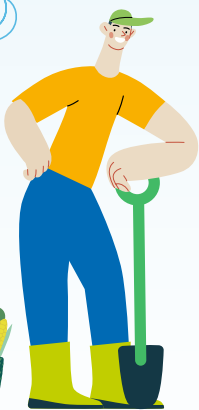


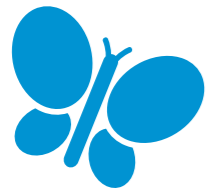


TACKLING
THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY
TOGETHER IN SOUTHWARK



ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2023



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FOREWORD

“Climate change is not only a threat, it is, above all, an opportunity.” These words from Greta Thunberg summarise Southwark Council’s approach to the climate emergency. As we tackle this existential threat, we must strive for a greener, fairer and safer world.

This March we invited the High Commissioner for Fiji to the United Kingdom, His Excellency Mr Jitoko Tikolevu, to speak at our Climate Day. He emphasised how climate change connects us all – how the effects of our actions in Southwark ripple across the globe and are felt by those in the South Pacific. We must also remember that our efforts to address this global emergency can have a positive and tangible impact here in South London: cheaper energy bills, cleaner air, and a more pleasant environment.

I’m proud of our successes this year, laid out in this report. But we must be honest with ourselves: we are not on track to be net zero by 2030. Despite our best efforts, we simply do not have the resources we need. In fact, if the council spent every penny it has on climate change from now until 2030 – and that would mean stopping everything else we do from building new homes to providing social care – this would still not be enough.



Councillor James McAsh,
Cabinet Member for
Climate Emergency,
Clean Air and Streets

We need dramatic change, at a global and national level, and time is running out.

The scale of the challenge may be daunting but this must not stop us from doing everything we can to tackle it. In Southwark, the council is working with residents, businesses and communities to reduce our carbon emissions and build a more sustainable future. The following report highlights some of our many successes in this area.





1. WHERE WE ARE

In its most recent report (March 2023), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) made its starkest warning yet on the urgency and the scale of action needed in this decade to 'secure a liveable future for all'. The report showed not enough progress is being made by world leaders, and estimated that current policies would see global temperature increases exceed 1.5°C, reaching around 3.2°C by 2100.

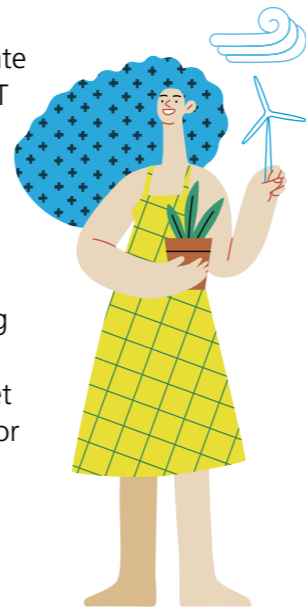
In March this year, the High Commissioner for Fiji to the UK, His Excellency, Mr Jitoko Tikolevu, spoke at Southwark Climate Day about the devastating impacts already being experienced in Fiji. Southwark's local residents and businesses heard how whole communities are being uprooted by the effects of climate change. Every year of inaction means that the challenges for small island nations like Fiji will only get worse. This is despite these nations being the ones that have contributed the least to the problem.

In Southwark, we have not had to consider relocating entire villages as they have done in Fiji, but we are still vulnerable to climate change and the impacts are set to worsen in the years ahead. Whether Southwark or the South Pacific, what happens in one part of the world effects another. We not only need to build our resilience to climate change, but as a richer nation that has

contributed much more to the causes of climate change, we have an even greater responsibility to act urgently to protect people in not just Southwark, but around the world.

Since declaring a climate emergency in 2019 we have been taking urgent action. Our Climate Change Strategy (2021) and the Council Delivery Plan (2022) are clear on the level of urgency that is needed for the borough to achieve its ambition of becoming net zero by 2030.

Last year, we updated the climate change action plan with SMART targets as well as delivering our first annual report on progress. This year's annual report builds on these by highlighting how we are tackling climate change together in Southwark, working with our community to push forward our actions. We also set out some of our top priorities for the year ahead.



His Excellency, Mr Jitoko Tikolevu with the Leader of the Council, Cllr Kieron Williams and the Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency, Cllr James McAsh at Southwark Climate Day

As part of our responsibility for the borough, we have continued to take action to reduce our own greenhouse gas emissions and tackle others from within our borough across five priority areas. As well as investment in carbon reduction from our own buildings, we have launched a new free advice service in partnership with London Southbank University for residents to green their homes. We have moved thousands of council properties away from gas and towards renewable energy and planted two of London's newest forests in Peckham Rye Park.

Yet we also continue to face enormous challenges, with large gaps in national and local funding and resources. Our vision for tackling the climate emergency still offers a profound opportunity to reshape our borough into a better place for everyone, deliver improvements in health, raise the standard of homes, create good green jobs and help to strengthen our communities. We need to continue to highlight and overcome the challenges before us, whilst moving our action plan forward and continuing to improve the lives of people and future generations across our borough.

2. BOROUGH-WIDE PICTURE

Working across the borough

Our strategy and action plan is for the whole borough to become carbon neutral by 2030.

The council is directly responsible for around 12% of emissions and so while we are working hard to reduce these, we must also lead the borough, its residents, businesses, partners and others to take action so that together we can all create a net zero borough. This section highlights how we are doing this.

Southwark Climate Day

Southwark Climate Day was held on 11 March 2023. Due to the covid pandemic, it was the first in-person climate conference we have held since launching our climate strategy. We brought together over 200 people who live, work and spend time in the borough, to learn, discuss and share ideas for how we can become net zero.

There were world class guest speakers, such as the High Commissioner to Fiji in the UK – a nation that is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, as well as workshops covering issues such as air quality, energy efficiency, fashion and climate, and creating wild spaces. We heard from local groups like Extinction Rebellion Southwark, as well as academics and others at the forefront of climate thinking and ideas.

There were stalls promoting the great work going on throughout the borough from sustainable food and fashion, to green skills courses and energy efficiency advice. Lots of practical action also took place, as Repair Café Nunhead fixed people's household items, the Energy Advice Centre provided help and advice on home energy efficiency and bike mechanics fixed and serviced people's bikes for free all day.

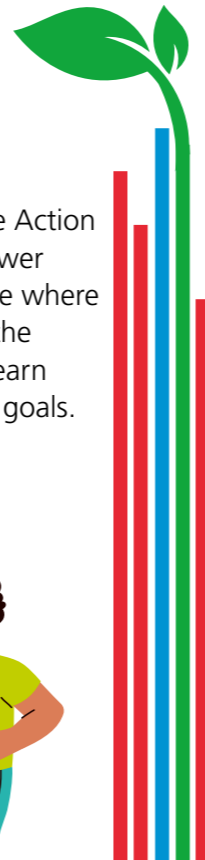


Southwark Climate Day, 11 March 2023

Southwark Climate Action Schools

This year we launched Southwark Climate Action Schools, a network to connect and empower schools in the borough. It provides a space where schools can share their work on tackling the climate emergency with each other and learn about new opportunities to support their goals.

Working with environmental charity Ashden we have also been supporting schools who want to do more to tackle climate change and inspire the borough's young people to do more.



Progress this year

The climate action plan details how working together, we can reduce our carbon emissions.

The full set of actions, their milestones and their progress can be viewed through the [climate action plan online dashboard](#).

This section sets out some of our highlights from the past year for our work supporting the borough to reduce its emissions.

Greener buildings



We want to make it easier for people to make their own homes greener and more energy efficient. That is why we have introduced a bundle of measures to streamline the process for green planning applications. This includes helping residents install renewable technology, improving the online pre-planning advice service on renewables and a quicker decision process for green applications.

We have set up a Green Buildings Fund using money from new developments to reduce carbon in the borough, initially focused on council projects such as retrofit on the Tustin Estate.

Active and sustainable travel

We have improved access to walking and cycling in the borough, with 1.3 kilometres (km) of new segregated cycle lanes delivered, alongside an increase in the number of cycle hangars to 626. Our school streets programme has created 23 more school streets. These make streets around schools greener and safer, discourage car trips to schools at drop off and pick up times. Children now have more space at the school gate as a result.

The rollout of electric vehicle charging points is ahead of schedule with the number of new charging points increasing to 812. Later this year we will be publishing our electric vehicle strategy to ensure that while always promoting active travel, we also have the infrastructure in place to get petrol and diesel vehicles off the road.

Due to funding pressures from central government in 2022, Transport for London (TfL) put at risk many of Southwark's most important bus routes. In response, we ran a successful campaign to save Southwark's bus routes, bringing together residents and communities. The campaign led to the Mayor of London announcing that the 12, 45, 78 and N133 buses will be protected, and that people in Southwark can continue to use them to get to work and to visit family, friends and more. The council has continued its campaign to the reopen Camberwell Station and extend the Bakerloo Line.

The council has also worked with partners on the Smarter Greener Logistics (SGL) project, which is exploring how we can use the River Thames for freight and logistics, instead of our roads.



1.3KM
OF NEW
SEGREGATED
CYCLE LANES



**INCREASED
CYCLE
HANGARS TO
626**



**23
MORE
SCHOOL
STREETS**



**INCREASED
CHARGING
POINTS TO
812**

A thriving natural environment



In partnership with Earthwatch, the council planted two new Tiny Forests in Peckham Rye. Tiny forests are closely planted fast-growing woodlands, and Southwark now has two of the newest sites at Peckham Rye Park. Over 1,200 native trees were planted in March 2023, with the help of local schools as well as 125 members of the community.

Overall, 8,000 new trees have been planted across the borough over the past year and the council has created 108 new allotment plots for community growing.



Community planting day for Tiny Forests at Peckham Rye



8,000
NEW TREES
PLANTED



108
NEW
ALLOTMENT
PLOTS

A circular economy with green jobs



1,240 green jobs have been created in the borough, helped by our investment in net zero projects, employment support targeting green jobs and the construction of low-carbon buildings.

A good example of how these green jobs are being supported is the launch of the Green Skills Hub hosted by London South Bank University, which has trained 234 Southwark residents in skills for the green economy.

This year we have launched a new sustainability blueprint for events in the borough. The Event Environmental Sustainability Guide (EESG) helps event organisers to understand how they can identify and tackle their carbon emissions, while also improving their sustainability.

In March 2023, a new Waste Management Strategy Extension was approved. This sets out the council's priorities for managing waste up to 2025. A government mandate around extending food waste recycling facilities is expected this year, so we are making sure we are ready to recycle food waste on our estates in Southwark. Currently 32% of the borough's waste is recycled, which is one of the highest rates in central London. However, this is below our ambitious 36% target, so we will be continuing to talk to and work with residents to improve recycling rates.

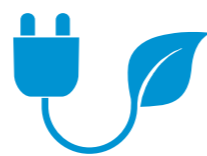


1,240
GREEN JOBS
CREATED



234
SOUTHWARK RESIDENTS
TRAINED IN SKILLS FOR
THE GREEN ECONOMY

Renewable energy



Promoting renewable energy remains a key priority. In early 2023, we partnered with industry experts at London South Bank University's (LSBU's) Net Zero Building Centre, to launch the green homes advice service. This service provides free expert advice to residents on green home upgrades (such as solar panels or air source heat pumps) and retrofit measures (including double-glazing and loft insulation). Residents who contact the centre get help from an expert advisor to identify which measures are best for their property, which could be as simple as switching to LED light bulbs or a more detailed approach to upgrading to an air source heat pump.



Two expert advisors at the LSBU Energy Advice Centre



32%
OF THE BOROUGH'S
WASTE RECYCLED

36% TARGET

Emissions in Southwark

To understand, measure and target our work, we need to know where greenhouse gas emissions are coming from.

At a borough level, this is reliant on large national datasets. These datasets have an inherent time-lag, which means the information we have is never as up to date as we would like it to be. This makes it challenging to obtain the quality and quantity of data that we need. However, it is still essential in highlighting where the council should target our resource, funding and lobbying asks of central government.

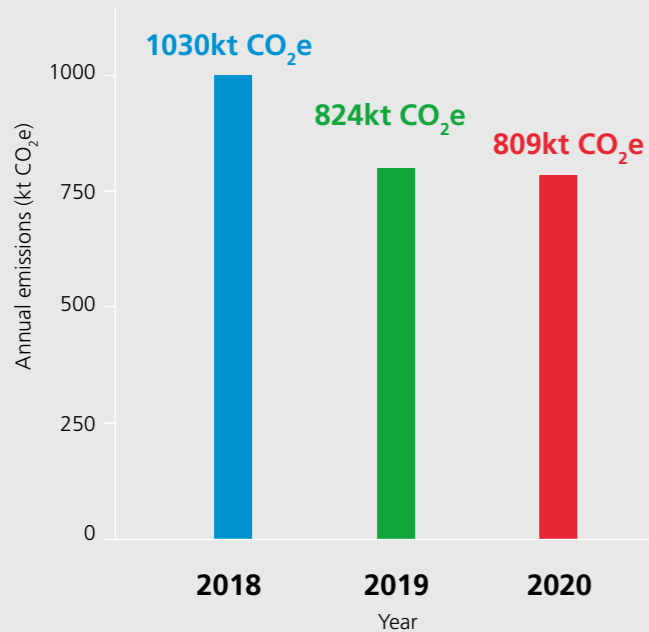
In the last two reports, we calculated the emissions for the borough using a tool called Scatter. This included emissions from residential homes, vehicles, industry and business. This tool has not been updated since last year, so we have used government data from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS),

now called the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ).

Greenhouse gases are categorised into three groups, or scopes: scope one covers direct emissions from owned or controlled sources; scope two covers indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, heating and cooling and; scope three includes all other indirect emissions that occur in the supply chain.

We measure our emissions in kilotons of carbon dioxide equivalents, also written as **kt CO₂e**. The BEIS data used in last year's report, from 2019, gave a total scope one and two emissions of 824kt CO₂e. This year's updated 2020 data shows a slight fall in emissions, to 809kt CO₂e.

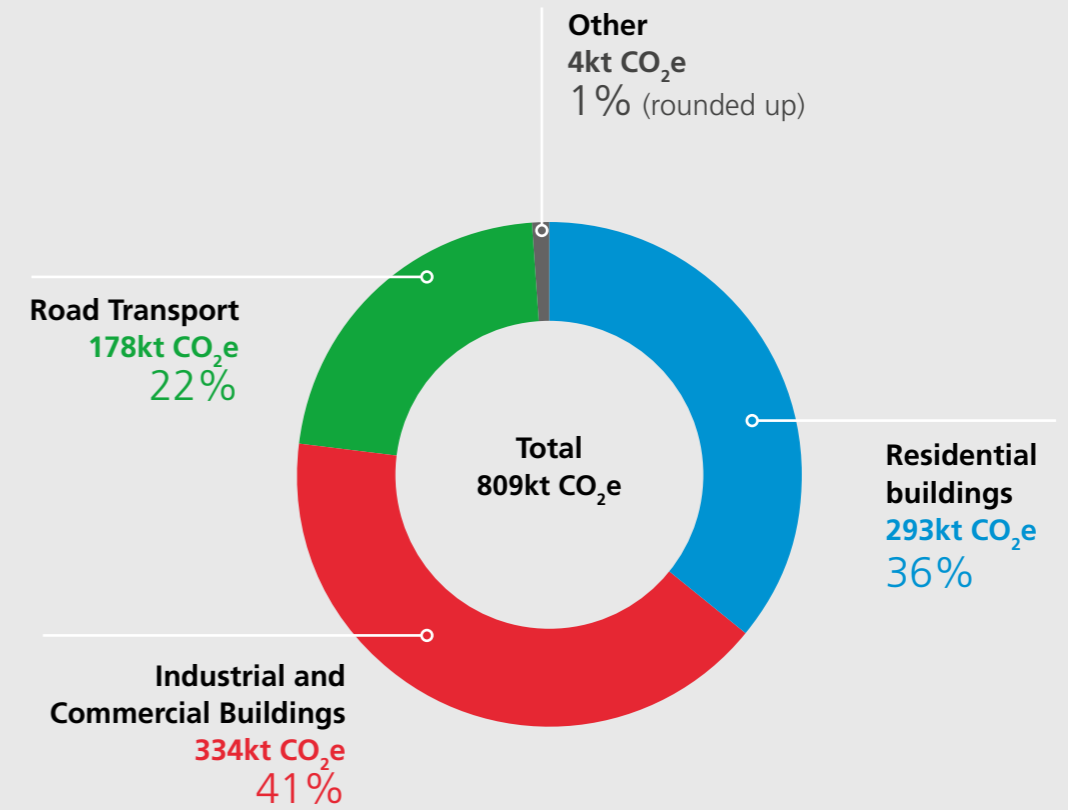
Borough wide emissions over the last three years



While the overall reduction in borough wide emissions is positive, the pace of reduction needs to rapidly increase to achieve our 2030 net zero target. Emissions associated with domestic buildings have remained static, while those in the industrial and commercial sector have increased.

Overall emissions from road transport are down in the borough when compared to the previous year's data. This reinforces the need to focus on emissions associated with heating and powering buildings, which account for nearly 80% of all scope one and two emissions in the borough.

Borough wide emissions



It is clear that significant reductions are needed. Our climate action plan includes work we are doing to support residents and businesses in reducing emissions, but the funding gap from central government is stark. We will continue to lobby at a London and national level for the changes and funding required.

Looking ahead to the next year

Over the next year, the council will continue to deliver and invest in important projects across each area of our Climate Change Strategy in a targeted, decisive and positive way. This will ensure we can have the biggest impact on tackling our emissions in Southwark, with the resources and funding we have available.

Importantly, a comprehensive stakeholder plan will be finalised and implemented over the next year. It will bring together the borough's networks and deepen our relationships with community stakeholders, businesses, delivery partners and schools while reforming our expert's panel. This will enable the council to develop a clear picture of the climate work that is happening right across the borough.

Greener buildings



New planning policies are being developed to further address energy use and retrofitting through an update to the Southwark Plan (2022). This will take place alongside the publication of new planning guidance for how to best meet our ambitious planning policies, and work on a new local carbon offsetting price. We will be extending the Green Buildings Fund and this year will be launching it publically for groups in the borough to access funding to reduce emissions on community buildings.

Active and sustainable travel



In July this year we will be launching our new Streets for People Strategy. This looks holistically at our transport system, that needs to balance the increasing demands upon space, and sets out a direction for transport in Southwark that is sustainable and equitable. This will set out how our roads, streets and kerbsides are designed to continue to promote active and sustainable travel. We will also be consulting on borough-wide walking, cycling and electric vehicle strategies.

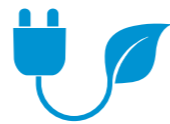
A thriving natural environment



This year we will engage and consult on a Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation Strategy. This will set out how we can make sure the borough is ready for the impacts of climate change that we cannot avoid.

The council will also be preparing a new Local Nature Recovery Plan and implementing new legal requirements for biodiversity net gain that will increase habitats in new developments.

Renewable energy



The council continues to support local energy groups' funding bids to the GLA's local community energy fund. Over the next year, we will be launching the Southwark Community Energy Fund to the public to fund local renewable energy projects.



A circular economy with green jobs



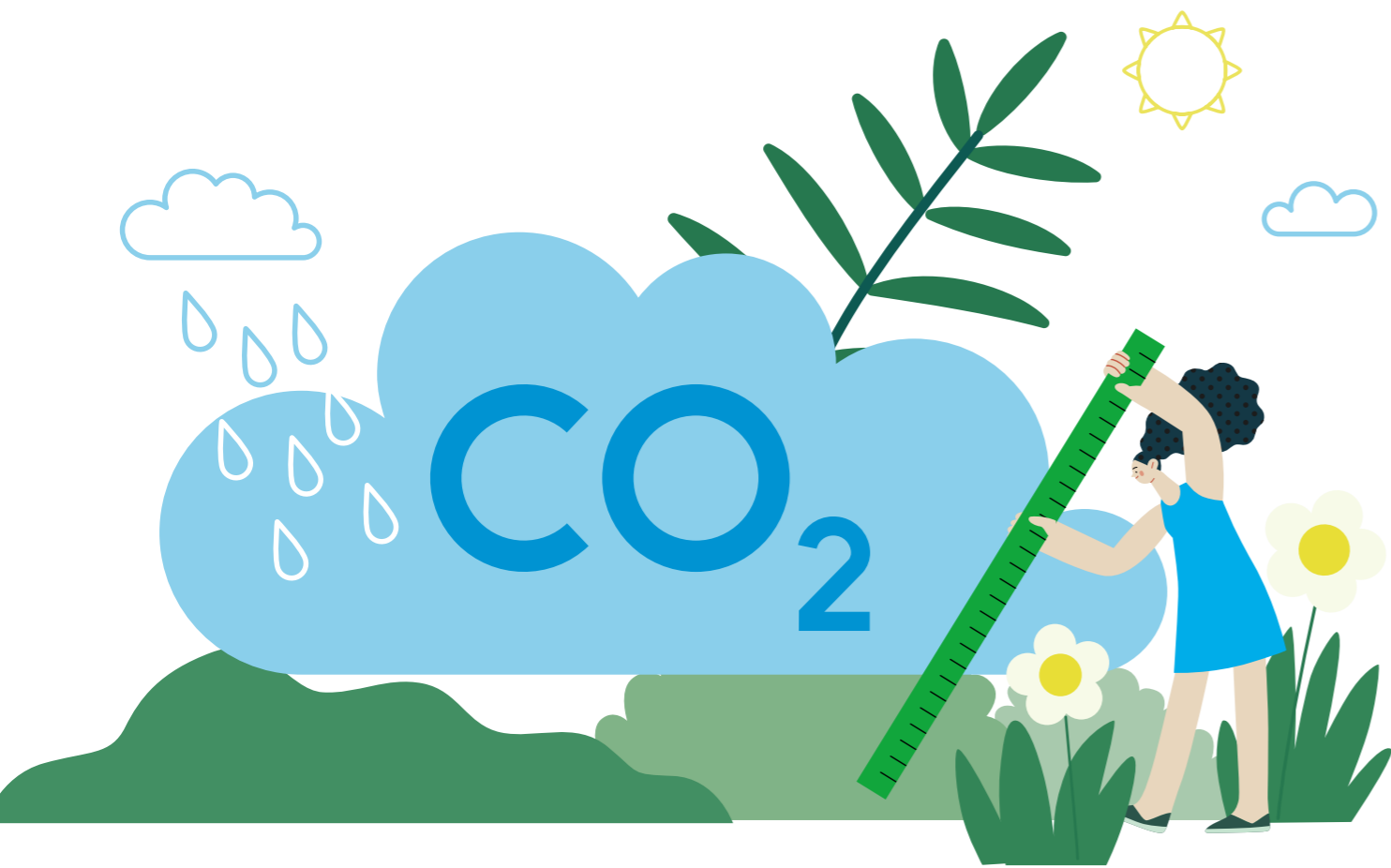
Over the next year, will use Southwark Pioneers Fund to support new green businesses in the borough. Southwark Green Finance will be launched so that local people and businesses can invest in climate projects.

Our first Library of Things will also open in summer 2023 at Canada Water Library, to help promote borrowing and the circular economy by offering residents the opportunity to loan household items such as DIY equipment, rather than buying.

In the next year, the council will adopt our Sustainable Food Strategy (SFS) and Right to Food which will lead to the development of a Sustainable Food Action Plan. The School Meal Transformation Programme will introduce more climate friendly school food menus in 2023/24, including weekly meat-free days and daily options for vegetarians and vegans in all schools.



Library of Things at Canada Water Library



3. THE COUNCIL'S EMISSIONS

Progress this year

The council is directly responsible for a relatively small proportion of total emissions in Southwark. While we are working across the borough as a whole, as highlighted in the previous section, we also need to ensure that we are doing everything that we can to lower our own emissions.

As a council we have been working hard to set an example and reduce our own emissions, through a range of innovative projects. The Council Delivery Plan has set the target of halving the council's operational emissions by 2026, and £5 million from the council's climate capital fund was committed to supporting this in July 2022. In the past year, extensive work has gone into improving the council's understanding of the emissions profile of its buildings, as well as programmes of improvements at a number of buildings.

This section highlights how we are doing this with some key projects and other work from the past year. Over the next year, the council will continue to deliver and invest in important projects that are targeted, decisive and positive to ensure they have the biggest impact on tackling council emissions, with the resources and funding that are available.

Our climate action plan details how the council is trying to address its own emissions. A full set of actions, their milestones and their progress can be viewed through the [climate action plan online dashboard](#).

Greener buildings

The council recognises both the impact and opportunity our housing stock has on emissions in the borough. Work has completed on a landmark project where heat pumps, that use water from the aquifer deep underground, were retrofitted into three housing estates in Southwark. This project moved 2,175 properties away from a dependence on gas. The new estate-wide heat pumps are keeping homes warm, improving air quality while generating renewable energy, and saving thousands of tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂). The project is estimated to achieve 3,848 tonnes CO₂ savings per year, which equates to around 1.77 tonnes of CO₂ saved per home.



Newington Estate which is now heated by Water Source Heat Pumps (credit: GLA, Andrew Baker)

2,175 PROPERTIES
away from a dependence on gas

3,848 TONNES
of CO₂ savings per year

1.77 TONNES
of CO₂ saved per home



Retrofit projects are currently underway at a number of locations. Burgess Park Sports Centre is being upgraded with a heat pump and a green roof, while Peckham Library is being improved with high efficiency boiler controls, an upgraded ventilation system, repairs to windows and insulation and LED lighting. Kingswood Library is also going through a similar set of upgrades, to remove gas as a heating source and improve the efficiency of the building.

Double glazing schemes have also been completed at sites, to remove older, inefficient windows. These works total £2.5m and show the council's ambition to deliver an efficient building stock that provides key services to our residents.

Active and sustainable travel



The council now ensures the way we design, construct and maintain the borough's roads and footpaths minimises emissions, with the rollout of new processes and software.

We have undertaken a number of trials of hybrid and electric vehicles over the last year. This is to assess how the current market can provide for our operational requirements, which require a huge range of vehicles across our estate. This includes trialling small hybrid vans, electric mobile platforms, also known as cherry pickers, and electric cargo bikes to transport staff and grounds maintenance tools.

The pest control service has trialled electric vehicles while we have also been understanding the operational use and requirements of electric refuse collection vehicles, which is an area identified for future funding. The council has also installed new electric vehicle charge points at our Copeland Road depot.

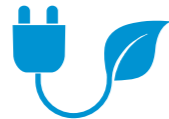
A thriving natural environment



We have continued to support the growth of Southwark's Biodiversity Partnership, which has continued to expand. The partnership shares best practice, information and delivers the Southwark Nature Action Plan (SNAP) as well as working with voluntary and community groups to encourage and promote biodiversity.

The council also has new specialist rewinding lawnmowers, which will improve the quality of the borough's meadows whilst also saving time and money. Funding was secured for the lawnmowers from the Mayor of London, with support for the project supplied by London Wildlife Trust.

Renewable energy



Solar panels have been installed at a range of council buildings including Nunhead Library and Dulwich Library, with further library installations planned for Peckham Library and Kingswood Library. Roof top solar has been installed at ten sites and further feasibility work is underway for council offices. The council will continue bidding for public funding for its Heat Decarbonisation Plans for eligible schools, which will include solar panel work.

The council has continued work to explore the feasibility of buying renewable energy through a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), both individually and as part of a collaborative approach with other London boroughs. This work will continue through the next year.

We have also fast tracked the installation programmes for LED street lighting. As of March 2023, nearly 8,000 of the council's lights had been replaced by LEDs, ahead of schedule against a target of 11,000 by 2026. The continued roll out of the LED street lighting programme resulted in a 40% drop in emissions in a year.

8,000 of the council's lights replaced by LEDs = **40%** drop in emissions in a year

A circular economy with green jobs



As of March 2023, there has been a 60% carbon reduction of the council's pension fund's carbon footprint. The fund's active equities portfolio has divested from fossil fuel investments and a restriction has been placed on the portfolio preventing further investments in these companies or their industry peers.



New LED street lighting being installed

Emissions profile

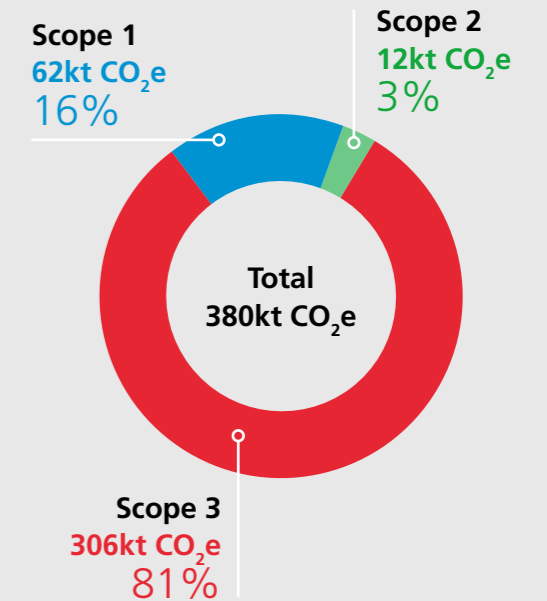
Since publishing our Climate Change Strategy in 2021, we have calculated annual figures on emissions directly associated with our activity.

This includes those emissions associated with heating and powering our buildings and vehicles (scope one and two), but also those associated with the things we purchase through our supply chain (scope three).

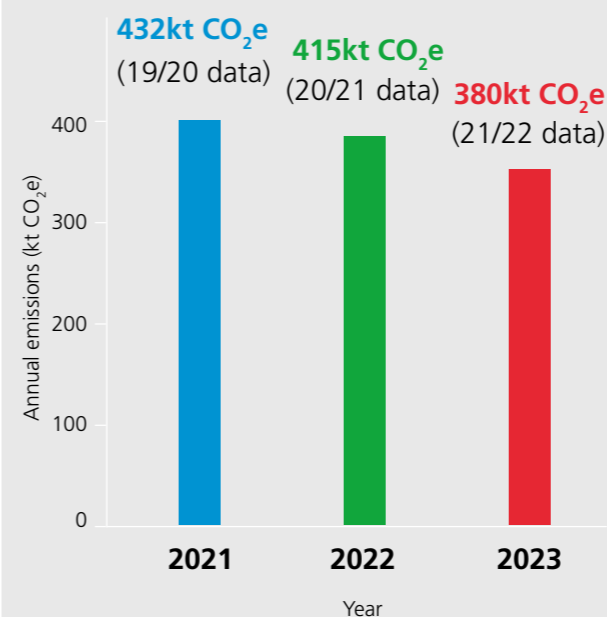
Each year we are improving both the accuracy of data and our understanding of where emissions come from. This allows us to focus resource and funding on projects that have the greatest opportunity to reduce emissions. This year we have taken the additional step of leading on analysing our own data. Due to the lag in available data, analysis for our emission's this year uses data from the 2021/22 financial year.

As a council we have reduced our overall emissions for a third year running. The table below shows our progress since publishing our first Climate Change Strategy in 2021.

Total council emissions



Council emissions over the past three years



The council's scope one and two emissions both showed slight increases overall when compared to data from last year (20/21), increasing to 74kt CO₂e. This was particularly prevalent in relation to schools and leisure centres, which can be attributed to the re-opening of these buildings to the public following restrictions due to the covid pandemic.

Housing remains the council's biggest source of emissions, accounting for 77% of scope one and two. Housing emissions, have however fallen overall for the third year in a row, reducing from 68kt CO₂e last year to 59kt CO₂e.

Overall, the largest source of reduction in the council's own emissions this year relates to scope three, and in particular with what we procure as a borough. This has decreased by over 10% in a year. Scope three emissions still make up the majority of the council's footprint, at 81% of the total, compared to 84% last year. This highlights the opportunity the council has to go further in greening our supply chain and the significant positive impact this can have on our emissions footprint.

Looking ahead to the next year

We have significantly improved the quality of our data collection and analysis this year, relying less on estimated figures.

This will be a continued area of focus in the year ahead. We will also look to bring forward our data analysis, to reduce the lag in reporting.

As well as this, we are also associating specific emissions reductions to actions in the climate action plan. This will allow us to continue to focus our limited resource and funding on those areas that have the most benefit. It will also allow us to highlight the gaps in funding required from the UK Government to help us meet our ambitious and necessary 2030 target, particularly around building retrofit.

Improving the accuracy of how we analyse and reduce scope three emissions will also be a key priority. The data shows the influence the council has through our supply chain, and we will further work with some of our biggest suppliers to reduce the impact of our purchasing decisions. This will include a focus on working more closely with businesses across the borough.

Greener buildings



Leisure centres will be coming back in-house in 2023, with the management of buildings becoming the responsibility of the council. This offers a significant opportunity to improve the efficiency of eight leisure centres and reduce their overall energy use, which has the co-benefit of significant cost savings. While the council was unsuccessful in its bid for Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme funding for leisure centres, the feasibility work that went into this bid will be used to identify and deliver building upgrades as a priority.

Beyond this we will also set a two-year work programme for retrofit upgrades across offices, libraries and youth centres, targeting the highest emitters with a fabric first approach of upgrades. This approach centres on improvement to the building first, such as walls, windows, roofs and doors, before moving the heat source away from gas.

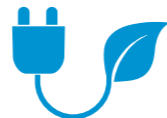
Active and sustainable travel



We are developing a new Fleet Management Strategy, which will be taken to the council's cabinet for approval in late 2023. This strategy will be looking at ways to reduce vehicle ownership and encourage more sustainable travel, such as cargo bikes. With the vehicles that we still need, we will continue to explore options for moving away from petrol and diesel, building on a number of successful trials.

For example, we are working with Veolia on options to procure new electric recycling collection vehicles. While fleet emissions remain a comparatively small amount of total emissions for the council, transport remains a significant emitter borough wide, and the council has an opportunity to show leadership and innovation in this field.

Renewable energy



The roll out of the council's LED programme will continue for the year ahead and will be extended to parks and green spaces across the borough. A lighting update to the BMX track at Burgess Park is also planned and will be funded via the council's climate capital fund.

Our focus will also shift to lighting and energy use in estates as tackling this will be essential to achieving our target of a 50% reduction in operational emissions by 2026.

A circular economy with green jobs



We will agree a new facilities management contract, which will have measures to reduce single use plastics. We will also undertake events and workshops to increase awareness.

Next year, we will continue our work on establishing standards of effective carbon reduction, measurement and management within our contracts and develop proposals around a carbon-neutral aligned procurement policy.

4. BARRIERS TO ACTION

In the Climate Change Strategy, we outlined in detail the scale of the challenges for the borough to become carbon neutral. For all of the progress made in the past twelve months, these challenges remain significant, and their impacts become more profound with each year that passes. This section illustrates how these challenges around funding, resource and behaviour change have continued to affect our ability to match action to the scale of our ambition.

Funding

There continues to be an immense funding gap, which needs to be closed if the council is going to realise our net zero ambition. In 2021, we estimated the capital cost of the Climate Change Strategy to be £3.92 billion. Given the significant increase in inflation since 2021, this funding gap is getting larger, rather than smaller, as costs across the board increase.

We have a significant challenge around funding the upgrades required with our social housing stock. Recently, this was highlighted by challenges over the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund. After successfully bidding for central government funding to retrofit a group of on-street properties, the level of 'match-funding' required from the council's housing budgets were more than two to one. Ultimately, matching this funding was not viable, when budget allocations are being stretched by other crucial demands for our housing particularly relating to fire safety, addressing damp and mould and ensuring properties are maintained to a liveable standard.

What we're doing

The council is pulling every lever we can to raise more funding for projects to tackle the climate emergency, such as:

- Identifying funding opportunities and working across the council to apply when that money can be well spent to deliver change.
- We have allocated £25 million of capital funding to the climate programme.
- Launching the Green Buildings Fund to distribute funding to internal council retrofit projects. Projects awarded funding include 18 buildings on the Tustin Estate which are set to benefit from energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades.
- Increasing focus on green finance. Launching Southwark Green Finance is a Council Delivery Plan objective, and the Leader has appointed a Deputy Cabinet Member for Green Finance to lead this work.

£25 MILLION
of capital funding allocated
to the climate programme.





Resources

Whilst capital funding remains a significant challenge in progressing projects, there are also challenges around resources and the expertise needed across the borough to reduce carbon and achieve net zero. The council's wide-ranging actions need to be delivered at pace, but also have to be done alongside other demands. Similarly, if we are to reduce emissions many more people need to be trained in new green jobs to carry out this carbon reduction work.

What we're doing

The climate action plan highlights resource gaps across the programme, as well as highlighting where additional capacity is required for work to start. We are now addressing some of these gaps, through new roles that cover areas where the largest gaps were identified. We already have new project officers in place and are recruiting for further roles in the next few months including roles to maximise external funding opportunities.

At a borough level, we are also working hard to address the skills gap that exists in delivering a green future, through the establishment of the LSBU Green Skills Hub to equip residents with in-demand skills.

Changing behaviours and the cost of living crisis

To deliver our action plan for the whole borough, extensive behaviour change will be needed by stakeholders, businesses and residents across the borough. The last year was marked by a profound crisis in the cost of living for residents and businesses here in Southwark and across the UK. For many residents, this created a challenge which meant that behaviours or decisions influenced by 'moral' drivers, such as climate change, were lower in priority. Equally, financial decisions, like green upgrades to properties for homeowners, became more difficult as inflationary pressures and interest rate rises hit many residents.

What we're doing

The Climate Change Strategy identifies the need to work in partnership with residents, to ensure buy-in and understanding of challenging decisions. To help do this, a new stakeholder plan is being developed, which will be rolled out in the next year.

The council has delivered a programme of work to support residents with the cost of living crisis. The council has also supported residents further by promoting services that tackle fuel poverty such as the Green Doctors and the GLA's Warmer Homes, as well as launching our Greensavers campaign.



FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS NEXT YEAR

Keep up to date with our work by visiting our website www.southwark.gov.uk/climate

From here you can also sign-up for our regular climate newsletter with information about climate events, news, jobs and funding opportunities in the borough.

Go to www.southwark.gov.uk/environment/climate-emergency-sign-up