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Foreword



Councillor **Louise Krupski** Cabinet Member for **Environment and** Climate Action

Lewisham Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019. I'm proud of the actions we've taken since then as a Council and in partnership with others across the borough. Despite this positive progress, the scale of the climate crisis remains a daunting challenge. Whilst we do not underestimate this challenge, our ambition and determination to act is unrelenting.

Our changing climate is not a distant future threat or relevant only to other parts of the world. We can clearly see it impacting where we live. The Met Office issues Red Warnings in response to the most severe weather where there is a likely threat to life. 2022 was the first time two Red Warnings were issued in a single year for London, with Storm Eunice in February and then an extended heatwave in July with temperatures above 40C.

Everyone is at risk from a changing climate, but there is also a deep unfairness that the most vulnerable communities locally and globally will suffer the most,

having contributed least to the factors that cause the problem. Ensuring a fair transition to a decarbonised society and helping our residents benefit from the changes needed is fundamental to why Lewisham Council has prioritised action on the climate emergency.

Decarbonising the borough is a hugely stretching goal. Achieving it requires long-term investment and a willingness to do things differently. But reducing our environmental impact does not have to mean giving things up. Instead, taking action has the potential to enrich our lives - giving us cleaner air, warmer homes and healthier lifestyles as well as creating new opportunities for jobs and making Lewisham a more equitable place to live and visit.

This document sets out a range of actions that reflect the scale and urgency of meeting the ambition for Lewisham to be net zero carbon by 2030. It also includes actions to protect our communities now and into the future by anticipating and responding to heatwaves, flooding, storms and other impacts of a changing climate, including on the cost of living.

Lewisham Council's operations account for around 2% of the borough's direct emissions, with our housing

Ensuring a fair transition to a decarbonised society... is fundamental

stock another 5%. We cannot decarbonise Lewisham on our own, but we will show leadership by putting our ambition into practice with our own housing, our Council buildings, schools and our fleet. We can also bring about change through the way we procure goods and services and by working in partnership to accelerate change through local innovation and finding new ways to bring in long-term investment into our neighbourhoods.

For too long, globally and nationally, we have had lots of talk and little action on climate change. Ours is the generation of decision-makers, organisations and communities that needs to turn that around. Sustained action to decarbonise Lewisham and improve our environment will create a more resilient, prosperous, and vibrant borough blazing a trail for a new way of urban living that will make Lewisham better for everyone.

Current context: carbon emissions

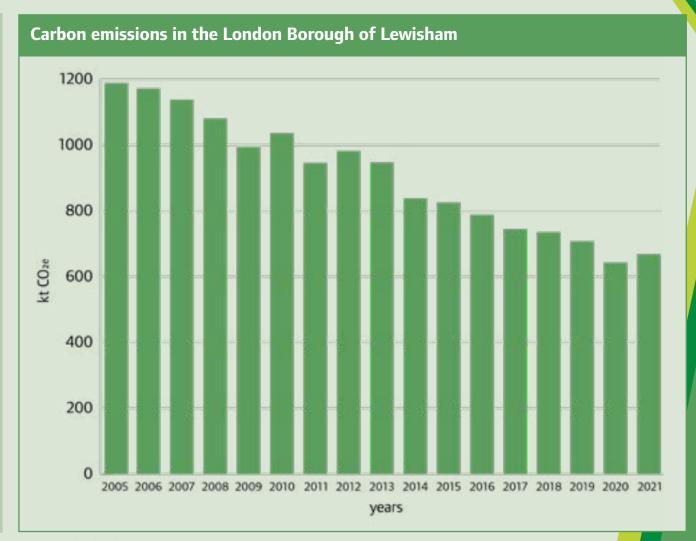
The Government publishes annual data measuring greenhouse gas emissions at a local authority level. The latest data covers the period from 2005 to 2021.

This is a calculation of emissions where the source can be measured within the borough boundary. It includes gas and electricity consumption in housing and in commercial and industrial buildings. The data also includes energy use on roads and rail transport, as well as emissions associated with land use and agriculture.

Emissions in the borough on this measure have reduced by 44% since 2005.

The top 3 emission sources in 2021 were:

- Housing (51%)
- Transport (29%)
- Industry and commerce (20%)



Source: UK local authority greenhouse gas emissions data

Current context: carbon emissions

The Government carbon data is based primarily on housing and transport sources within Lewisham's borough boundary. London Councils has produced an alternative approach based on emissions from household expenditure. This includes data on shopping habits, food, utilities, leisure and travel. The method applies an assessment of carbon intensity to economic data on household expenditure to create an estimate of carbon emissions by Lewisham residents regardless of where the emission source is located, for example long distance travel.

The estimate of consumption emissions for Lewisham has fallen by 29% between 2001 and 2020. The total carbon emissions based on household consumption data is 2.4 times the direct emissions calculated by the Government's UK local authority greenhouse gas emissions data.

The top 3 emission sources in 2020 were:

Housing (36%); Transport (25%);
 Services (18%)



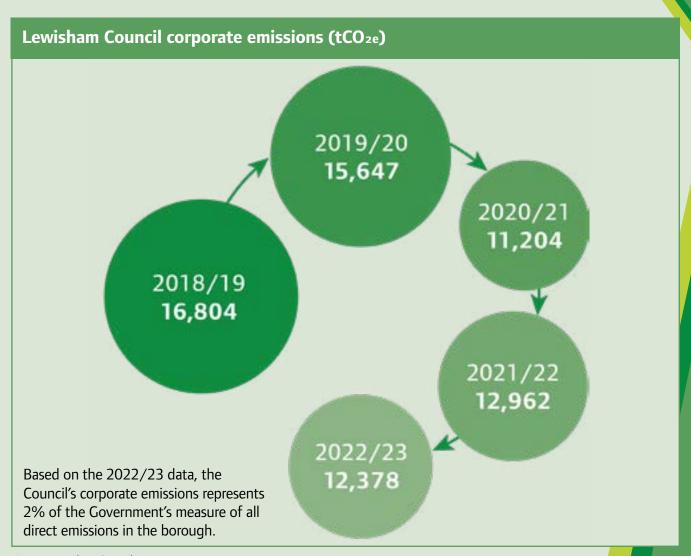
Current context: carbon emissions

This is a measure of carbon emissions associated with the Council's operations. The data includes energy and water use in Council office and service buildings, local authority maintained schools, community centres and leisure centres. It also includes emissions from the Council's petrol and diesel vehicles.

Between 2018/19 and 2022/23 the Council's emissions have fallen by just over a quarter (26%).

The top 3 emission sources are:

- Schools gas (27%)
- Fleet (16%)
- Schools electricity (13%)



Source: Lewisham Council

As a Council, we are directly responsible for just 2% of emissions in Lewisham. While we have an important role to play in reducing our direct emissions, reaching net-zero also depends on decisions at a regional and national level on funding and policy as well as on the contribution of a wide range of other actors within the borough, including residents and businesses.

There are three main groups who hold the keys to our ambition of reaching net-zero by 2030. As a local authority, we have a vital leadership role to play in enabling and influencing these groups to support the transition to net-zero.









Lewisham Council

We can reduce the emissions we are directly responsible for as a Council through our operations and corporate estate.

Our impact on emissions

Emissions from vehicles used for refuse collection, school transport, estate maintenance.

Energy usage in our schools, buildings and council homes.

Emissions associated with delivery of our work including our house-building programme, public realm works, maintenance of parks and open spaces, delivery of housing services, social care and a wide range of other services.

How we can reduce our emissions

Ensure climate implications are factored into all of our decision-making processes.

Develop costed plans to decarbonise buildings that we own/manage and electrify our vehicle fleet.

Measure and reduce cabon emissions associated with the goods and services procured by the Council.

Ensure our staff are aware of how they can contribute to reducing the Council's environmental impact.

Case study: Installing an air source heat pump at Dalmain Primary School. Page 18



Local actors

Lewisham Council can encourage and sustain collective local action to reduce carbon emissions through our policies, funding and investment decisions, by convening coalitions and showcasing innovation and good practice.

The impact of local actors on emissions

Energy consumption in homes, businesses and public sector organisations.

Transport used by residents and visitors.

Emissions associated with the development of new buildings and homes.

Waste produced by residents and businesses.

How we can support local actors to reduce emissions

Support residents and businesses to reduce energy consumption through retrofitting and encouraging energy saving.

Help create the local transport infrastructure required to encourage active travel and a shift away from polluting vehicles.

Ensure planning policies result in sustainable development.

Support residents and businesses to reduce waste and boost recycling.

Bring local organisations together to drive collective action.

Case study: School Streets programme. Page 29



National and regional actors

Lewisham Council can influence policy and funding decisions at the regional, national and international level to help reduce emissions locally.

The impact of national and regional actors on local emissions

Funding decisions made by central government affect the Council's budget including our ability to invest in decarbonisation. New funding opportunities for net zero projects need to recognise the wider pressures on local authorities and create long-term programmes for change.

Policy decisions made at a national and regional level in relations to housing, transport, energy and waste.

Impact of major infrastructure projects and developments.

How we can influence national and regional actors to help reduce local emissions

Build the case for action and funding at a local level to deliver our net-zero ambitions.

Seek to influence policy decisions that have an impact on emissions locally.

Create opportunities for innovation and good practice.

Work with residents, community groups and local politicians to campaign on issues of importance.

Work collaboratively with other local authorities and regional bodies to boost our influence.

Case study: Opposing City Airport expansion. Page 39

Taking action on climate change: what you can do

Climate change can sometimes feel like an issue that's just too big, making it hard to know where to start. But the reality is this is a shared endeavour and we all have a part to play. Here are some practical suggestions of actions you could take:

Support tree planting in the borough

Volunteering with groups like Street

Trees for Living is a great way to help maintain new trees planted in the borough – you can even fundraise with your neighbours to get a new tree planted on your street.

Cut your home energy bills

There are plenty of low-cost ways to improve the energy efficiency of your home and reduce energy consumption. Check out our retrofit quide for more information.

Try a planet-friendly diet

Meat and dairy products like milk and cheese are associated with higher levels of carbon emissions. Switching things up at mealtimes to eat more protein from plant-based sources rather than meat is a way to reduce your environmental impact. It can also be better value for money and healthier too.

Reduce waste

Clever marketing encourages us to buy new things, but there are loads of ways to avoid getting trapped in a cycle of spending and throwing away. Have a pause before you make a big purchase, visit a zerowaste shop for household essentials, plan your meals before you shop or pick up a bargain from a charity shop or vintage app.

Reduce car use

Setting off on foot, by bike or public transport are lower carbon ways to travel compared to going by car and making that choice where you can helps to improve air quality in the borough. It can also take the stress out of getting stuck in congestion or finding

Use your voice

somewhere to park.

Get involved in campaigns locally or nationally to push for action on climate change and register to vote so you can make your voice heard when it comes to elections.

Want to find out more about your individual carbon footprint? Use the WWF calculator or Giki Zero to get some analysis on what your carbon emissions are as a way to take action.

Our Climate Emergency Action Plan

Leading by example

- Put the environment and climate action at the heart of the Council's work
- Cut carbon emissions from Council buildings
- Cut carbon emissions from schools
- Cut emisisons from the Council's fleet

Sustainable housing

- Cut carbon emisisons from the Council's housing stock
- Give practical help to residents struggling to meet the cost of heating their home
- Improve the quality of housing in the private rental sector
- Secure investment in energy infrastructure to decarbonise the supply of energy to homes

Decarbonised transport

- Reduce the need to travel by car
- Make Lewisham a walking and cycling borough
- Provide the infrastructure to electrify transport
- Drive investment in better public transport and transport infrastructure

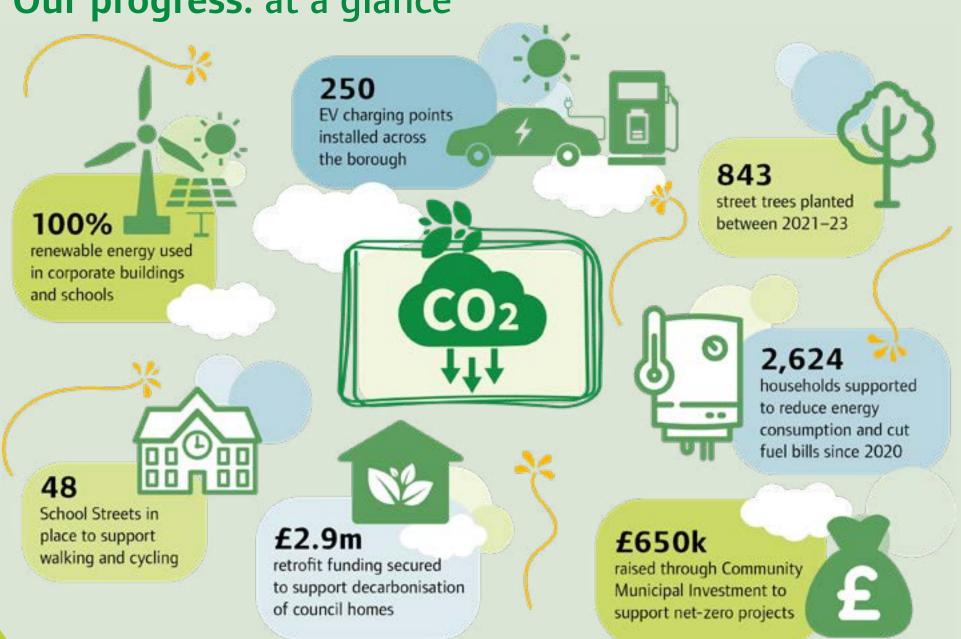
Greener, adaptive Lewisham

- Improve local air quality
- Reduce waste
- Enhance local biodiversity
- Reduce flood risk to homes and businesses

Inspiring, learning and lobbying

- Play a central role in creating a movement locally and beyond for climate action
- Help our schools take action on the environment and give young people the platform to make change happen
- Boost the local economy through green jobs and environmental businesses
- Support local community energy action

Our progress: at a glance



Leading by example: reducing council emissions

Reducing carbon emissions from the Council's operations and corporate estate will make an important contribution to our ambition for the borough to be net zero by 2030. Additionally, it will demonstrate the seriousness of our Council's commitment to tackling the Climate Emergency.

While the Council is only responsible for a small proportion of the borough's emissions, we are well-placed to influence others, whether in our work with partners and communities, as an employer or through the procurement of goods and services.

Leading by example and reducing our own carbon footprint is an important way of encouraging others to take similar action, as well as having a direct impact on the borough's overall emissions.



Leading by example: overview of key performance indicators

Indicator







Latest data

12,139 tCO2e annual corporate emissions for 2022/23

55% ranked 13th out of 196 local authorities across the UK (2023) 29.8m tonnes per £1m invested

Change/ progress



down 1 place (from 12th in 2021) down **86%** since 2019

Additional information

This measures all the carbon emissions produced by the Council's operations.

Climate Emergency UK are an independent organisation who have carried out assessments of all local authorities' plans to tackle the climate crisis.

The Pension and Investment Committee approved a new approach to managing the funds moving the Fund away from assets with high carbon intensity into more sustainable investments.

Leading by example: recent progress

Retrofitting corporate buildings: Having secured £3m from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund, works have been carried out to replace gas boilers, install solar panels and improve insulation and lighting in adult education centres, community centres and schools, delivering an estimated carbon saving of over 300 tonnes a year.

Decarbonising the Lewisham Pension Fund: Our Pensions Investment Committee have approved a new Climate Transition and Net Zero policy to support a transition towards low carbon investments. The latest measure of the carbon intensity of the Lewisham Pension Fund listed mandates was 29.8 tonnes per £1m invested - 70% lower than the industry benchmark and 86% lower than the previous time this was measured in 2019.

Developing retrofit plans for schools:



findings of Lewisham-based architects Retrofit Action for Tomorrow, who were funded by the Council to assess retrofit options for schools. This work will help inform our plans to retrofit schools in the borough, as well as establishing the Council as a leading authority in this area.

Training school premises officers: In partnership with Retrofit Action for Tomorrow, we ran a series of training workshops for schools premises officers focused on practical no/low-cost actions that they could take in their schools to improve energy efficiency.

Improving climate literacy among staff: Our Climate Literacy e-learning module was launched for Council staff in September 2023 to improve understanding of climate issues among staff delivering Council services and developing Council policies.

Case study: Installing an air source heat pump at Dalmain Primary School

Dalmain Primary School was the first school in Lewisham to replace its old gas boiler with a new airsource heat pump. Air source heat pumps use heat from the air to generate heating and hot water, helping support the transition away from greenhouse gases.

Gas used in school buildings is the largest contributor to the Council's carbon emissions (27%), so moving away from gas boilers and to more sustainable sources of energy is key to cutting carbon emissions in the borough and moving towards net-zero.

As well as being a great example of retrofitting in practice, the installation of the air-source heat pump provided the opportunity for pupils at the school to understand more about the Climate Emergency and how new technology and infrastructure can help tackle these challenges.



Leading by example: priorities for 2024/25





Develop a costed plan for decarbonising **Council buildings across** the corporate estate



Develop a costed plan for decarbonising our schools



Develop a costed plan for electrifying our fleet



Implement a new travel plan for Council staff to support more people to walk, cycle or use public transport to get to work

Sustainable housing

Housing is a key contributor to emissions in Lewisham, representing 51% of the borough's total carbon emissions based on Government data.

A significant proportion of homes in the borough are owned or managed (either in full or part) by the Council, which now has responsibility for over 19,000 homes following the transfer of housing management services back in house. These are often buildings with lower energy efficiency standards, so retrofitting our housing stock to make them more energy efficient is key to reducing emissions in the borough.

With 1 in 4 residents renting privately and around half owning their homes, improving energy efficiency standards in the private rented sector and encouraging homeowners to carry out retrofit works is also vitally important, as is ensuring new housing development in the borough meets high standards for energy efficiency and embraces low-carbon construction techniques.

One of the best ways to make our homes more sustainable is to reduce the need for heating. Retrofitting our draughty homes will be a key part of decarbonising the borough and a huge opportunity to cut the cost of energy and ensure everyone can afford to stay warm.



Sustainable housing: overview of key performance indicators







Council housing emissions



Households supported to cut heating costs

Latest data

342,100 tCO2e

carbon emissions associated with housing in the borough

35,894 tCO_{2e}

(2023/24)

1,152

households (2022/23)

Change/ progress



up **4%**

No previous data



up **99%** (572) from 2021/22

Additional information

This is an estimate of all carbon emissions associated with housing in the borough.

This is an estimate of all carbon emissions associated with councilmanaged homes.

This measures the number of vulnerable households supported to cut the cost of heating their home through our Warm Homes Advice Service.

Sustainable housing: recent progress

Decarbonising social

housing: We secured £3m from the Government's Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund to support the delivery of energy efficiency improvements in existing council homes. This funding will help support a £9m programme of retrofit works across the Council's social housing stock.



consumption: We deliver a support service for households struggling with the cost of heating their home, providing a range of practical support including energy saving tips, boiler servicing and help finding funding for insulation and heating upgrades.

2,624 vulnerable households have been supported through this service since 2020, helping to tackle fuel poverty and reduce energy consumption in the borough.

Developing a new Local

Plan: Our new Local Plan has been submitted to the Department for Levelling Up, **Housing and Communities** for examination. The plan will guide new development and infrastructure in the borough and sets higher environmental standards for new housing.

Improving energy efficiency in the private rented sector: Our

new selective licensing scheme for private rented properties has received Government approval and will come into effect in July 2024. It will cover an additional 20,000 privately rented properties - in order to obtain a licence, properties must meet minimum energy efficiency standards, helping reduce fuel poverty and energy consumption in the borough.



Sustainable housing: priorities for 2024/25





Developing a new Housing Retrofit Strategy and a costed plan for decarbonising our housing stock



Helping vulnerable households meet the cost of staying warm



Engaging with landlords to raise standards in the private rental sector



Investing in energy infrastructure to decarbonise the supply of energy to homes

Case study: Building new sustainable homes at Melfield Gardens

Phoenix Community Housing have begun construction on some of the most sustainable new homes ever built in the borough at their Melfield Gardens development.

The development – an intergenerational housing scheme offering 30 affordable homes for older residents and accommodation for eight postgraduate students – are being built to 'Passivhaus' standards, an international methodology for designing and constructing buildings to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions.

Passivhaus homes are highly insulated and well-ventilated through a mechanical ventilation system, ensuring they need very little heating while minimising risk of overheating in hotter months. This will ensure that residents in Melfield Gardens will enjoy warm and comfortable homes, as well as enjoying low energy bills.

The project, which won the GLA Award for Best Sustainable Development at the 2021 Housing Design Awards, is due to complete in Autumn 2024.



Decarbonised transport: Supporting low and no-carbon travel

Transport represents 25% of the borough's CO₂ emissions and tackling this is a central focus of our transport strategies and programmes.

Our ambition is to make Lewisham a place where I ow-carbon travel is the easy choice. This informs our work to support people to make more journeys by walking, cycling or using public transport and reducing the number of car journeys around the borough.

Our aim is to minimise the need for cars and other vehicles driving in and through the borough by creating better alternatives and ensuring parking policy and traffic management creates a better balance between transport choices.

Where there remains a need for journeys that can't be made through active travel, we want to enable a shift away from polluting vehicles by increasing the availability and use of electric vehicles.



Decarbonised transport: overview of key performance indicators

Indicator





EV charging points secured



Cycle hangars installed

Latest data

50 (March 2024) 250

(September 2023)

160 (2022/23)

Change/ progress



Up **28%**

up **63.4%** since 2022/23 (from 153)

up **32%** since 2021/22 (from 121)

Additional information

School Streets improve safety and air quality around schools at drop off and pick up times through road closures and wider improvements to encourage walking and cycling.

This measures the cumulative number of electric vehicle charging points approved or delivered.

This measures the number of secure cycle hangars installed on streets in the borough.

Decarbonised transport: recent progress

Rolling out our Sustainable Streets programme: We have begun implementation of our Sustainable Streets programme in Catford, Crofton Park and car journeys, alongside new sustainable transport measures and environmental improvements like street trees.

Expanding electric vehicle charging infrastructure:

We have developed a new Flectric Vehicle Implementation Strategy to support the growth of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, with 250 EV charging points now in place across the borough.

Introducing more School Streets: An additional

17 School Streets are in progress – adding to the 48 streets covering 39 schools.

School Streets close roads

near to schools to traffic at drop-off and pick-up times, helping encourage more people to travel to school on foot or by bike and reduce the number of car journeys made.

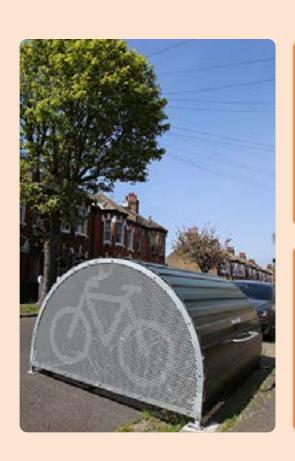
Expanding cycle

infrastructure: 160 cycle hangars were installed by the end of 2022/23, with further installations in



2023/24 taking this number to 188. Funding from the Lewisham Climate Action Investment will help to progress this work in 2024/25. Consultation has also been carried out on proposals to introduce a new segregated cycle lane on Deptford Church Street to support more journeys by bike.

Decarbonised transport: priorities for 2024/25





Rolling out our new **Sustainable Streets** programme



Expanding electric vehicle charging infrastructure



Promoting walking and cycling



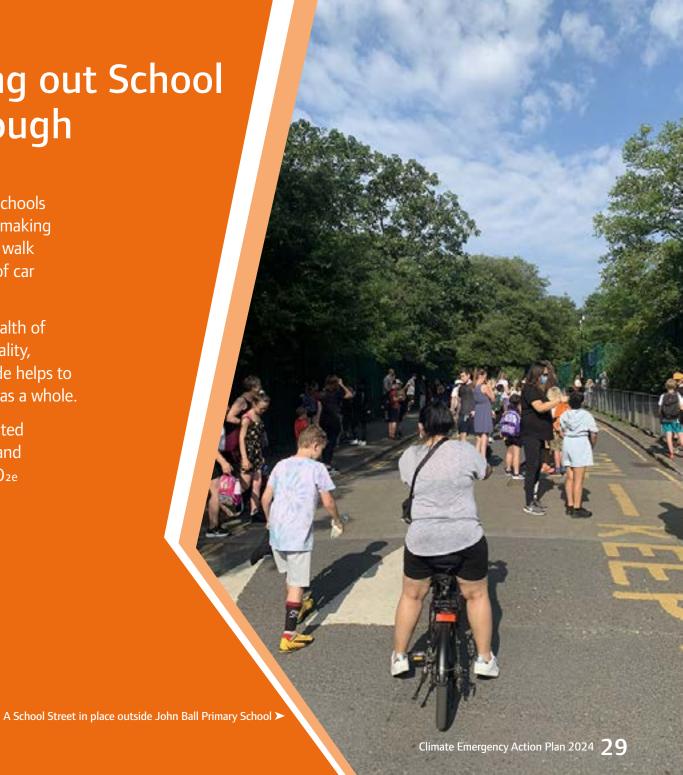
Investing in strategic transport infrastructure and services

Case study: Rolling out School Streets in the borough

School Streets involve closing roads next to schools to traffic during drop-off and pick-up times, making it safer and easier for parents and children to walk or cycle to school and reducing the number of car journeys involved in the school run.

As well as having a positive impact on the health of school children as a result of improved air quality, reducing the number of vehicle journeys made helps to reduce carbon emissions across the borough as a whole.

So far, School Streets in Lewisham are estimated to have cut vehicle journeys by 1.45 million and contributed to a 4,360 tonne reduction in CO_{2e} emissions over a five-year period.



Greener, adaptive Lewisham: reducing our environmental impact and improving climate resilience

The climate crisis is part of a wider ecological crisis, with biodiversity and habitats under huge pressure. Investing in and improving local 'green' and 'blue' infrastructure can help increase climate change resilience, as well as helping to improve local biodiversity.

Action to reduce air pollution and improve the quality of air we breathe is vital for tackling health issues that impact directly on our communities particularly those with underlying health conditions.

The way in which we use and dispose of resources has a significant impact on the environment. Ensuring we continue to reduce waste and lower the carbon footprint of our waste and recycling processes is an important step in tackling the Climate Emergency.



Greener, adaptive Lewisham: overview of key performance indicators









Latest data

559 trees planted in 2022/23 **27%** of household waste recycled in Q1 2023/24)

15 days above target threshold (2023)

Change/ progress



up **25%** from Q1 2022/23 (21.6%)



Additional information

This measures the number of street trees planted in the borough in each financial year.

This measures the percentage of household waste sent for recycling, reuse and composting.

This measures the number of days in a year where air pollution levels were above the DEFRA target threshold.

Greener, adaptive Lewisham: recent progress

Planting more trees: Working with our partners Street Trees for Living, we planted 559 street trees in 2022/23, up 90% on the previous year. A community-based approach to caring for trees has helped reduce service costs and achieved a survival rate of 98% - far above the industry standard of 70%.

Supporting biodiversity:

The Lewisham Biodiversity
Partnership ran 750 events in
2022/23, engaging 13,156
people. Members of the
partnership installed 2 bat
boxes, 33 bird boxes, 18 loggeries,
planted 230m native hedge and
conducted 141 surveys.

Sustainable drainage

systems: Rain gardens and trees in the playgrounds of Rathfern, John Stainer and Deptford Park schools have transformed the outdoor



space of the schools and our sustainable drainage in schools project won the Trees for Nature and Climate Award at the London Tree and Woodland Awards 2023. On Thornville Road, a new rain garden developed in partnership with the local community and funded through Thames Water's Surface Water Management Programme was installed on the highway in November 23.

Improving air quality:

Implementation of our Air Quality Action Plan 2022-2027 has begun, which sets out our plans to improve air quality in the borough. Work to improve air quality in recent years has included an expansion of our air quality monitoring network, promotion of cargo bike schemes for local businesses and involvement in a pan-London campaign on the dangers of wood burning stoves.

Greener, adaptive Lewisham: priorities for 2024/25





Investing in green and blue infrastructure



Increasing resilience to climate change





Reducing waste and increasing recycling rates

Case study: successful tree planting with Street Trees for Living

We have been working in partnership with Lewishambased charity Street Trees for Living to plant street trees since 2012, planting hundreds of new trees in the borough every year.

The involvement of our residents is key to our tree planting projects and our extensive number of over 450 community volunteers in Lewisham has directly led to our extremely successful outcomes.

We have a very high new tree survival rate of 96%, compared to a national survival rate of 70%, showing the measurable difference an active and involved community makes.



Inspiring, learning and lobbying: communicating and campaigning for change

Achieving our ambitions for the borough to be net zero by 2030 will require significant investment, which can only be secured through the combined resources of stakeholders locally, regionally and nationally. We have an integral role in making that happen by supporting residents, communities and partners at the local level to make change, as well as lobbying government at the regional and national level for the investment and action required to tackle the Climate Emergency.



Inspiring, learning and lobbying: overview of key performance indicators

Indicator



Lewisham **Climate Action** Investment funding



Resident participation



School participation

Latest data

£659,957

raised through Lewisham Climate Action Investment in 2023

77%

residents agree that solving the climate crisis is a shared responsibility (2021)

45

schools in Schools Climate Network (2022/23)

Change/ progress

Additional information

The Lewisham Climate Action Investment is a community municipal investment that aims to boost funding for net-zero projects, with local residents and businesses encouraged to invest and receive a return on their investment.

This data is taken from Lewisham Residents Survey – a representative survey carried out to gauge residents' views on different issues

up **73%** from 2021/22 (26)

This measures the number of schools represented at Schools Climate Network events.

Inspiring, learning and lobbying: recent progress

Climate Action Investment:

In 2023, we launched our first Lewisham Climate Action Investment, enabling residents to invest money to support net-zero projects, offering a return of 4.3% a year for 5 years. The fund raised £659,957 from 612 investors and will support active travel projects aimed at reducing emissions. **Lewisham Strategic Partnership:** The new Lewisham Strategic Partnership climate subgroup was convened in 2023, bringing together key public and private sector partners in the borough. The group has identified three initial priority areas: corporate

carbon reporting, local engagement activity and

Schools Big Climate Event:

The Schools Climate Network was established in 2021 and has held 14 meetings since then with staff and pupils from local primary and secondary schools, with the aim of boosting climate action and education in schools. In January 2024, we hosted a Big Schools Climate Conference, in partnership with the Horniman Museum, with workshops, creative events and discussion.

Community Energy

Fund: A second round of Lewisham's Community Energy Fund launched in October 2023 and the initial funding awards are expected to be announced in Spring 2024.

green and blue infrastructure.



Inspiring, learning and lobbying: priorities for 2024/25







Working with community partners to support local climate initiatives



Creating local opportunities to benefit from green jobs and skills



Working in partnership to call for investment

Case study: opposing the City Airport expansion

We successfully opposed the proposed expansion of London City Airport's operating hours, formally responding to Newham Council's planning consultation as a statutory consultee to highlight our opposition.

We argued that the proposed changes would increase noise pollution for Lewisham residents and undermine efforts to reduce carbon emissions, and improve air quality.

In July, Newham Council's Strategic Development Committee rejected London City Airport's proposals, with opposition from a number of local authorities in London, including Lewisham, helping to make the case against the expansion.

Following London City Airport's appeal against the decision and subsequent public inquiry, we submitted a formal representation to the public inquiry and encouraged residents opposed to the proposals to do the same, demonstrating the opportunities that exist for the Council and residents to campaign on climate issues together and influence decisions outside of the borough.



Full list of actions

The full list of actions in our Climate Emergency Action Plan 2024 are set out below. Where possible, we have identified the estimated impact on carbon emisisons and cost of delivering this action, as well as the scope of emissions the action will impact on.

Estimated impact on carbon emissions: these are estimates of the potential additional carbon saved over a three-year period.

up to 100 tCO_{2e}



over 1,000 tCO_{2e}

Estimated cost: these are three-year estimated costs which include assumptions on accessing external funds and other sources of expenditure which cannot be quaranteed.

up to £50k



£250k -£5m

Emissions scope: this is an established method of defining, measuring and reporting carbon emissions on an organisational or area basis – scopes have been assumed at a borough level.

direct emissions sources either owned by the organisation or within the defined geographical area.

indirect emissions from the generation of electricity.

all other indirect emissions.

The Council is directly responsible for a number of sources of emissions – actions relating specifically to these emissions have been identified in the table below.

Equalities considerations are at the heart of the Council's approach to the climate emergency and one of the primary principles underpinning our Climate Emergency Action Plan is that action on climate change is action for social justice - actions which specifically address equalities issues and support low income and vulnerable residents are identified in the table below.

Leading by example: priorities for 2024/25

Reference	Action	Estimated impact on carbon emissions	Estimated cost	Scope	Council controlled emissions?	Addresses equalities issues?	KPI reference
1.1.1	Report annually on the Council's corporate carbon emissions and improve data collection on corporate energy, water, waste, recycling and other environmental performance measures.		E	123	Yes		1.1
1.1.2	Roll out the Council's Climate Literacy Training Module to all staff and members.		£	123			1.4
1.1.3	Adopt a new policy of avoiding single-use plastic at all corporate events, alongside existing policy of vegan-only catering.		E	3			1.4
1.1.4	Issue a toolkit to staff to support service teams in identifying the climate implications of decisions as part of the corporate reports process.		£	123			1.4
1.1.5	Deliver the agreed Pension Fund Climate Transition and Net Zero Policy increasing allocation to net zero investments and to investment that has a positive impact in relation to biodiversity, climate adaptation and other environmental and social benefits.	***		123			1.7
1.1.6	Measure the carbon footprint of the Council's supply chain and engage with suppliers to reduce the Council's Scope 3 emissions.	***	£	3			1.1

Leading by example: priorities for 2024/25

Reference	Action	Estimated impact on carbon emissions	Estimated cost	Scope	Council controlled emissions?	Addresses equalities issues?	KPI reference
1.1.7	Integrate carbon reporting into the Council's financial reporting.		Œ.	123			1.1
1.2.1	Publish an Asset Management Strategy in 2024/25 setting out a costed plan for decarbonising the corporate estate.	*	££££	12	Yes		1.1, 1.2
1.2.2	Embed the ambition for the Council to be net zero within the delivery of the Catford Town Centre Framework, with the aim that the civic campus meets the highest standards of environmental performance.			123			1.1
1.2.3	Publish an Asset Management Strategy in 2024/25 setting out a costed plan for decarbonising the Council's schools' estate.	***	££££	12	Yes		1.1, 1.2
1.2.4	Publish an Asset Management Strategy in 2024/25 setting out a costed plan for decarbonising the Council's commercial estate.			12			1.1
1.3.1	Deliver a Corporate Fleet Strategy in 2024/25 that sets out a costed and cost-effective programme that accounts for the significant cost of vehicles and infrastructure required to electrify Lewisham's fleet by 2030, acknowledging current and future budget constraints and potential funding opportunities.	**	£££	12	Yes		1.1, 1.6

Leading by example: priorities for 2024/25

Reference	Action	Estimated impact on carbon emissions	Estimated cost	Scope	Council controlled emissions?	Addresses equalities issues?	KPI reference
1.3.2	Following the outcome of the Asset Management Strategy and the Corporate Fleet Strategy, determine the approach to upgrade electrical capacity at Wearside to support an electrified fleet.		£££	2	Yes		1.1, 1.6
1.3.3	Publish a Staff Travel Plan in 2024/25 and support staff to travel to work by public transport and active travel.	*	£	13			1.5
1.4.1	Work with the Council's PFI provider Skanska to review opportunities to convert Lewisham streetlights to LED.	***	££££	2	Yes		1.1
1.4.2	Publish a new Digital Strategy in 2024/25 setting out actions in support of carbon reduction including on IT equipment, servers and document retention.			23			1.1
1.4.3	Promote sustainability in schools including through lower environmental impact catering and expansion of food waste collections.		£	3			1.1

Sustainable housing: priorities for 2024/25

Reference	Action	Estimated impact on carbon emissions	Estimated cost	Scope	Council controlled emissions?	Addresses equalities issues?	KPI reference
2.1.1	Publish a Housing Retrofit Strategy in 2024/25 setting out a fully costed plan to retrofit the Council's housing stock.	***	££££	12	Yes	Yes	2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.6
2.1.2	Raise standards in existing communal heating systems, ensuring compliance with regulation and installing metering and improved controls to systems. Develop a planned maintenance and investment plan that is informed by the emerging strategic approach to decarbonising heating across the stock.			1	Yes		2.1, 2.3
2.1.3	Deliver new build properties that meet the new standards set in the Local Plan and draw on best practice in relation to embodied carbon, decarbonised heating, energy efficiency and climate adaptation.			12		Yes	2.2
2.1.4	Develop and deliver an engagement programme for the Council's tenants and leaseholders to save money on bills and cut emissions.	**	€	123		Yes	2.1
2.2.1	Publish a Housing Retrofit Strategy in 2024/25 setting out actions supporting decarbonisation of the borough's private rental stock.			12		Yes	2.4, 2.5, 2.6

Sustainable housing: priorities for 2024/25

Reference	Action	Estimated impact on carbon emissions	Estimated cost	Scope	Council controlled emissions?	Addresses equalities issues?	KPI reference
2.2.2	Inspect all HMOs (houses in multiple occupation) in the borough over five years, an estimated 6,000 properties, as part of the HMO expanded licensing scheme. Inspections will focus on the eradication of category 1 and 2 hazards on cold and thermal efficiency, especially for vulnerable residents.			12		Yes	2.5
2.2.3	Take enforcement under the Domestic Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards Regulation, which allow us to issue a Community Protection Notice (CPN) for renting accommodation under an EPC rating of E.	*	£	12		Yes	2.4, 2.5
2.2.4	Ensure all accommodation used as temporary accommodation by the Council meets the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards including the current requirement for EPC rating E or above and has all the required gas and electrical certification.	*	£	12		Yes	2.5
2.3.1	Publish a Housing Retrofit Strategy in 2024/25 that includes a range of actions supporting owner occupiers to decarbonise their homes.			12			2.4, 2.5

Sustainable housing: priorities for 2024/25

Reference	Action	Estimated impact on carbon emissions	Estimated cost	Scope	Council controlled emissions?	Addresses equalities issues?	KPI reference
2.4.1	Publish a Housing Retrofit Strategy in 2024/25 that includes a range of actions supporting other social landlords in the borough to decarbonise their housing stock.			12		Yes	2.4, 2.6
2.5.1	Lead an area-wide advice service for South London service providing practical support to help low income and vulnerable residents cut the cost of staying warm.			12		Yes	2.5
2.5.2	Ensure that our most disadvantaged communities benefit from support to decarbonise housing and that the welfare of residents is central to implementation of new technologies and retrofit programmes.			12		Yes	2.4, 2.5
2.6.1	Use Lewisham's new Local Plan to ensure new buildings meet net zero standards and anticipate the impact of a changing climate.			12		Yes	2.6
2.6.2	Support the development and implementation of heat networks in the priority areas identified by the borough's energy master planning.	***	£££	1			2.6
2.6.3.	Work with neighbouring boroughs and other stakeholders to develop a Local Area Energy Plan that sets the strategic sub-regional context for decarbonisation and energy infrastructure.		E	12			2.6

Decarbonised transport: priorities for 2024/25

Reference	Action	Estimated impact on carbon emissions	Estimated cost	Scope	Council controlled emissions?	Addresses equalities issues?	KPI reference
3.1.1	Implement the Lewisham Sustainable Streets Programme improving parking management and delivering sustainable transport improvements benefiting local communities.	***	£££	1		Yes	3.3, 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 3.9
3.1.2	Expand the Lewisham Schools Streets programme encouraging active travel to school and reducing traffic, pollution and hazards around schools.	**	Œ Œ	1		Yes	3.1
3.1.3	Work with partners to achieve the ambition of at least one electric vehicle charging point within a 500m walk of every resident.	**	£ £ £	1			3.2
3.1.4	Publish an Active Travel Strategy in 2024/25 setting out a range of measures to encourage more local journeys to be made through walking and cycling.	**	£ £	1		Yes	3.5, 3.6, 3.9
3.1.5	Implement a Healthy Neighbourhoods programme to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality and encourage sustainable modes of travel. Proposals are informed by discussions with residents and key stakeholders living within the neighbourhood area.	**	£££	1		Yes	3.3, 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 3.9

Decarbonised transport: priorities for 2024/25

Reference	Action	Estimated impact on carbon emissions	Estimated cost	Scope	Council controlled emissions?	Addresses equalities issues?	KPI reference
3.2.1	Work in partnership with Transport for London, the Department for Transport, Network Rail and others to encourage investment in transport infrastructure in the borough and improvements to public transport services.			1		Yes	3.5, 3.7, 3.9

Greener, adaptive Lewisham: priorities for 2024/25

Reference	Action	Estimated impact on carbon emissions	Estimated cost	Scope	Council controlled emissions?	Addresses equalities issues?	KPI reference
4.1.1	Use an evidenced-based approach to increasing tree stocks, tree canopy and linear metres of hedgerow. Build on the success of the Council's partnership with Street Trees for Living and work to identify the right kind of tree for the right location.	*	££	Carbon removal		Yes	4.1
4.1.2	Report annually on delivery of Lewisham's Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2020-25 including outputs on enhancements to green and blue infrastructure, connectivity between green spaces, support for and engagement with Park User and Friends' Groups, adaptive responses to climate change and service improvements to minimise the environmental impact of management of the borough's parks and open spaces.		£££	N/A			4.1, 4.3
4.1.3	Deliver on the aspirations of the Catford Town Centre Framework to make Catford the greenest town centre in London, through green and blue infrastructure, liveability and the 15-minute city concept and by reducing the environmental impact of redevelopment including through understanding and seeking to reduce embodied carbon.			123			2.6, 3.9, 5.5

Greener, adaptive Lewisham: priorities for 2024/25

Reference	Action	Estimated impact on carbon emissions	Estimated cost	Scope	Council controlled emissions?	Addresses equalities issues?	KPI reference
4.1.4	Use Lewisham's new Local Plan to drive positive gains for biodiversity, particularly in areas that are deficient in public access to nature conservation.			N/A		Yes	4.2, 4.3
4.1.5	Work with local partner organisations to develop local responses and new investment models for enhancing green and blue infrastructure and biodiversity in the borough.			N/A			4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4
4.2.1	Report annually on delivery of Lewisham's Flood Risk Strategy 2022-27 building the evidence base that underpins the understanding of flood risk, supports funding bids and prioritises targeting of local mitigation measures.			N/A			4.4
4.2.2	Create new opportunities for flooding attenuation in green spaces and sustainable drainage on highways and the public realm including nature-based solutions that deliver environmental and social benefits.			N/A			4.4
4.2.3	Review and develop the Council's response to a changing climate to inform and support the Council's emergency response process and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.			N/A		Yes	

Greener, adaptive Lewisham: priorities for 2024/25

Reference	Action	Estimated impact on carbon emissions	Estimated cost	Scope	Council controlled emissions?	Addresses equalities issues?	KPI reference
4.2.4	Use Council land and buildings to enhance adaptive responses to climate change including shading, flood mitigation and biodiversity benefits.			N/A		Yes	4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4
4.2.5	Build the evidence base and develop practical actions to protect and enhance the value driveways and front gardens have for biodiversity and the mitigation of surface water flood risk.			N/A			4.4
4.3.1	Report annually on delivery of Lewisham's Air Quality Action Plan 2022-27 including expanding the air quality monitoring network, minimising emissions from developments and vehicles through planning and enforcement and working in partnership to implement neighbourhood-based approaches to reducing pollutants and improving air quality.			1		Yes	4.5
4.4.1	Report annually on delivery of Lewisham's Waste Management Strategy 2021-31 and Reduction and Recycling Plan 23-25, setting out actions against targets to reduce waste in the borough and to prioritise the waste hierarchy and principles of a circular economy for the borough.	***	££££	3			4.6, 4.7

Inspiring, learning and lobbying: priorities for 2024/25

Reference	Action	Estimated impact on carbon emissions	Estimated cost	Scope	Council controlled emissions?	Addresses equalities issues?	KPI reference
5.1.1	Raise awareness and drive engagement and partnership on climate activity through a wide-ranging and proactive communications campaign.	***	E	123			5.3, 5.4
5.1.2	Work with Lewisham's Young Mayor to support and grow existing action by young people in the borough on climate change. Work to ensure the views of young people are integrated within the Council's approach to action on climate change.		£	123		Yes	5.3, 5.4
5.1.3	Engage and support schools through the Lewisham Schools Climate Network to take action on climate change.	**	£	123			5.1, 5.3, 5.4
5.2.1	Work with local partner organisations in the Lewisham Strategic Partnership to take action on carbon emissions and climate change.	**	E	123			5.4, 5.5
5.2.2	Deliver the second round of Lewisham's Community Energy Fund in 2024 and support local community-based action on carbon reduction and energy efficiency.	*	Œ Œ	123		Yes	2.5, 5.5

Inspiring, learning and lobbying: priorities for 2024/25

Reference	Action	Estimated impact on carbon emissions	Estimated cost	Scope	Council controlled emissions?	Addresses equalities issues?	KPI reference
5.2.3	Publish a Local Economic Development Strategy in 2024/25 setting out plans to develop the local supply chain for retrofit and enable local people to benefit from working in the green economy.			N/A		Yes	5.5
5.2.4	Publish a Local Economic Development Strategy in 2024/25 setting out plans to support local businesses in Lewisham to reduce their environmental impact and connect to ethically conscious consumers.			123			5.5
5.2.5	Deliver climate projects through the Lewisham Climate Action Investment and engage with investors to demonstrate the value of their investments.	**	£££	1			5.2, 5.3, 5.4
5.3.1	Work with London Councils, the GLA and other London boroughs to develop and present a coherent case for change at national level to deliver the investment, legislation, fiscal incentives and leadership needed to respond to the climate crisis.			123			2.6, 3.9, 5.5
5.3.2	Challenge new developments in London or nationally that are likely to increase carbon emissions in Lewisham.			123		Yes	2.6, 3.9, 5.5

Leading by example Key performance indicators

Reference	Key performance indicator	Latest data	Previous data	Change	Source and notes
1.1	Annual Lewisham Council corporate carbon emissions (tCO _{2e} /year)	12,319 tCO _{2e} (2022/23)	12,962 tCO _{2e} (2021/22)	5% decrease from 2021/22 Down 26% from 2018/19	Lewisham Council corporate carbon emissions report
1.2	CO2 saved through retrofit of corporate buildings and schools (tCO _{2e} /year)	316 tCO _{2e} (2022/23)	No previous data		Combined emissions reduction from Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund schemes
1.3	Climate Emergency UK scored assessment	55% – 13th single tier authority in UK (2023)	77% (2021)	Down one place from 12th single tier authority in UK in 2021	Climate Emergency UK Note: Updated methodology used for 2023
1.4	Council staff reporting that they consider the impact their work has on the environment	65% (2022)	No previous data		Lewisham Council staff survey
1.5	Council staff responding to the travel survey identifying car as main mode of transport to work	49% (2023)	No previous data		Lewisham Council staff travel survey 2023
1.6	Corporate fleet carbon emissions (tCO _{2e} /year)	1,959 tCO _{2e} (2022/23)	1,870 tCO _{2e} (2021/22)	5% increase from 2021/22	Lewisham Council corporate carbon emissions report
1.7	Carbon intensity of the Lewisham Pension Fund listed mandates (tCO ₂ per £1 m)	29.8 tCO _{2e} per £1m invested (2023)	353 tCO _{2e} per £1m invested (2019)	Down 86% from 2019	Annual report to Lewisham Pension Fund Committee. Note: 2023 data is a reduction against industry benchmark figures of 70%.

Sustainable Housing Key performance indicators

Reference	Key performance indicator	Latest data	Previous data	Change	Source and notes
2.1	Annual CO2e emissions in the Lewisham Council housing stock (tCO2e /year)	35,894 tCO _{2e} (2023/24)	No previous data	Criange	Estimated using modelled data calculated through the Parity Project Portfolio software
2.2	Lewisham Council housing stock energy efficiency rating (average SAP)	72 (2021)	No previous data		Lewisham Homes Sustainability Strategy 2021–2030
2.3	Carbon saved through retrofit works across the Lewisham Council housing stock (tCO _{2e} /year)	74.34 tCO _{2e} (2022/23)	82.08 tCO ₂ e (2021/22)	Down 9%	Data compiled from delivery of grant programmes and planned maintenance. Reduction due to lower number of roof and wall insulation works recorded in 2022/23
2.4	Homes retrofitted in Lewisham all tenures (cumulative total since 2022/23)	169 (2022/23)	292 retrofits completed in (2021/22)	Down 42%	Data compiled from delivery of grant programmes and other funding. Reduction due to changes in the Energy Company Obligation.
2.5	Vulnerable Lewisham households supported to cut the cost of heating their home (annual)	1,152 households (2022/23)	580 households (2021/22)	Up 99%	Data compiled from Lewisham Council's Warm Homes Advice Service GLA monitoring return 2023
2.6	Carbon emissions associated with housing in the borough	342.1 ktCO _{2e} (2021)	329.8 ktCO _{2e} (2020)	Up 4%	UK local authority greenhouse gas emissions. Trend since 2005 – down 40% from 570.9 ktCO _{2e}

Decarbonised transport: Key performance indicators

Reference	Key performance indicator	Latest data	Previous data	Change	Source and notes
3.1	Lewisham School Streets (cumulative total)	50 schools 51 streets (March 2024)	39 schools 48 streets (Feb 2023)	Schools Up 28% Streets Up 6%	School Streets project database
3.2	Electric vehicle charging points approved or delivered (cumulative total)	250 (September 2023)	153 (2022/23)	Up 63.4%	EVCP project database
3.3	Cycle hangers installed	188 Q3 (2023/24)	160 (2022/23)	Up 17.5%	Project database
3.4	Controlled Parking Zones coverage in borough	26% (March 2024)	23%	Up 13%	Healthy Streets Scorecard
3.5	% residents living within 400m of a strategic cycle network	12% (December 2022)	16% (Dec 2021)	Down 25%	TfL LIP3 MTS data pack. Reduction assumed to be removal of temporary COVID-related measures on highways
3.6	Proportion of adults in Lewisham who walk or cycle for any purpose 3 times a week	53.6% (2022)	54.7 (2021)	Down 2%	Department for Transport Participation in Walking and Cycling (local authority rates). Overall increase over last five years from 50.4% in 2017.
3.7	Motor vehicle traffic (vehicle miles) by local authority (million miles)	443 (2022)	444 (2021)	Down 0.2%	Department for Transport

Decarbonised transport: Key performance indicators

Reference	Key performance indicator	Latest data	Previous data	Change	Source and notes
3.8	% Lewisham households without a car	47.7% (2021)	48.1% (2011)	Down 0.8%	Census data
3.9	Carbon emissions associated with transport in the borough	191.4 ktCO _{2e} (2021)	195.5 ktCO _{2e} (2020)	Down 2%	UK local authority greenhouse gas emissions. Trend since 2005 – down 36% from 301.2 ktCO _{2e} .

Greener, adaptive Lewisham: Key performance indicators

Reference	Key performance indicator	Latest data	Previous data	Change	Source and notes
4.1	Trees planted annually	559 street trees 62 parks trees 660 saplings / whips (2022/23)	294 street trees 174 parks trees 790 saplings/whip (2021/22)	Street trees – up 90% Park trees – down 64% Saplings/whips – down 16%	Parks and Open Spaces Annual Monitoring Return
4.2	Area of living roofs in Lewisham (m²)	105,472 m ² (2023)	48,000 m ² (2015)	Up 119.7%	Commissioned aerial survey 2023
4.3	Annual investment in Lewisham open spaces	£178,561 (2022/23)	£131,480 (2021/22)	Up 35.8%	Compiled from projects funded by external or internal funds. 2021/22 data excludes large-scale multiple year funding for Beckenham Place Park (£795,000).
4.4	Area hardstanding surface disconnected from drainage system m ²	700m² (2022/23)	No previous data		Compiled from projects delivered
4.5	Number of days air quality levels measured above DEFRA threshold (Air Pollution Index System)	NO2: 2 PM2.5: 4 PM10: 9 (2023)	NO2: 0 PM2.5: 13 PM10: 10 (2022)	Down 8 days	Data from continuous monitoring stations. 2023 data up to end of September. Data from London Air. Air quality data impacted by traffic volumes and weather conditions

Greener, adaptive Lewisham: Key performance indicators

Reference	Key performance indicator	Latest data	Previous data	Change	Source and notes
4.6	Residual waste per household (kg)	41.99kg (Q3 2023/24)	42.23kg (Q3 2022/23	Down 1%	WasteDataFlow returns to the Environment Agency
4.7	Household waste sent for recycling/reuse/composting	25.5% (Q3 2023/24)	19.1% (Q3 2022/23)	Up 33%	WasteDataFlow returns to the Environment Agency
4.8	Accumulative carbon removal projection for Lewisham owned trees (tCo2) annual	693 tCO ₂ (2023/24)	No previous data		Arbortrack report on carbon storage across the Council owned/managed tree population

Inspiring, learning and lobbying: **Key performance indicators**

Reference	Key performance indicator	Data	Previous data	Change	Source and notes
5.1	Representatives from schools participating in the Lewisham Schools' Climate Network	45 school reps at 14 events (2022/23)	26 school reps at 4 events (2021/22)	Up 73%	Years are school term years. Data compiled at meetings of the network
5.2	Lewisham Climate Action Investment: funding raised and spent	£659,957 raised (2023)	No previous data		Abundance Investment
5.3	Residents surveyed indicating a positive response to Council climate emergency communications	21% (2021)	No previous data		Lewisham Channel Insight Survey
5.4	% of residents identifying that solving the climate crisis is a shared responsibility	77% (2021)	No previous data		Lewisham Residents Survey
5.5	Carbon emissions associated with commercial, business and industry in the boroug	131.5 ktCOO _{2e} (2021)	115 ktCOO _{2e} (2020)	Up 14%	UK local authority greenhouse gas emissions. Trend since 2005 – down 58% from 313.4 ktCOO _{2e}