched the Child Friendly Redbridge Programme to enable the organisation to start working towards recognition as a 'Child Friendly Borough'. At the very start of the programme, children and young people selected 'Place' as one of their priority badges which included elements of tackling climate change and further highlighted the level of significance that the younger generations place on addressing the climate emergency.

In 2023, the council hosted the first Youth Climate and Sustainability Forum which brought together students from ten local schools for a day of workshops, discussions, and networking focused on environmental action. The event featured interactive sessions including repair skills, biodiversity exploration, and art, alongside a panel of experts from Earthwatch Europe, Team Repair, and the Council. Students shared their green initiatives and learned practical ways to live more sustainably.



Following on from the success of the first forum, in 2024 the Council hosted a Youth Eco Skills Festival with students from 11 local schools to provide young people with the chance to discuss the climate initiatives they have been supporting and participate in a series of interactive workshops.

In the festival, students engaged in a variety of hands-on workshops that were hosted by organisations such as Recycles Ilford, Royal Horticultural Society, Team Repair, Solar for Schools, Mercato (Love Food, Hate Waste), and Sew London. These workshops provided students with practical knowledge on supporting local biodiversity, understanding how renewable energy systems work, repairing household items and how they can repurpose textiles.

To provide children and young people with the opportunity to shape the development of the new Climate Change Strategy, at the festival the Council also hosted 'Creative Policy' workshops with students. These workshops provided students with an

opportunity to influence the focus of the new Strategy by highlighting which areas the students believed should be prioritised. Officers provided students with information on where Redbridge's emissions come from and what actions had already been taken to help tackle the different emissions categories. Students were then tasked with creating demonstration placards to highlight the priorities they felt were most important and analysis of the placards revealed a strong commitment among students in supporting the transition to green energy, protecting biodiversity, promoting active travel, phasing out petrol or diesel vehicles and improving recycling levels.

In addition, the Council also hosted an in-person workshop with the Child Friendly Redbridge (CFR) Ambassadors to provide young people with a further opportunity to help shape the development of the new

Strategy. The CFR Ambassadors are a collective of secondary school students that supports the Child Friendly Redbridge Programme by identifying local issues affecting young people and providing their views and insights on how the Council can address these concerns. In the workshop, the students received a detailed presentation on what carbon reduction and sustainability efforts had been delivered by the Council and this was followed by an open discussion on what students believed were the biggest opportunities for both the Council and the local community in terms of local climate action.

In the session, young people emphasised the importance of a broad range of topics including increasing climate education and awareness, advocating for more effective household waste management, supporting climate



focused awards programmes in educational settings such as Eco Schools, expanding cycle infrastructure to encourage active travel and partnering with the community to increase community climate action. The students also stressed the need for ongoing youth involvement in local climate policy.

In 2025, the Council also delivered a Youth Climate Essay Competition in partnership with all secondary schools across the borough, inviting students aged 11–17 to submit bold and practical ideas for tackling climate change. In the essays students suggested innovative and practical approaches to reducing emissions in Redbridge, focusing on ideas such as nature-based carbon capture, installing electric vehicle charging infrastructure, expanding cycle networks, hosting repair cafes, transforming neglected spaces into pocket parks, trialling new technologies such as solar powered benches, installing rain gardens to support drainage, delivering inclusive youth-led projects and fully utilising allotment spaces to reduce food miles.

Twelve winning students were selected and invited to City Hall to present their proposals to London's Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban. This initiative showcased the council's commitment to amplifying youth voices in environmental policy and highlighted the role of young residents in shaping Redbridge's Climate Change Strategy. The invaluable insights gained from these engagement activities have been used to shape the themes of the new Climate Change Strategy which includes a comprehensive programme of activities to address each priority area identified. Services at the Council will also continue to seek and obtain feedback from children and young people on any new climate focused projects, programmes, policies and strategies to ensure ongoing participation and engagement on the climate change agenda. Redbridge Council's work putting young people at the heart of its Climate Change Strategy has inspired other boroughs and the Deputy Mayor for the Environment who started his own youth climate summit in 2025 after speaking at Redbridge Council's event in 2024.

Finally, underpinning these engagement activities and initiatives, the Climate Change Strategy has a dedicated priority area which emphasises the Council's commitment to amplify the voices of children and young people in shaping local climate policy and includes activities and initiatives that aim to further embed child-friendly principles throughout the organisation. This approach will ensure that children and young people in Redbridge are empowered to actively influence climate action within their community and build sustained engagement with the climate change agenda which is essential for securing long-term environmental sustainability.

CONSULTING MEMBERS ON DEVELOPING THE NEW STRATEGY

The Council's committees are local bodies of elected councillors that carry out key functions and provide oversight for the Council's priorities. The committees are essential in promoting effective local governance and framed around the overarching themes of the Redbridge Plan (2022-26).

The Clean and Green Policy Development Committee (PDC) has supported the development of the Climate Change Strategy by hosting a series of online workshops between December 2024 and January 2025. These workshops were designed around the draft themes and priorities of the new Strategy and senior decision makers from within the Council provided information on current and future initiatives, projects and programmes that services were delivering, and also highlighted the challenges and barriers facing each area. Operational Leads from external organisations also attended and presented information on successful projects and programmes that they had delivered in surrounding boroughs in a bid to inspire greater innovation and

provide an external challenge to ensure the Council's level of ambition was sufficient.

The first workshop was centred around the theme 'Energy Efficient Modern Buildings' and more specifically on how services could improve the energy efficiency and operational effectiveness of our buildings and further drive forward the adoption of renewable energy technologies here in Redbridge. Members received presentations from the Council's Facilities Management team who lead on developing and implementing decarbonisation programmes for our buildings and representatives from Hackney

Light and Power which is the clean energy branch of the London Borough of Hackney. In the presentations information was provided on LED lighting replacement programmes, solar panel installations, community energy projects and retrofit programmes. The PDC produced highly useful recommendations which included actions such as the Council commissioning feasibility studies for renewable energy systems, developing a long-term decarbonisation plan for all buildings within the corporate estate and ways in which the Council could better promote solar panel installations in schools.



The second workshop focused on the theme of 'A Climate Resilient Green Borough', which covered areas such as how the Council could better safeguard residents from flooding events and extreme weather conditions and enhance the urban environment to support biodiversity and improve climate resilience within the community. Presentations were delivered by the Council's Highways and Transportation team, officer leads in Public Health, senior officers in the Planning Policy department and lead officers from the Neighbourhood Streetscene team. In the presentations, officers highlighted the importance of effective flood management, outlined what measures were already in place to protect residents from extreme weather conditions, and discussed what greening initiatives and community led projects were being delivered to green our urban environment and support local biodiversity. Recommendations produced by the members included promoting the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) and permeable materials for the front gardens of residential properties, strengthening collaboration across teams to address climate change impacts more

effectively and implementing comprehensive tree planting programs contingent on external funding being secured.

The final workshop focused on the theme of 'Climate Conscious Communities' and the session focused on how the Council could promote sustainability in the local business sector, how the green skills agenda can be better supported to unlock more opportunities in the local economy and how the Council could further embed child friendly principles across the organisation. Presentations were provided by officers from the Economic Development Team, lead officers from the Redbridge Institute of Adult Education and senior officers from the Intelligence, Insights and Change team. In the session, the committee discussed the growing demand for green skills, how the Council could better support local businesses to adopt more sustainable practices and how young people could be better engaged to support local climate action. The recommendations produced by the Committee under this theme focused on a broad range of topics such as the Council supporting the integration of digital skills into

green training programmes, providing resources and toolkits to local businesses to promote sustainability within the local economy, and developing a Sustainability Plan for the Child Friendly Redbridge Programme.

In conclusion, the workshop series enabled highly productive discussions to take place on a wide variety of important priorities and members identified a total of 38 recommendations. The involvement of teams from across the Council and operational leads from highly acclaimed external organisations ensured that the committee could take a comprehensive approach in discussing the challenges surrounding each priority area, the opportunities present and potential pathways for the Council to take moving forward in terms of promoting proactive climate action here in Redbridge. The Committee's recommendations were presented to Overview and Scrutiny Committee and later incorporated into the Climate Change Strategy following consideration by services.

THEME 1: ENERGY-EFFICIENT MODERN BUILDINGS

Introduction

How we heat and power our buildings accounts for the largest source of emissions in Redbridge and these emissions cover a diverse array of building types including residential homes, public buildings, offices, and retail shops. These types of stationary energy emissions also translate into energy bills for households, local businesses, and community groups and so measures aimed at tackling these emissions can produce significant financial savings.

To start reducing emissions from our buildings the Council has developed the theme 'Energy Efficient Modern Buildings' which features a significant programme of work which aims to enhance the energy efficiency of Council-owned buildings and homes, promote the adoption of renewable energy technologies, leverage local planning policy to ensure that developers implement sustainable building practices and foster collaboration within the local business sector to improve sustainability.

Long-Term Vision

All buildings in Redbridge have high energy efficiency ratings and are powered by renewable energy which means running costs are low and the borough is protected from volatility within the energy market. New developments prioritise sustainability, ensuring that everyone in the borough is protected from the changing climate in a cost-effective manner. Decarbonisation is a shared goal and responsibility of all residents, businesses, and community groups in the borough.

Key achievements delivered so far:

- Solar panel systems have been installed on the Redbridge Central Library and the Council's main office Lynton House.
- 100% of the electricity that we use for street lighting, Council-owned buildings, and communal areas of the Council's housing stock switched to green electricity.
- Over £2.2m of funding secured to support low-income households with energy efficiency measures and 100+ properties in the borough retrofitted to EPC C.
- Building Management Systems (BMS) installed at over 35 Council-owned buildings to enable more accurate energy consumption monitoring and allow interventions to be targeted more efficiently.
- Over 86% of the Council's housing stock assessed to help target energy efficiency improvements and to inform decarbonisation strategies.
- A Carbon Offset Fund was established and to date building developers have provided £508,677 to compensate for the emissions produced by local building projects. The funds raised have primarily been used to finance the Council's major retrofit programme in Redbridge.
- Since 2022, all new non-residential Council buildings are required to meet the highest energy efficiency standards -BREEAM 'Excellent'.
- Various schools, such as Churchfields Junior School, supported with solar panel installation on their buildings and the plans are to expand the support to more schools in this Strategy. The Council has also installed a solar panel system at the organisation's main office in Ilford which will generate an annual carbon saving of 19,223 kgs CO₂e.

KEY PRIORITIES

1

**Decarbonising
The Corporate
Estate**

2

**Driving Forward
The Use Of
Renewable
Energy**

3

**Partnering
With Local
Businesses On
Sustainability**

4

**Upgrading
Homes In The
Borough For
2030**

5

**Advancing
Sustainable
Building
Practices**

Decarbonising The Corporate Estate

At a time when the demand for services is soaring due to the high cost of living and the Council's budget is under pressure, optimising the operational efficiency of our buildings to cut down our energy bills is of vital importance to ensure that more funding can go to supporting residents. By conducting comprehensive studies and developing a detailed decarbonisation plan, the Council can systematically improve the operational efficiency and sustainability of our buildings which will lead to greater energy savings, reduce the Council's reliance on fossil fuels, and lower building maintenance costs. By promoting successful carbon reduction projects, the Council can inspire greater community action on climate change and

position the Council as a leader on climate action in local government. Additionally, by taking steps to improve the energy efficiency of our buildings, the Council can set a precedent for private sector organisations to follow which helps to encourage greater collective action on tackling the climate emergency.

Driving Forward The Use Of Renewable Energy

The widespread adoption of renewable energy systems helps to create a low carbon economy and enables households, local businesses and community groups to yield significant savings by generating their own green electricity. These initiatives build financial resilience within the

community and make valuable contributes to national energy security as communities are less vulnerable to volatility within the energy market. By providing information on grant funding opportunities and conducting feasibility studies for solar panel installations, the Council can empower local communities to develop and use sustainable energy solutions more readily. Encouraging schools to adopt renewable energy measures also reduces the carbon footprints of educational buildings and builds long term engagement from students on the climate change agenda. Collaboration with other local authorities also enables services to enhance local strategies for more effective decarbonisation action and further promotes energy independence within the community.

Partnering With Local Businesses On Sustainability

By prioritising sustainability, businesses can become more competitive as greater operational efficiency means lower overhead costs. Partnering with local businesses also enables the Council to foster greater collaboration on climate action in Redbridge and drive innovation within the local business sector. By delivering quarterly workshops and providing sustainability toolkits to local businesses we can equip the local economy with the knowledge and desire to adopt more sustainable practices. The Council can also reduce the emissions generated by waste in the local business sector by promoting pan-London initiatives and engaging with local food businesses and the care sector. By providing close support to the local business sector, we can help businesses reduce their environmental impact and improve their operational efficiency which provides valuable contributions to regional and national climate goals.

Upgrading Homes In The Borough For 2030

With properties in Redbridge ranking the worst for energy efficiency in London, significant work needs to take place to retrofit our homes and ensure that residents can live comfortably through more frequent extreme weather conditions. Retrofit measures also play an integral role in safeguarding households from fuel poverty as sufficiently adapted homes generate lower energy bills in the winter and enable households to manage their finances more effectively. By delivering grant programmes and developing retrofit projects for the most vulnerable in Redbridge, the Council can ensure an equitable approach to property decarbonisation in the borough and reduce the emissions generated from heating and powering our homes. Major retrofit programmes and targeted energy efficiency improvements will also help to enhance climate resilience within the community and by providing advice to homeowners and landlords we can empower private homeowners to make energy-efficient improvements and improve sustainability within the local housing market.

Advancing Sustainable Building Practices

Driving forward the use of sustainable building practices helps to ensure the highest environmental standards and reduce the carbon emissions produced by local development. By taking steps, such as refreshing the Local Plan and ensuring that waste segregation systems are incorporated into new building designs, we can enhance sustainability within the local building market. The Council will also continue securing carbon offset contributions from new developments, strive for BREEAM Excellent certification for non-residential developments, implement 'fabric first' principles and drive forward policies from the London Plan to ensure that new developments incorporate renewable energy and achieve high energy efficiency standards. By incorporating innovative measures such as renewable energy generation and low-carbon heating systems we can promote sustainable development here in Redbridge which is a vital step in supporting the borough's transition to net zero and makes valuable contributions to national climate goals.

Commitments		Outcomes				
Detail	Timeframe	Carbon Reduction	Climate Resilience	Improved Public Health	Saving Money	Protect Biodiversity
Decarbonising the Corporate Estate						
The Council will develop a Strategic Asset Management Plan for the Corporate Estate, which will set out a clear approach as to how corporate buildings will be managed in the future. Subject to additional funding being secured, these will be followed by comprehensive studies on potential decarbonisation measures on all corporate buildings. Any recommendations which result in long term savings and meet decarbonisation objectives will be implemented.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X	X		X	
The Council will commission comprehensive studies and feasibility assessments to be conducted on all corporate buildings contingent on additional funding being secured. Any recommendations which result in long term savings and meet decarbonisation objectives will be progressed.	Ongoing	X	X		X	
The Council will continue to identify, assess and install solar panel systems across sites within the Corporate Estate subject to additional funding being secured.	Ongoing	X			X	
The Council will integrate decarbonisation measures, including renewable energy installations, heat pumps, and other energy efficiency improvements, into all future capital projects on schools and council-owned buildings where feasible to maximise the environmental benefits and long-term cost savings.	Ongoing	X	X	X	X	

Commitments		Outcomes				
Detail	Timeframe	Carbon Reduction	Climate Resilience	Improved Public Health	Saving Money	Protect Biodiversity
The Council will actively promote its carbon reduction and sustainability projects to inspire and mobilise community action on climate change.	Ongoing	X	X	X	X	X
The Council will as part of the Capital Maintenance Programme replace conventional lighting with LED lighting, aiming to complete 4 buildings per annum with the aim of replacing all lighting with LED replacements subject to additional funding being secured.	Ongoing	X			X	
The council will review the current kVA and explore the installation of power factor correction devices across sites within the Corporate Estate that have the highest energy consumption.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X			X	
Driving Forward the Use Of Renewable Energy						
The Council will conduct desktop studies to assess the feasibility of installing solar panels on any applicable leisure facilities and public buildings and these studies will evaluate factors such as solar resource availability, roof space, structural integrity, and energy demand.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X			X	
The Council will actively encourage schools in installing solar panel systems and other renewable energy measures by leveraging external funding sources and partnerships, aiming for 10 schools per year to undertake these initiatives with the target of equipping all school buildings within 10 years.	Ongoing	X			X	

Commitments		Outcomes				
Detail	Timeframe	Carbon Reduction	Climate Resilience	Improved Public Health	Saving Money	Protect Biodiversity
The Council will establish or build on connections with other local authorities to exchange knowledge and replicate best practices in decarbonising the corporate estate.	Ongoing	X	X		X	
The Council will provide comprehensive information on potential grant funding opportunities for renewable energy projects for households, community groups and local faith organisations. Additionally, the Council will conduct ongoing horizon scanning to identify new and relevant funding sources, ensuring timely and valuable support for sustainability initiatives where feasible.	Ongoing	X	X		X	
The Council will establish a Community Energy Group to encourage local action on clean energy and strengthen community collaboration.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X			X	

Commitments		Outcomes				
Detail	Timeframe	Carbon Reduction	Climate Resilience	Improved Public Health	Saving Money	Protect Biodiversity
Partnering With Local Businesses On Sustainability						
The Council will establish a Strategic Green Partnership bringing together businesses, partners, and key local organisations to drive collaborative action on decarbonisation and sustainability.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X	X	X	X	X
The Council will deliver quarterly business workshops which will include information such as actionable changes that businesses can implement to reduce carbon emissions from their operations and possibly toolkits that businesses could use which will further promote sustainability within the local business sector.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X	X	X	X	
The Council will promote pan-London initiatives and relevant programmes that support businesses in achieving net zero, reduce waste from their operations, adopt more sustainable practices, and integrate long-term sustainability measures into their daily operations.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X	X	X	X	
The Council will partner with Care Provider Voice to support local businesses within the care sector in developing and implementing appropriate environmental and sustainability management plans. This collaboration will ensure that these businesses meet the Care Quality Commission's requirements for sustainable practices.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X	X	X	X	

Commitments		Outcomes				
Detail	Timeframe	Carbon Reduction	Climate Resilience	Improved Public Health	Saving Money	Protect Biodiversity
The Council will explore the development of a programme to support businesses in Redbridge in becoming more sustainable and reducing their carbon footprint. This programme will explore opportunities on providing sustainability advice and conducting energy audits to identify areas for improvement.	Medium-term (2-5 years)	X	X	X	X	
Upgrading Homes In The Borough For 2030						
The Council will continue to implement the Go Green Grant programme and collaborate with the GLA to provide Warm Home grants, enhancing home energy efficiency and reducing heating costs for low-income households.	Medium-term (2-5 years)	X	X	X	X	
The Council will develop and implement a comprehensive Retrofit Route Map to enhance the energy efficiency of our social housing stock. This initiative will prioritise properties in fuel poverty, ensuring that those most in need receive support first.	Long-term	X	X	X	X	
The Council will deliver a retrofit pilot project to install energy efficiency measures in 12 Council-owned properties located in Hainault. This project will specifically target low-income, vulnerable households to ensure they benefit from reduced energy costs and improved living conditions.	(5-10 years)	X	X	X	X	

Commitments		Outcomes				
Detail	Timeframe	Carbon Reduction	Climate Resilience	Improved Public Health	Saving Money	Protect Biodiversity
The Council will deliver a major retrofit programme for 248 Council-owned properties in Redbridge. This programme will use the insights and learnings gained from the Hainault pilot project and the programme will prioritise properties in fuel poverty.	Ongoing	X	X	X	X	
The Council will create a Redbridge Retrofit Route Map for all privately owned residential properties in the borough, leveraging insights from the existing Retrofit Route Map.	Medium-term (2-5 years)	X	X	X	X	
The Council will submit funding applications to various public and private sector funding streams to secure additional resources for retrofit programmes here in Redbridge.	Medium-term (2-5 years)	X	X	X	X	
The Council will survey and analyse the organisation's housing stock to identify areas which require energy efficiency improvements and following this analysis, the Council will implement a targeted programme prioritising households in fuel poverty.	Ongoing	X	X	X	X	
The Council will provide comprehensive advice for homeowners and private landlords aiming to enhance the energy efficiency of their properties. This guidance will highlight available grants and resources, particularly those designed for low-income and vulnerable households.	Ongoing	X	X	X	X	

Commitments		Outcomes				
Detail	Timeframe	Carbon Reduction	Climate Resilience	Improved Public Health	Saving Money	Protect Biodiversity
The Council will continue to enforce Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) for all properties within the private rented sector to promote sustainability within the local housing market.	Ongoing	X	X	X	X	
The Council will maintain ongoing engagement with landlords, tenants, and other stakeholders through relevant forums to continuously promote sustainability and innovation within the private rented sector.	Ongoing	X	X	X	X	
Advancing Sustainable Building Practices						
The Council will refresh the Local Plan, ensuring it reflects current sustainable development priorities and community needs.	Medium-term (2-5 years)	X	X	X	X	X
The Council will ensure planning conditions enable the inclusion of waste segregation systems in building designs to future-proof them against evolving legislation.	Ongoing	X				
The Council will continue to secure and collect carbon offset contributions from all appropriate developments to the Carbon Offset Fund, maintain regular reporting to the Greater London Authority (GLA) and ensure funds are used to deliver the actions set out in this strategy.	Ongoing	X	X	X	X	X

Commitments		Outcomes				
Detail	Timeframe	Carbon Reduction	Climate Resilience	Improved Public Health	Saving Money	Protect Biodiversity
The Council will request developers provide evidence of their implementation of 'fabric first' principles in building design and this will involve prioritising fabric efficiency by reducing opportunities for thermal bridges, minimising the building form factor, and increasing the use of insulation.	Ongoing	X	X	X	X	
The Council will implement policies from the overarching London Plan by requesting developers of large major schemes demonstrate the extent to which embodied carbon content informs their material choices, mandating all major schemes achieve operational net zero, and by encouraging new developments to minimise heat loss by reducing artificial surfaces, promoting green infrastructure, and using effective materials to enhance thermal performance.	Ongoing	X	X	X	X	X
The Council will use local planning policy to ensure that all new developments incorporate renewable energy generation, implement low-carbon heating systems, and achieve high energy efficiency standards wherever feasible.	Ongoing	X	X	X	X	

THEME 2: SUSTAINABLE, CONNECTED NEIGHBOURHOODS

Introduction

How we travel around the borough has a significant impact on the borough's emissions. Currently, transport emissions are the second largest sector of emissions here in Redbridge and they are generated by on road vehicles such as cars, lorries and vans which use petrol or diesel as a fuel source. These emissions not only contribute to climate change but also negatively affect local air quality and public health which can lead to residents facing a greater risk of developing respiratory conditions and other health related problems.

To start reducing harmful vehicle emissions in Redbridge, we have developed the theme '**Sustainable, Connected Neighbourhoods**' which includes a comprehensive programme of projects, schemes and initiatives designed to bolster electric vehicle charging infrastructure within the borough, encourage residents to adopt active travel methods such as walking, cycling or using the local public transport network more readily, promote pedestrian priority in local town centres and support the transition away from petrol or diesel powered vehicles.

Long-Term Vision

Redbridge is a well-connected, sustainable borough where residents can get around using active travel methods such as walking, cycling, or using public transport. The public transport network is efficient, accessible, and powered by renewable energy, meeting the needs of all residents. Electric vehicle charging points are widely available, and the transition to electric vehicles has improved local air quality and positively impacted the physical health of residents.

Key achievements delivered so far:

- 2/3 of journeys are made by active travel or public transport which exceeds the borough's contribution to the mayoral's 2041 target.
- 563 electric vehicle charge points have been installed at 426 sites across the borough with more installations planned.
- Over 20km of cycle lanes have been delivered including segregated cycle lanes.
- 200+ cycle racks and bike hangars installed at locations all across the borough.
- 25 Council-owned vehicles were fitted with solar panels to help power their batteries and save fuel which was the largest trial in London.
- A new Electric Vehicle Strategy was designed to ensure accessible, reliable, and inclusive EV charging infrastructure for all residents, visitors, and businesses in Redbridge in the coming decade.
- The Council continued to strive for innovation and trialed a greener asphalt mix in highways maintenance projects which can reduce a road resurfacing projects carbon emissions by up to 68%.

KEY PRIORITIES

1

**Encouraging
Active Travel
Locally**

Encouraging Active Travel Locally

Encouraging residents to use active travel methods such as walking to work, cycling to the shops, getting the bus or even scooting to school can significantly reduce the emissions we generate from travelling around the borough. Decreasing our reliance on petrol or diesel-powered vehicles also helps to improve local air quality and supports the physical health and mental wellbeing of the community as residents are able to lead more active, healthy lifestyles. Less cars on the road helps to alleviate traffic congestion and could offer local

2

**Accelerating The
Transition To
Zero Emission
Vehicles**

public health services economic savings as a healthier local population means less demand on key healthcare services. By delivering a series of projects such as connecting Ilford and the Roding Valley, improving traffic flow and safety in and around Ilford town centre, and enhancing pedestrian and cyclist safety at key junctions across the borough we can ensure that residents feel confident to travel around the borough safely without using personal vehicles which both supports residents to lead more active, healthier lifestyles and creates a more sustainable community.

3

**Electrifying The
Council's Vehicle
Fleet**

Accelerating The Transition To Electric Vehicles

Electric vehicles produce significantly less emissions and have lower operating costs when compared to petrol or diesel powered alternatives but they also ensure that residents retain their personal independence. By increasing the amount of electric vehicle charge points located across the borough we will ensure that every resident can efficiently charge their vehicles at home, in the office and in the community which will encourage more people to make the switch and help reduce our transport emissions here in Redbridge. We will also consult local stakeholders to identify

4

**Unlocking The
Public Realm**

the most advantageous locations for charging infrastructure installations to ensure that we have a charging network that is tailored to the needs of the local community, and we will also support Transport for London in rolling out rapid charge points at TFL owned sites to ensure that residents and commuters have access to faster, more convenient charging options. By encouraging the use of electric car clubs amounts local employers, we also aim to make it easier for residents to access electric vehicles without owning one and reduce the number of vehicles on the road resulting in less traffic and lower emissions. All of these initiatives will make significant contributions in mitigating our impact on the climate and improving local air quality which will mean residents will be less likely to develop respiratory conditions and local health services may see reductions in demands for specific services. The widespread adoption of this new technology will also help to support economic growth as more employment opportunities will open up for skilled workers to support the delivery of key infrastructure programmes.

Electrifying The Council's Vehicle Fleet

The Council has a sizeable vehicle fleet that it used to deliver key services such as collecting our bins, transporting key personnel and enabling officers to carry out necessary maintenance works. By electrifying our fleet and acquiring the most fuel-efficient vehicles, we can substantially reduce the amount of emissions our vehicles generate and enhance our fleet's sustainability. Installing telematic systems on our vehicles will also enable us to improve the operational efficiency of our fleet by enabling more effective fuel consumption monitoring, evaluating driving practices and identifying the most optimal driving routes. Adopting innovative technologies such as installing solar panels on our vehicles to help power them will also reduce the fleet's reliance on fossil fuels and enable the Council to support the borough's broader climate goals by reducing transport emissions and promoting a cleaner, greener living environment. The combination of all these measures will also enable the Council to reduce the running costs of the vehicle

fleet which will save the Council money in the long-term and enable more funding to be allocated to services supporting residents who are most in need.

Unlocking The Public Realm

Ensuring that our high streets, roads, parks and green spaces prioritise pedestrian safety and accessibility is essential. Everyone in the community including those in wheelchairs, mobility scooters, and pushchairs deserve the right to be able to travel around freely and reach every corner of the borough safely. By installing crossing points, widening pavements, and implementing traffic calming measures we aim to protect the safety of vulnerable road users and encourage residents to travel around the borough using active travel methods. Delivering initiatives such as developing walking maps for the public, carrying out an audit of the entrances to green spaces and installing additional cycle and scooter parking facilities help to improve accessibility to our green spaces and support residents to lead healthier, more active lifestyles.

Commitments		Outcomes				
Detail	Timeframe	Carbon Reduction	Climate Resilience	Improved Public Health	Saving Money	Protect Biodiversity
Encouraging Active Travel Locally						
The Council will establish physical connections between Ilford and the Roding Valley by March 2027 to promote active travel, reduce traffic congestion, and enhance accessibility.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X	X	X	X	X
The Council will develop the detailed design for the Ilford Western Gyratory project to improve traffic flow and safety in Ilford town centre by redesigning the current one-way system.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X	X	X	X	X
The Council will implement safety improvements for pedestrians and cyclists at key junctions, routes, and collision hotspots.	Ongoing	X		X	X	
The Council will develop new active travel routes to green spaces in the borough to promote active travel, enhance accessibility and reduce reliance on motor vehicles.	Ongoing	X		X	X	
The Council will review key gaps in the cycle network and identify opportunities to connect these areas by extending/enhancing existing cycle routes and creating new ones where feasible. As part of the assessment process, the Council will collaborate with local cycling community groups to assess proposed routes and identify any safety concerns that need addressing.	Medium-term (2-5 years)	X		X	X	

Commitments		Outcomes				
Detail	Timeframe	Carbon Reduction	Climate Resilience	Improved Public Health	Saving Money	Protect Biodiversity
The Council will enhance on-street cycle parking facilities across the Borough to accommodate commuter, residential, and leisure use. This initiative will involve the installation of cycle parking hangars and stands to provide secure and convenient parking options for cyclists.	Ongoing	X		X	X	
The Council will lobby Transport for London (TfL) to enhance transportation infrastructure and services. This includes installing secure cycle parking facilities near TfL-owned stations, introducing lifts at key underground stations, gathering data on bus usage and congestion to optimise bus priority schemes and advocating for safer and more comfortable bus waiting environments with improved lighting and real-time information.	Ongoing	X		X	X	
The Council will develop and deliver campaigns with Public Health to highlight the benefits of active travel, including its positive impacts on mental and physical health. These campaigns will engage schools, colleges, major employers, GP surgeries, and hospitals to promote walking and cycling as healthy, sustainable transportation options.	Ongoing	X		X	X	
The Council will ensure that new developments are well served by reliable sustainable transport options and adhere to cycle parking and electric vehicle charge point standards.	Ongoing	X		X	X	

Commitments		Outcomes				
Detail	Timeframe	Carbon Reduction	Climate Resilience	Improved Public Health	Saving Money	Protect Biodiversity
Accelerating The Transition To Zero Emission Vehicles						
The Council will support Transport for London's (TfL) objective to roll out rapid charge points at TfL-owned sites and collaborate on the joint delivery of hub development throughout the borough.	Medium-term (2-5 years)	X		X	X	
The Council will continue with the progress of installing additional EV chargepoints for residential use, including planned procurement of up to an additional 1,000 EV chargepoints based on the objectives in the Council's Electric Vehicle Strategy. The Council will review non-operational chargepoints and to get them back into operation. By delivering this key programme the Council aims to ensure that every resident is within at least a 5-minute walk of a chargepoint by 2026 and a 3-minute walk by 2030.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X		X	X	
The Council will work in partnership with the Licensed Taxi Drivers Association and Private Hire Vehicle (PHV) operators, as well as other key stakeholders, to review evidence from existing electric taxi and PHV services. This collaboration aims to identify the most advantageous locations for installing charge points to facilitate the usage of electric vehicles among professional drivers.	Long-term (5-10 years)	X		X	X	
The Council will develop and oversee contracts to ensure the charging network is reliable, well-managed, and maintained, with obsolete infrastructure removed or upgraded as needed.	Ongoing	X		X	X	

Commitments		Outcomes				
Detail	Timeframe	Carbon Reduction	Climate Resilience	Improved Public Health	Saving Money	Protect Biodiversity
Electrifying the Council's Vehicle Fleet						
The Council will replace at least 67% of internal combustion engine cars and LCVs with battery electric vehicles by 2028, prioritising vehicles and services best suited to electrification, and transition the entire vehicle fleet to battery electric vehicles by 31st March 2036 at the latest.	Long-term (5-10 years)	X		X	X	
The Council will install solar panel systems on an additional 17 Refuse Collection Vehicles by June 2026 to enhance the sustainability of the fleet by harnessing renewable energy to power auxiliary systems, thereby reducing reliance on traditional fuel sources. This initiative builds on the Council's existing scheme, which already includes 25 vehicles such as refuse trucks, minibuses, and vans.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X		X	X	
The Council will reinstall telematic systems across its entire vehicle fleet to enhance the monitoring of fuel consumption and this initiative aims to proactively implement measures that target a 10% reduction in fuel usage.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X		X	X	
The Council will develop a Fleet Management Strategy to support a phased, evidence-led approach to reducing emissions from its operational fleet, while maintaining service resilience and value for money. The Strategy will assess fleet composition and utilisation, alternative fuel options, charging and energy infrastructure requirements, and procurement approaches, aligned with available funding, technological maturity, and service needs.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X		X	X	

Commitments		Outcomes				
Detail	Timeframe	Carbon Reduction	Climate Resilience	Improved Public Health	Saving Money	Protect Biodiversity
The Council will achieve the Mission Zero Fleet Accreditation to enhance our fleet's safety, sustainability, and compliance.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X		X	X	
The Council will continue to operate and maintain the existing fleet of battery electric vehicles which includes 13 vans, which are essential for the daily activities of various services within the organisation.	Ongoing	X		X	X	
The Council will purchase 20 of the most fuel-efficient dust carts by April 2026 where it is not possible for the vehicle type to be transitioned into electric.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X		X	X	
Unlocking The Public Realm						
The Council will introduce mobility hub schemes across the borough and following the success of pilot schemes in Wanstead and South Woodford, these schemes will be made permanent.	Long-term (5-10 years)	X		X	X	
The Council will develop walking maps for routes, including historic walking routes, leisure routes, and safe walking routes to schools, and improve active travel wayfinding in local centres and key destinations such as educational sites, hospitals, business parks, and travel hubs.	Long-term (5-10 years)	X		X	X	

Commitments		Outcomes				
Detail	Timeframe	Carbon Reduction	Climate Resilience	Improved Public Health	Saving Money	Protect Biodiversity
The Council will increase pedestrian priority in local centres by increasing the number of crossing points, widening pavements, and introducing pedestrian crossing islands at junctions where feasible. The Council will consult with local communities to identify the most effective measures for each area and prioritise locations with high pedestrian demand and accident rates.	Ongoing	X		X	X	
The Council will conduct a thorough audit of the entrances to green spaces and implement necessary improvements to enhance accessibility for people using wheelchairs, mobility scooters, pushchairs, and bicycles. Additionally, the Council will install additional cycle and scooter parking facilities near the entrances to parks and green spaces to encourage sustainable transportation and reduce carbon emissions.	Medium-term (2-5 years)	X		X	X	
The Council will implement road safety zones in local centres, residential areas, and near educational sites to help reduce speeds. This initiative will include the installation of road humps, chicanes, width restrictions and reduction of speed limits to enhance road safety and protect vulnerable road users.	Ongoing	X		X	X	

THEME 3: A CLIMATE-RESILIENT GREEN BOROUGH

Introduction

As climate change intensifies and severe weather events become more frequent, we need to ensure that all residents are able to adapt and live comfortably. This means ensuring that our built environment and public spaces are designed in a way that protects residents against extreme temperatures, flooding, droughts and heatwaves. To address this, we have created the theme **'A Climate-Resilient Green Borough'** to ensure that there is a broad range of projects, programmes and initiatives that support more sustainable living environments for residents by enabling the Council to manage flooding events more effectively, mitigate any risks posed by extreme weather conditions and integrate more green spaces to promote biodiversity and bolster climate resilience within the community.

Long-Term Vision

Everyone in the borough is equipped to manage climate impacts, with measures in place to protect residents from extreme weather events such as flooding, heatwaves and droughts. New buildings in the borough are built to a high specification, and existing buildings have been upgraded so that residents have comfortable living conditions and are protected from extreme weather. Our public spaces are flourishing and green which both boosts climate resilience within the community and promotes biodiversity to safeguard local species and habitats.

Key achievements delivered so far:

- Over 65,000 new trees have been planted over the past decade.
- 160,000 sqm of new wild spaces created.
- 10,073 sqm of highways grass converted to grow zones since 2022, with 162 plant species identified.
- Over £1m of funding invested since the 2021 floods in Sustainable Drainage Schemes (SuDS), including 17 rain gardens and other measure to alleviate surface water flooding. These schemes can attenuate over 1.6 million litres of water.
- A new Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Surface Water Management Plans were adopted in 2024 – mapping areas of flood risk to inform plans.
- Over 100 state of the art gully sensors were installed at flooding hot spots to create a smart drainage system.
- Redbridge collaborated with regional bodies and partner organisations to secure over £500,000 in additional funding for innovative SuDS projects.
- The Council pledged £830,000 to support a package of flood defence measures planned for the next few years and has supported the Environment Agency with a separate flood defence project at Shonks Mill Road.
- Over 500 fruit trees were distributed in the community to provide canopy cover and support biodiversity in the borough.
- 30+ community gardens were adopted and cultivated by local gardening groups including 2 mini orchards.
- 70+ on-street planters were adopted by businesses and community partnerships.
- 850+ tree pits adopted through 'Adopt a Tree Pit' and 'Pollinator Pathways' schemes.
- 4.2 km of highway removed from herbicide spraying schedule.
- Aldborough Hall Nature Reserve (39 hectares) created as part of Fairlop Waters Country Park.
- Wildflower meadows added at Elmhurst Gardens (23.05 sqm) and Redbridge Recycling Centre (209.65 sqm).

KEY PRIORITIES

1

Safeguarding Residents From Flooding

Safeguarding Residents From Flooding

Flooding poses significant risks to residents as flash floods can cause the loss of property, damage local infrastructure, heavily disrupt public services and even threaten a loss of life. This risk is amplified in urban areas due to the widespread use of impermeable surfaces like concrete and asphalt which prevent water from draining into the ground and lead to higher volumes of surface water in our streets. By implementing effective flood risk management strategies and delivering targeted interventions we can help mitigate these risks to build climate resilience within our community and

2

Shielding Residents From Extreme Weather (Heatwaves and Cold Weather)

ensure that infrastructure and property is protected from costly damage. Measures such as using early warning systems to warn residents and local services of any flood risks, collaborating with regional risk management authorities, promoting the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in building design and infrastructure projects, and delivering general awareness campaigns all help to bolster community preparedness and ensure that protective measures are in place to help protect our residents.

3

Greening Urban Spaces And Enhancing Biodiversity

Shielding Residents From Extreme Weather (Heatwaves and Cold Weather)

Extreme weather conditions such as freezing temperatures and heatwaves, all pose serious health risks to the community with the older and younger generations being especially vulnerable due to their limited ability to adapt. To address these challenges and ensure that we implement sufficient protective measures, a multifaceted approach is needed. By developing effective emergency response strategies, delivering community preparedness initiatives and adapting or designing buildings so they combat cold

weather in the winter and stay cool during the summer we can build climate resilience within the community and ensure that our residents stay safe and healthy. Encouraging the use of green roofs and walls in building design, promoting the locations of cooling centres during heatwaves, and collaborating with public health officials to develop an effective Heatwave Response plan will also help to ensure that Redbridge is well adapted to meet the challenges posed by extreme weather conditions in the future.

Greening Urban Spaces And Enhancing Biodiversity

Installing greenery into our residential roads, high streets and public spaces helps to support local biodiversity and create a more sustainable and liveable borough. Green spaces, such as parks and community gardens, offer a variety of ecological and social benefits, as plants act as natural air filters and help to reduce the urban heat island effect whilst parks provide residents with recreational opportunities. To ensure nature in Redbridge remains in balance we need to protect native species and create new wild spaces to ensure animals have access to a broad range of habitats. Greening

urban spaces also helps to boost climate resilience within the community and support public health as green infrastructure such as trees provide residents with shade during hotter periods and help to drain away rainwater through the soil during flooding events. By conducting ecological assessments, establishing nature buffer zones, applying biodiversity net gain requirements on developers, supporting community led green projects and collaborating with the Greater London Authority on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy we will ensure that our borough remains a vibrant, sustainable place for residents and wildlife to thrive for years to come.

Commitments		Outcomes				
Detail	Timeframe	Carbon Reduction	Climate Resilience	Improved Public Health	Saving Money	Protect Biodiversity
Safeguarding Residents From Flooding						
The Council will send infectious disease prevention and control messages to residents during flooding events and collaborate with key health partners from the UKHSA, NHS, and Social Care to manage infectious outbreaks. Public Health will also continue local horizon scanning for infectious diseases and contribute to UKHSA-led national and international efforts.	Ongoing		X	X	X	
The Council will review and update the Flood Risk Management web pages on its website and include detailed information on the purpose and benefits of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). The Council will also provide case studies on successful flood alleviation schemes and include the latest data, resources, and guidance to help residents understand and mitigate flood risks.	Ongoing		X	X	X	
The Council will establish and maintain a Flood Risk Asset register detailing the ownership and state of repair of all flood risk assets, with regular updates to ensure optimal maintenance and proactive flood risk management. Additionally, the Council will produce and maintain a list or map of high-priority areas for flood alleviation schemes, based on flood risk severity and social, economic, and environmental indicators, regularly updating this resource to reflect the latest data and insights.	Ongoing		X	X	X	

Commitments		Outcomes				
Detail	Timeframe	Carbon Reduction	Climate Resilience	Improved Public Health	Saving Money	Protect Biodiversity
The Council will deliver targeted flood alleviation schemes based on detailed investigations of significant flooding incidents.	Ongoing		X	X	X	
The council will collaborate with risk management authorities, land managers, and the community to identify opportunities for incorporating natural flood management within Redbridge. The Council will also establish and maintain regional connections with flood risk partnerships to enhance communication between risk management authorities in the North-East London area.	Ongoing		X	X	X	X
The Council will support an increase in resident uptake of property-level flood resilience and mitigation measures. The Council will also collaborate with relevant internal teams, the finance sector, Flood Re, and local communities to provide guidance and resources.	Ongoing		X	X	X	
The Council will require developers to demonstrate that no flooding will occur in any part of a proposed building up to and including a 1 in 100-year rainfall event and developers must also ensure that flows from rainfall exceeding a 1 in 100-year event and mitigate flooding risks to people and property in flood zones.	Medium-term (2-5 years)		X	X	X	
The Council will introduce Sustainable Drainage System retrofitting policies and incentives.	Ongoing		X	X	X	X

Commitments		Outcomes				
Detail	Timeframe	Carbon Reduction	Climate Resilience	Improved Public Health	Saving Money	Protect Biodiversity
The Council will incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) into future public realm and highways schemes where feasible and introduce SuDS and other Flood Alleviation schemes targeting key flood hotspot locations and known areas of surface water and sewer flood risk.	Ongoing		X	X	X	X
The Council will work with partner organisations to support community-targeted water butt or other flood protection schemes.	Ongoing		X	X	X	
The Council will request that developers fully assess the potential for flooding in new developments and implement mitigation measures to reduce surface water run-off where required which includes measures such as the incorporation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) and landscaping methods to manage water flow effectively.	Ongoing		X	X	X	X
The Council will explore the possibility of delivering schemes that incentivise residents to transform their front gardens from concrete to more permeable, natural surfaces contingent on external funding being secured.	Medium-term (2-5 years)		X	X	X	X
The Council will lobby National Government to implement Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, or other enhanced tools, to reduce flood risk and improve water quality management in new developments and redevelopments.	Short-term (0-2 years)		X	X	X	X

Commitments		Outcomes				
Detail	Timeframe	Carbon Reduction	Climate Resilience	Improved Public Health	Saving Money	Protect Biodiversity
Shielding Residents From Extreme Weather (Heatwaves And Cold Weather)						
The Council will promote the integration of green roofs and walls in building designs to help mitigate the effects of the urban heat island effect.	Ongoing	X	X	X	X	X
The Council will continue to support the operation and promotion of cool centres in public libraries, community centres, schools, and parks to provide residents with relief during heatwaves, prioritising these locations in vulnerable communities where possible.	Ongoing		X	X	X	
The Council will maintain collaboration with public health officials and borough partners to implement a comprehensive borough-wide Heatwave Response plan.	Ongoing		X	X	X	
The Council will launch public awareness campaigns on heatwave preparedness and self-care, utilising all available mediums such as Redbridge Life, ensuring that vulnerable and underserved communities receive targeted messaging to stay safe and informed during extreme heat events.	Ongoing		X	X	X	
The Council will promote heatwave awareness, cold weather preparedness, and general health education at the Care Provider Forum to ensure that care providers are well-prepared to protect vulnerable residents from heat-related and cold weather risks.	Ongoing		X	X	X	

Commitments		Outcomes				
Detail	Timeframe	Carbon Reduction	Climate Resilience	Improved Public Health	Saving Money	Protect Biodiversity
The Council will consistently monitor extreme weather alerts from the UKHSA and UK Met Office and disseminate this information to social care providers in the borough, ensuring that vulnerable residents are prepared and protected from extreme weather incidents. Additionally, Public Health will continue to work closely with the Civil Protection Team to maintain an effective borough-wide alert system for extreme weather warnings.	Ongoing		X	X	X	
The Council will continue developing a Vulnerable Individuals Plan to identify vulnerable individuals during a formally declared major incident by Category 1 responders.	Short-term (0-2 years)		X	X	X	
The Council will request developers clarify how their proposals have been informed by an analysis of solar gain and cooling loads by assessing factors such as the proportion of glazing to building fabric and the shading strategy are carefully considered in the building envelope design.	Ongoing	X	X	X	X	
Greening Urban Spaces And Enhancing Biodiversity						
The Council will scope the development of a new Nature Plan that underpins the Council's nature emergency declaration and aims to embed nature recovery, ecological considerations, habitat restoration, biodiversity enhancement, and equitable tree cover in all plans and decisions.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X	X	X		X
The Council will support the GLA's Rewilding London project to create a large-scale biodiverse zone on Fairlop Plain	Medium-term (2-5 years)	X	X			X

Commitments		Outcomes				
Detail	Timeframe	Carbon Reduction	Climate Resilience	Improved Public Health	Saving Money	Protect Biodiversity
The Council will deliver the nature conservation elements of the Fairlop Waters Masterplan, including conservation grazing and re-naturalising Seven Kings Water	Short-term (0-2 years)	X				X
The Council will investigate the suitability of a Biodiversity Net Gain habitat bank for one or more Council green space	Short-term (0-2 years)	X			X	X
The Council will invest £3 million over the next three years to protect and restore park lakes, ponds, and waterways so these essential spaces continue to support wildlife, provide flood storage, and offer residents opportunities to enjoy nature.	Medium-term (2-5 years)	X	X	X		X
The Council will conduct a comprehensive borough-wide spatial data review of all Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) and adjoining areas.	Short-term (0-2 years)			X		X
The Council will work with the Greater London Authority (GLA) to develop the London Local Nature Recovery Strategy to ensure that the Strategy reflects the needs of Redbridge's population.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X	X	X	X	X
The Council will ensure biodiversity net gain (BNG) requirements are applied on all applicable developments to enhance biodiversity in Redbridge.	Ongoing		X	X	X	X
The Council will partner with community groups to enhance existing community gardens or where permitted establish new community gardens, orchards and pocket parks which support biodiversity prioritising partnering with community groups in areas with less available green space and higher levels of deprivation.	Medium-term (2-5 years)	X	X	X		X

Commitments		Outcomes				
Detail	Timeframe	Carbon Reduction	Climate Resilience	Improved Public Health	Saving Money	Protect Biodiversity
The Council will identify additional sites in roads and estates to rewild each year, by carrying out activities such as reducing the frequency of grass cutting to enable wildflower seed germination.	Ongoing	X		X		X
The Council will support community led projects and initiatives such as the Adopt a Tree Pit scheme, Pollinator Pathways and the 2025 resident Restore Nature Pledge for private households and community groups to further support biodiversity in Redbridge with a focus on areas with higher levels of deprivation and less available green space.	Ongoing	X	X	X	X	X
The Council will identify and apply for external funding to deliver a potential programme of tree planting to address areas where low tree canopy cover has been highlighted as an issue.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X	X	X	X	X
The Council will deliver on the Greater London Authority's (GLA) funding commitments to increase publicly available wild spaces as part of the Ilford Arrival Scheme.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X	X	X	X	X
The Council will deliver a tree planting and replacement programme across the Council's housing stock. This will include specific targets where possible and will be contingent on external grant funding.	Ongoing	X	X	X		X

THEME 4: A THRIVING GREEN ECONOMY

Introduction

As the global economy transitions towards greener practices, we need to ensure that the local economy in Redbridge also evolves so that businesses and workers can take full advantage of any opportunities as they emerge. By promoting sustainability in the local business sector, we can also ensure that businesses remain competitive and can thrive as they will have lower operating costs. To achieve this, we have developed the theme **'A Thriving Green Economy'** which includes a series of actions that will ensure that residents have a wide range of opportunities to learn new green skills to improve their employability, sustainable businesses will view Redbridge as a target location to establish themselves, residents will be able to adopt more sustainable ways of living, and the Council will be able to improve the sustainability of the organisation's procurement, supply chain and investments and challenge companies to support the borough's broader net zero ambitions.

Long-Term Vision

The local economy in Redbridge is a vibrant business community where sustainability is at the heart of everyday life. Residents are equipped with green skills that open doors to new job opportunities in emerging industries and local businesses prioritise more sustainable practices. Residents have access to a wide range of services that enable them to reuse, recycle, and refurbish goods which reduces household waste and helps to conserve resources. The Council's supply chain is robust and environmentally responsible with local suppliers trialling innovative practices and striving for greener standards.

Key achievements delivered so far:

- The Pension Fund switched 50% of investments to low carbon equity units which reduced the fund's carbon footprint by up to 31%.
- In April 2025, Work Redbridge hosted a Green Skills and Construction Fair which connected around 300 residents with over 20 local contractors and partners to explore career opportunities and training in the green and construction sectors.
- The climate change agenda and sustainable purchasing has been embedded into the Council's updated Procurement Strategy.
- "Meet the Buyer" events held to guide supplies on climate initiatives and to drive innovation within the organisation's supply chains.
- Business forums delivered on a quarterly basis to raise awareness on sustainability within the local business sector.
- The Council partnered with the Redbridge Institute of Adult Education to establish a Green Skills Hub which offers courses that enable residents to access employment opportunities within the green economy.
- The Council hosted the first 'Green Skills Summit' in 2024 which brought together local employers, supply chain partners and skills providers to work together to promote green skills and sustainability initiatives in the borough.
- 3 community-led repair cafes are now operating and funded in the borough, supporting residents with repairing household items and clothes in South Woodford, Ilford and Barkingside.
- 100+ nappy packs distributed to parents in the borough to support parents to move away from using disposable nappies.

KEY PRIORITIES

1

Expanding The Local Green Skills Offer

Expanding The Local Green Skills Offer

As the global economy transitions towards greener practices, we need to ensure that the local workforce is equipped with the skills needed to meet the demands of emerging industries. Learning green skills enhances employability and increases financial resilience within the community as workers are able to take full advantage of opportunities within the green economy. By hosting an annual Green Skills Jobs Fair, launching awareness campaigns focused on green industries, and developing robust career pathways in sectors like domestic retrofit and electric vehicle

2

Supporting Sustainable Business To Flourish In Redbridge

charging infrastructure we can ensure that local training programmes effectively meet local business needs and enable residents to secure sustainable employment and thrive in the evolving green economy.

Supporting Sustainable Business To Flourish In Redbridge

As the green economy grows, so will opportunities for new green businesses. We should ensure that Redbridge green businesses are able to grow and that new green businesses choose to base themselves in our borough and bolster our local

3

Fostering A Circular Economy In Redbridge

economy. Sustainable businesses form the backbone of any environmentally responsible local economy by prioritising business practices that minimise environmental impact. These special types of enterprises also help to embed the values of sustainability in the local community and spark important conversations around the kitchen table on consumption levels and the carbon cost of the goods we are consuming. By mapping the sustainable business landscape, creating a green business directory and offering affordable workspaces and well-trained workers we can support the local sustainable business community to thrive here in Redbridge.

4

Implementing Sustainable Procurement Practices

Fostering A Circular Economy In Redbridge

A circular economy revolves around residents reusing, recycling, repairing or refurbishing goods so that they remain in use for as long as possible. This approach helps to conserve natural resources and reduce the emissions that we generate from waste as new household items are purchased less frequently. These changes can also help stimulate local economic activity as they support businesses in areas such as sustainable manufacturing, furniture refurbishment or waste management and recycling roles. By promoting local community groups which offer repair or refurbishment services and collaborating with businesses to develop local circular economy initiatives, we can support residents to reduce consumption levels and adopt more sustainable lifestyles.

Implementing Sustainable Procurement Practices

The Council plays an important role as a local commissioner as not all services can be delivered by teams within the organisation and instead have to be outsourced to external companies. It is essential that the Council acts responsibly and enters into contracts with companies who can deliver the required services in a way which has minimal impact on the environment but also guarantees a high level of service for our residents. Sustainable procurement practices help to formalise this approach and drive forward sustainability within the local market as suppliers battle to adopt greener standards to improve their chances of winning contracts with the Council. By delivering key actions such as raising awareness on sustainability measures among local suppliers, introducing sustainable procurement initiatives at project kick-off meetings, and supporting contract

managers to develop effective sustainability targets for external companies, we can ensure that the Council sets a strong standard in promoting environmental responsibility and helps to foster a more sustainable and efficient local economy.

Commitments		Outcomes				
Detail	Timeframe	Carbon Reduction	Climate Resilience	Improved Public Health	Saving Money	Protect Biodiversity
Expanding The Local Green Skills Offer						
The Council will send infectious disease prevention and control messages to residents during flooding events and collaborate with key health partners from the UKHSA, NHS, and Social Care to manage infectious outbreaks. Public Health will also continue local horizon scanning for infectious diseases and contribute to UKHSA-led national and international efforts.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X			X	
The Council will carry out a mapping exercise with senior decision makers at the Council, representatives from partner organisations, and local employers to understand what major projects, programmes, and developments are currently being delivered and are scheduled to be delivered in the future, to ensure an accurate long-term view of development in Redbridge over the next 10 years.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X			X	
Following the mapping exercise, the Council will create a development pipeline for Redbridge, detailing existing and planned developments over the next 10 years. This pipeline will be a live document, updated every six months, and shared with local employers and partner organisations. This will ensure that social value and Section 106 offers are tailored to meet local business needs, fostering alignment with and maximising community benefits.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X			X	

Commitments		Outcomes				
Detail	Timeframe	Carbon Reduction	Climate Resilience	Improved Public Health	Saving Money	Protect Biodiversity
The Council will partner with Redbridge Institute and other local providers to enhance the training programmes at the Green Skills Hub, designing green skills courses, vocational training programmes and apprenticeship schemes that align with local business needs through ongoing collaboration with key contractors and suppliers.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X			X	
The Council will collaborate with developers, contractors, and suppliers to include green skills training as part of Section 106 agreements.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X			X	
The Council will partner with Redbridge Institute to deliver a Green Skills Summit on an annual basis subject to feasibility to create clear pathways for residents to access opportunities within the green economy.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X			X	
Supporting Sustainable Business To Flourish In Redbridge						
The Council will conduct a mapping exercise to gain a comprehensive understanding of the sustainable business landscape in the borough. This initiative will identify key businesses and sectors leading in sustainability, providing valuable insights for future support and collaboration.	Medium-term (2-5 years)	X			X	X
The Council will create a green business directory to increase visibility for climate-focused businesses within the community which will enable residents to identify and support local businesses committed to sustainability.	Medium-term (2-5 years)	X			X	X

Commitments		Outcomes				
Detail	Timeframe	Carbon Reduction	Climate Resilience	Improved Public Health	Saving Money	Protect Biodiversity
The Council will ensure that the Queen Victoria House Business Hub offers affordable workspace to support local eco-friendly businesses.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X			X	X
The Council will actively promote the benefits of sustainable businesses through our communication channels to increase local support.	Ongoing	X			X	X
The Council will continue to explore and apply for external grant funding to further develop programmes supporting sustainable businesses in Redbridge.	Ongoing	X			X	X
Fostering A Circular Economy In Redbridge						
The Council will deliver communication materials to educate residents and businesses on the benefits of a circular economy.	Ongoing	X			X	X
The Council will collaborate with local businesses to develop and promote circular economy initiatives, such as repair services for electrical items and textiles.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X			X	X
The Council will promote local businesses offering repair, refurbishment, or rental services as an alternative to new purchases, for example, by promoting the ReLondon Repair Directory.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X			X	X

Commitments		Outcomes				
Detail	Timeframe	Carbon Reduction	Climate Resilience	Improved Public Health	Saving Money	Protect Biodiversity
The Council will support local repair cafes through various means such as promotion of their offer, supporting community led funding bids and local networking for local peer to peer support, learning, and development.	Ongoing	X		X	X	
Implementing Sustainable Procurement Practices						
The Council will promote awareness of sustainability measures among local suppliers by organising information campaigns and providing resources on best practices where applicable.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X		X	X	X
The Council will introduce sustainable procurement initiatives at each project kick-off meeting and encourage stakeholders to incorporate relevant sustainability criteria into tender documents.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X		X	X	X
The Council will support contract managers to develop Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for evaluating supplier performance and increase targets as needed to drive continuous improvement and ensure that suppliers meet the highest sustainability standards.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X		X	X	X
The Council will encourage the consideration of the climate change agenda at the Council's Strategic Commissioning Board (SCB) to ensure that climate priorities are integrated into strategic discussions and decision-making processes.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X		X	X	X

Commitments		Outcomes				
Detail	Timeframe	Carbon Reduction	Climate Resilience	Improved Public Health	Saving Money	Protect Biodiversity
The Council will identify relevant existing contracts and collaborate with contract managers to incorporate appropriate climate-specific Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).	Short-term (0-2 years)	X		X	X	X
The Council will identify and benchmark examples of good practice in neighbouring boroughs and aim to replicate or exceed these standards where possible in Redbridge.	Medium-term (2-5 years)	X		X	X	X

THEME 5: CLIMATE-CONSCIOUS COMMUNITIES

Introduction

Everyone's participation is crucial to ensure that Redbridge's transition to net zero is successful. The collective actions of everyone in the borough, big or small, can significantly reduce our borough's emissions and ensure that we secure a sustainable future for generations to come. To achieve this, we have developed the theme '**Climate Conscious Communities**' which features a programme of actions that aim to empower residents to live more sustainable lifestyles through learning new information and putting new skills into practice, encourage community participation for residents to take a leading role in supporting and delivering local climate initiatives and ensure that children and young people are at the forefront of climate action here in Redbridge.

Long-Term Vision

Residents are well-informed on the benefits of community climate action and understand their crucial role in supporting the broader environmental goals of the borough. Residents, local businesses, and community groups, receive ample support to make sustainable choices and have access to a wide range of networks and resources which fosters a more cohesive, sustainable society.

Key achievements delivered so far:

- 400+ households received valuable advice on reducing waste to save money and carbon emissions.
- Phase 1 of the new food waste collection service launched, with 85 tonnes collected in the first two months and 70% of households taking part.
- Delivered various behaviour change campaigns and workshops which resulted in a 13% reduction in avoidable food waste per capita.
- Surpassed target on reducing household waste with the monthly average recording in at 51kg.
- 27 registered Play Street schemes are active in closing their streets to cars on a monthly basis.
- 500+ children took part in tree planting projects at schools.
- 6 schools supported to open pre-loved uniform banks.
- 25 schools given small grants to deliver their sustainable travel projects.
- 29 School Street schemes in operation covering 33 schools.
- 1,300 bikes checked by the Dr Bikes school sessions.
- 2000+ children received pedestrian skills training.
- 21 secondary schools took part in annual youth climate events in recent years.
- 57% of schools engaged with the Transport for London 'Travel for Life Programme' with 28 schools with gold accreditation
- Climate themed assemblies and workshops delivered to over 3,000 pupils.

KEY PRIORITIES

1

Empowering Residents To Become More Eco-Friendly Households

Empowering Residents To Become More Eco-Friendly Households

Equipping residents with the necessary knowledge and skills to adopt more sustainable behaviours at home is a crucial part of the borough's net zero journey. When residents are well informed, they are more likely to engage in practices such as recycling, home composting, and adopting more sustainable consumption behaviours which all directly reduce household emissions. Providing resources such as skills workshops in the community,

2

Engaging With The Local Community

accessible facilities, food waste collections and affordable home composting bins can help to empower residents to take proactive measures to positively contribute to reducing the borough's emissions. The Council will also collaborate with the East London Waste Authority (ELWA) on a wider strategic piece to deliver the Waste Prevention Plan and ensure that residents have access to a high quality, sustainable waste collection service.

Engaging With The Local Community

Community engagement is an essential step in developing robust strategies that are both impactful and effective in meeting the needs of the community. By consulting with residents across the borough, we can harness diverse perspectives to tailor local environmental initiatives so that they are more inclusive and ultimately more successful. This close collaboration enables residents to take a more proactive role in shaping local climate policy and builds greater community ownership on

3

Further Embedding Child Friendly Principles

driving forward the borough's transition to net zero. By encouraging community participation in submitting funding applications for local sustainability projects, hosting the local public green network called the Redbridge Climate Forum and providing more opportunities for residents to provide feedback on sustainability initiatives we can ensure that residents voices are heard and at the forefront of local climate action here in Redbridge.

Further Embedding Child Friendly Principles

Adopting child-friendly principles ensures children and young people are recognised as not only future stakeholders but also current members of the community who can provide valuable perspectives and innovative ideas to shape local climate policy. Engaging younger residents in local climate action helps to strengthen long term ownership on environmental

sustainability and enhances the inclusivity of policymaking here in Redbridge. The Council is committed to prioritising the involvement of younger generations in community climate action efforts for years to come and will deliver actions such as delivering more school streets schemes, involving young people in community gardening projects and delivering tree planting programmes in partnership with schools and community groups.

Commitments		Outcomes				
Detail	Timeframe	Carbon Reduction	Climate Resilience	Improved Public Health	Saving Money	Protect Biodiversity
Empowering Residents To Become More Eco-Friendly Households						
The Council will deliver local communication materials to educate residents on the importance of waste minimisation, what tips they can follow to reduce household energy consumption, and how they can get involved with regional and national awareness events.	Ongoing	X		X	X	X
The Council will work in partnership with local community groups to deliver eco skills workshops in the community which focus on how residents can repair electrical items, reduce food waste, create compost at home, and grow their own vegetables.	Ongoing	X		X	X	X
The Council will provide cheaper compost bins to residents where external funding or support is made available, and the Council will also support the widespread adoption of home composting methods through educating residents on how they can reduce their household waste.	Ongoing	X		X	X	X
The Council will support the establishment of additional community composting sites throughout Redbridge.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X		X	X	X
The Council will deliver sustainable waste management information to the community in a variety of ways such as practical sessions at ESOL classes, at landlords/tenants workshops, and via the ongoing side waste action project which identifies the highest waste producing households and supports them to reduce waste with specific guidance.	Ongoing	X		X	X	X

Commitments		Outcomes				
Detail	Timeframe	Carbon Reduction	Climate Resilience	Improved Public Health	Saving Money	Protect Biodiversity
The Council will explore the feasibility of establishing a permanent repair and re-use site which will provide repair services, skills training, and a venue to resell goods.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X		X	X	X
The Council will enhance recycling services in the borough in line with the UK government's Simpler Recycling reforms and will seek to optimise opportunities brought forward by the new ELWA Waste Disposal contract starting in December 2027.	Medium-term (2-5 years)	X		X	X	X
The Council will refresh and further develop a comprehensive Waste and Resources Management Strategy that sets out clear actions for service improvement and increased participation. The Strategy will be shaped by the core principles of effective resource management, the delivery of efficient, high quality services, and ensure compliance with emerging national standards.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X		X	X	
The Council will work in close collaboration with the East London Waste Authority (ELWA) to deliver the Waste Prevention Plan.	Ongoing	X		X	X	X
The Council will implement separate food waste collections taking a phased approach, with the first phase commencing in Autumn 2025.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X		X	X	X

Commitments		Outcomes				
Detail	Timeframe	Carbon Reduction	Climate Resilience	Improved Public Health	Saving Money	Protect Biodiversity
The Council will provide support to local food banks and community organisations which form part of the Redbridge Food Partnership that provide food to residents who are experiencing financial difficulties.	Ongoing	X		X	X	X
The Council will actively promote the Healthy Start scheme and where feasible fund local foodbanks to ensure families have access to nutritious, affordable food. Initiatives include supporting food affordability programs and collaborating with the community to develop sustainable food solutions.	Ongoing	X		X	X	X
Engaging With The Local Community						
The Council will run a grants programme that will support residents and local organisations to deliver climate action projects	Ongoing	X	X	X	X	X
The Council will develop a compelling narrative for Redbridge through the drafting of annual reports which highlight the progress that has been achieved on the carbon reduction and sustainability programmes the organisation has delivered and the impacts that have been measured. The Council will also continue to advocate for increased resources and backing from central government by lobbying as a collective as part of London Councils.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X	X	X	X	X

Commitments		Outcomes				
Detail	Timeframe	Carbon Reduction	Climate Resilience	Improved Public Health	Saving Money	Protect Biodiversity
The Council will deliver two meetings of the Redbridge Climate Forum per year to gather input, feedback, and support from residents on the Council's work on carbon reduction and sustainability. The Council will seek to increase the forum's membership and improve engagement and participation from residents in economically disadvantaged areas, ensuring diverse community involvement and more effective climate action.	Ongoing	X	X	X	X	X
The Council will organise workshops and public consultations on key climate projects and policies, ensuring that initiatives are effective in meeting the needs of the community.	Ongoing	X	X	X	X	X
The Council will encourage residents and community groups to participate in funding applications for climate initiatives.	Ongoing	X	X	X	X	X
Further Embedding Child Friendly Principles						
The Council will work in partnership with local schools to deliver a climate focused engagement event or activity with children and young people each year.	Ongoing	X	X	X	X	X
The Council will encourage young people to attend and participate in the Redbridge Climate Forum.	Ongoing	X	X	X	X	X
The Council will deliver planting programmes with community groups and children and young people in Redbridge, contingent on available funding.	Ongoing	X	X	X	X	X

Commitments		Outcomes				
Detail	Timeframe	Carbon Reduction	Climate Resilience	Improved Public Health	Saving Money	Protect Biodiversity
The Council will implement School Streets schemes at all locations with educational sites where feasible.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X		X	X	X
The Council will continue to deliver cycle training and pedestrian skills programs and expand to more schools where possible, contingent on external funding continuing.	Ongoing	X		X	X	X
The Council will encourage and promote the establishment of walking buses by collaborating with schools and community groups to create safe and convenient walking routes for children.	Ongoing	X		X	X	X
The Council will develop a Sustainability Plan for the Child Friendly Redbridge Programme to ensure that the voices of children and young people are central in decision-making processes for major climate-focused strategies, action plans, and programmes.	Short-term (0-2 years)	X	X	X	X	X
The Council will promote and support the Eco Schools initiative, encouraging more schools to participate and achieve recognition for their environmental efforts.	Ongoing	X		X	X	X
The Council will consider and produce an offer for schools related to sustainability each year based on opportunities.	Ongoing	X	X	X	X	X

HOW CAN YOU KEEP UP TO DATE WITH OUR PROGRESS?

In this Climate Change Strategy, the Council has committed to delivering a staggering 138 actions which cover a number of priorities that are all of vital importance. To keep us on track with delivering these ambitious actions, we will carry out quarterly internal reporting for each of the commitments so that we can see what progress is being achieved under each area and what barriers are in place which may need consideration.

To ensure transparency, at the end of each reporting year the Council will publish a full report on the organisation's website which will be available to everyone, and this report will provide full details of the progress that services have reported. We will also provide residents with ample opportunities to provide feedback on climate action here in Redbridge through regular public consultations, workshops and meetings of public networks such as the Redbridge Climate Forum. We will also promote any success stories or notable achievements

through our established communication channels and continue to carry out close engagement with the community on any new climate initiatives to ensure that we are delivering projects that are tailored to the community's needs. By taking these actions, we plan to ensure that the Council remains open and accountable in delivering the Climate Change Strategy.



HOW WILL THE CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY BE FUNDED?

The Council is committed to ensuring that the voices, needs and priorities of children and young people in Redbridge are reflected in local decision-making processes and are central to public policies and programmes

Delivering all of the commitments in the Climate Change Strategy will require a significant amount of funding and resources in order to be successful. As tackling the climate emergency is a key priority for the Council, the vast majority of commitments in the Strategy have been agreed in line with existing budgets and resources.

However, we are keen to increase our level of ambition and services will continue to actively identify and apply for additional funding for key climate focused projects and programmes from a wide variety of sources within both the public and private sector including government grants and private sector investments. The Council will also assess any new innovative funding models such as community bonds to ensure that all financial options are explored, and we will also continue to lobby central government to leverage additional funding for key climate programmes here in Redbridge.

WHAT CHANGES WILL YOU MAKE TODAY?

To become a net zero borough, everyone living and working in Redbridge will need to come together and work as a collective to drive forward local climate initiatives and drastically reduce our borough's carbon footprint. This also means taking an honest look at individual lifestyles and behaviours and seeing if there are any simple changes that you can make such as walking to the local shop instead of driving, being mindful of recycling when disposing of items at home and seeing if there are any sustainable practices that you could potentially incorporate into your daily lifestyle.

This transition may feel as though it is a huge task but any changes that you are able to make will be meaningful and count as another step in the borough's long term transformational journey. We do need a major societal change to happen and that will take the combined effort of every resident, local business (big or small), community group, school, place of worship, partner organisation and service at the Council to play their part as this is the only way that we can secure a sustainable future for generations to come.

In this Climate Change Strategy, we have outlined a broad range of actions, many of which are already underway, to start affecting positive change here in Redbridge but as you can see from our emissions data, the largest sectors of emissions start at home so please consider what actions you will take or what local initiatives you will support and make the change today.



APPENDIX: LIST OF RELATED STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS

Local Policy Documents:

[Redbridge Local Plan \(2015-2030\)](#)

[Redbridge Parking Strategy \(2020-2025\)](#)

[Redbridge Air Quality Action Plan \(2020-2025\)](#)

[Redbridge Green Urban Landscape Policy for Council Maintained Land \(2021-2024\)](#)

[Redbridge Employment, Skills and Enterprise Strategy \(2022-2027\)](#)

[Redbridge Plan \(2022-2026\)](#)

[Redbridge Reduction and Recycling Plan \(2023 – 2025\)](#)

[Redbridge Housing Strategy \(2023-2028\)](#)

[Redbridge Electric Vehicle Strategy \(2024-2033\)](#)

[Redbridge Sustainable Transport Strategy \(2024-2041\)](#)

[Redbridge Local Flood Risk Management Strategy \(2024-2030\)](#)

Regional Policy Documents:

[The London Plan – The spatial development strategy for Greater London \(2021\)](#)

National Policy Documents:

[LETI Climate Emergency Design Guide – How new buildings can meet UK climate change targets \(2020\)](#)

www.redbridge.gov.uk/about-the-council/climate-change