

DOCUMENT FOR CONSULTATION

CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY STRATEGY: FOOD SYSTEMS THEME

JUNE 2021

1. INTRODUCTION

Ealing Council declared a **climate emergency** in April 2019, committing to address the climate and ecological emergency locally, as a crisis requiring immediate and vital action. Our aim is to become carbon neutral, as a borough and an organisation by 2030.

A substantial part of Ealing's Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy (CEES) was adopted in January 2021, covering energy, nature, travel and waste. It set out a plan to reduce the council's produced emissions and outlines a commitment to use our influence to reduce emissions emitted across the borough. The intended outcome of these actions is to lessen the impacts of climate change and to reduce the degradation of natural habitats and halt the loss of biodiversity, on which human life depends.

The baseline data used for the strategy is the 2018 Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Local Authority carbon emissions estimates.

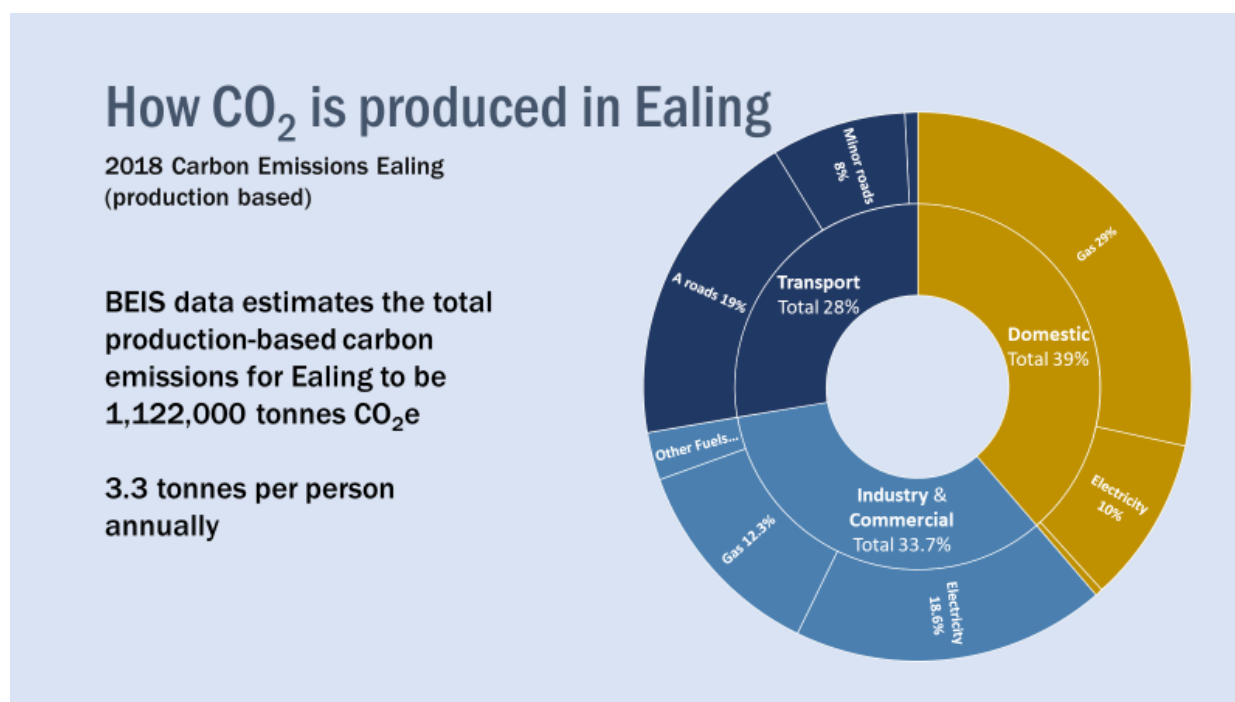


Figure 1. Chart showing Ealing's produced emissions, 2018.

Each of the four themes within the strategy identifies unique objectives, targets and actions that will either reduce or capture carbon emissions in Ealing and beyond. We understand that all carbon emission sources will need to be cut to zero eventually, this strategy is our first step toward reducing emissions significantly by 2030.

Climate and Ecological Emergency strategic objectives

ENERGY	NATURE	TRAVEL	WASTE
OBJECTIVES			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prioritise energy performance (efficiency) 2. Ensure net zero new builds 3. Investment in renewable energy 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhance biodiversity 2. Expand natural (green) infrastructure services 3. Improve operational CO2 emissions 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase active travel 2. Reduce vehicles travelling in/through borough 3. Decarbonise essential vehicle journeys 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Get circular 2. Reduce waste arisings 3. Improve operational CO2 emissions
SERVICE LEADS			
CLIMATE ACTION AND SUSTAINABILITY + PLANNING HOUSING ASSET MANAGEMENT + BUILDING SERVICES	PARKS & LEISURE + HIGHWAYS + PLANNING	TRANSPORT PLANNING + HIGHWAYS	WASTE MINIMISATION & RECYCLING + GEL + WLWA
ENABLING FUNCTIONS >> PLANNING, PROCUREMENT, FINANCE			

Figure 2. Table showing the four adopted strategic themes and their objectives.

The fifth theme, **Food Systems**, is the focus of this consultation document. It was developed in partnership with residents, community organisations and academics who have experience and expertise in local food systems. The members of the working group included:

Food Systems Theme Working Group, 2021	
Name	Organisation representing
Rachel Pepper	Artification
Dina Tsuru	Building Bridges
Auberon Bayley	Cultivate London
Paul Carter	Ealing Allotments Partnership, Ealing Parks Foundation
Mary Horesh	Ealing Repair Café
Trevor Sharman	Ealing Transition Initiative
Will Blake	Horsenden Hill Farm CIC
Natasha Gavin	I Know Why It's Yum Mum
Lucy Clark	MindFood
Peter Cross	University of West London
Martin Caraher	City, University of London (Ealing resident)
Cllr. Jaskiran Chohan	Ealing Council
Vanessa Hampton	Ealing Council, Parks
Evelyn Gloyn	Ealing Council, Community Engagement
Tan Afzal	Ealing Council, Community Engagement
Richard Sims	Ealing Council, Project Delivery Unit
Chris Welsh	Ealing Council, Parks
Jonathan Staples	Ealing Council, Parks
Maddy Gupta-Wright	Ealing Council, Public Health
Ian WEAKE	Ealing Council, Planning
Louise Taylor	Ealing Council, Public Health
Maria Nolan	Ealing Council, Climate Action and Sustainability (facilitator)
Jo Mortensen	Ealing Council, Climate Action and Sustainability (facilitator)

2. HOW TO NAVIGATE THIS DOCUMENT

The focus of this document is **Food Systems**. We have used the same format as the Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy, adopted in January 2021. For purposes of consultation, we have drafted the Vision, Objectives and Targets (see how they work together in the diagram below). Please read this document and have it open for reference as you complete the survey.

Feedback received from the community during the consultation will lead to further refinements, and the working group will then recommend that the final strategic theme be adopted into the Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy. Once the Vision, Objectives and Targets are agreed, action planning will take place to map out the next two years of activity to support us meeting the objectives.

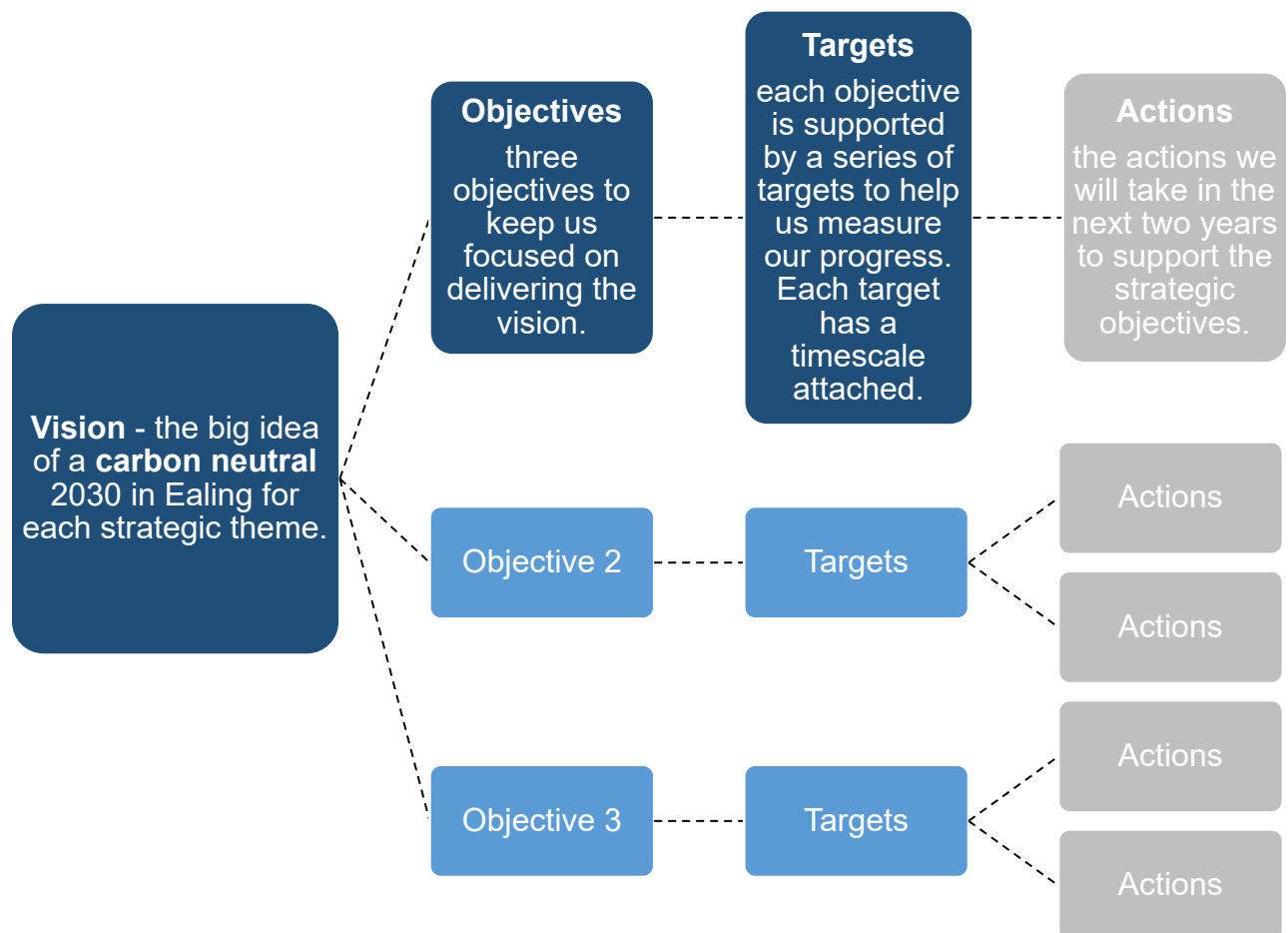


Figure 3: Outline of Vision, objectives, targets and action plan

OUR CARBON NEUTRAL 2030 OBJECTIVES AT A GLANCE

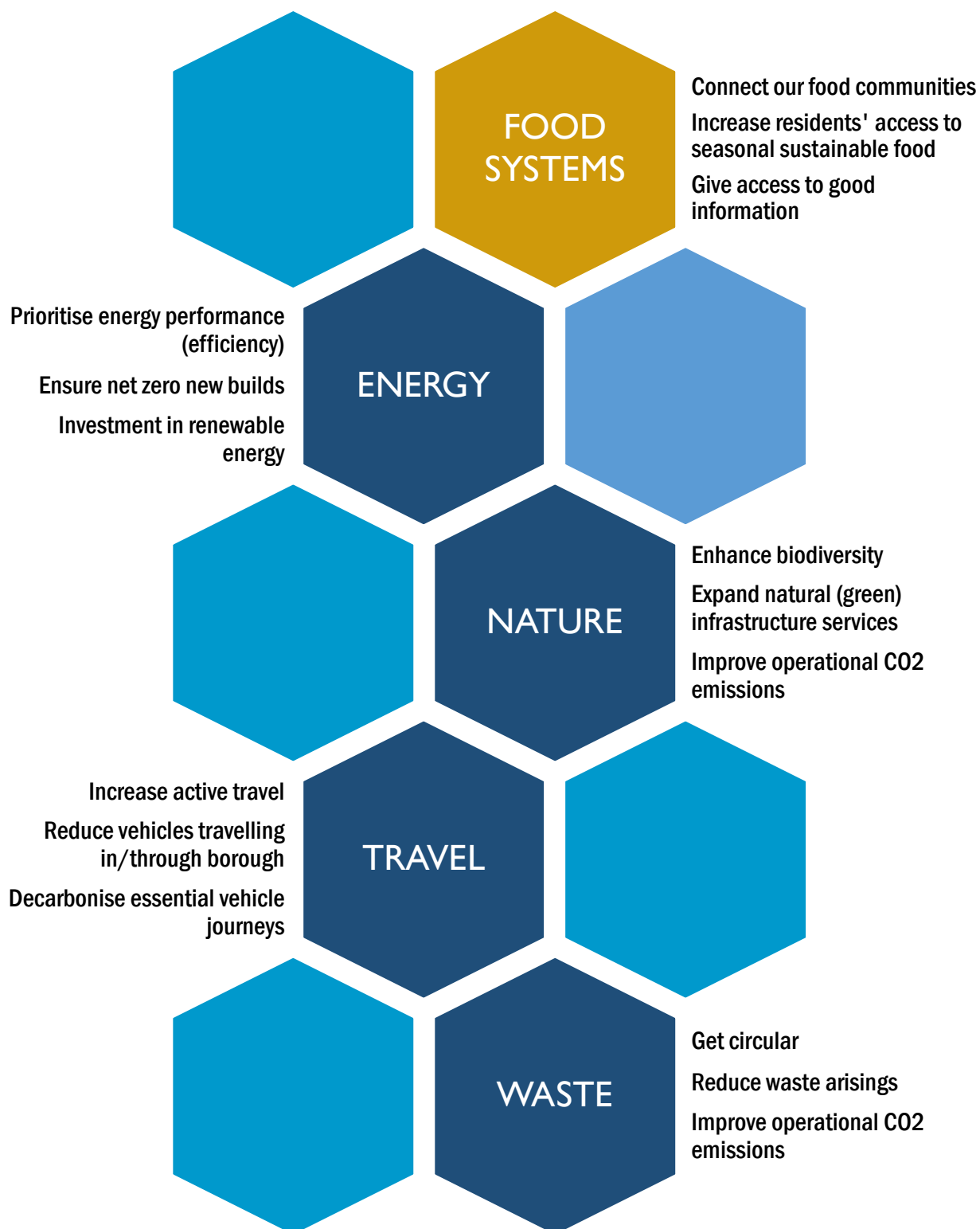


Figure 4: Our carbon neutral 2030 objectives

3. FOOD FOR THE FUTURE

WHY THIS MATTERS

Food has important social and cultural meaning; this has been especially significant throughout the pandemic, when the opportunities to share meals with friends and family has been limited. While the council has a key role to play in growing a more sustainable food system, we recognise that the groups that have the most powerful influence and ability to bring about awareness and change in the borough are communities. To develop a chapter of objectives and targets which considers Ealing's food system, we sought the views and opinions of members of the Ealing food community to create this chapter together.

The food we eat and how that food is produced has very significant impacts on the environment and contributes to the increase in greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) in our atmosphere. 14.5% of all GHG *globally* come from the production of meat and dairy, most of these emissions come not from the animals themselves but the production and processing of animal feed¹. Increasing the amount of fruit and vegetables eaten in the borough and focusing on the purchase of sustainably produced meat and dairy is essential to tackling climate change through our food system.

For some of us, food growing is also one way in which we interact with the environment; it offers us a unique opportunity to place ourselves within the ecosystem and see the workings of nature first-hand. With this in mind we have included targets in this chapter to enable everyone in Ealing to engage with sustainable, fresh and healthy food. We are supporting access to more food growing, educational experiences and resources and to markets, restaurants and workplaces which offer healthy, sustainable food.

¹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. "In terms of activities, feed production and processing (this includes land use change) and enteric fermentation from ruminants are the two main sources of emissions, representing 45 and 39 percent of total emissions, respectively. Manure storage and processing represent 10 percent. The remainder is attributable to the processing and transportation of animal products."

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/197623/icode/> Accessed 9 June 2021.

VISION

The London Borough of Ealing has an expanding food system which connects residents, food growers, businesses, community groups and the council to ensure access to and procurement of affordable, healthy, seasonal, and local food produced following organic principles throughout the borough.

CO-BENEFITS

- Increased health and wellbeing of residents with better access to eating or helping grow healthy, local food
- Food grown in the UK, likely means less energy and resources go into production – otherwise known as a lower environmental footprint
- Support of the local economy by supporting local and UK producers
- UK grown food can contribute to “food security” when supply chains are disrupted, or crop yields are low
- Small food growing plots can contribute to biodiversity and habitat creation
- Growing food provides opportunities for learning and knowledge transfer between age groups and cultures

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1 NO
POVERTY



2 ZERO
HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



13 CLIMATE
ACTION



15 LIFE
ON LAND



Figure 5: Sustainable development goals

FOOD OBJECTIVE 1. Ealing's food community will become more connected to create partnership working and bring greater visibility to healthy, seasonal, local and sustainable food across the borough

F1. FOOD TARGETS

- F1.1. The council will play a leading role in developing a sustainable places food partnership for the borough to create the conditions within the borough to enable the vision. The partnership will build capacity, foster relationships and connections within the community, between food enterprises/organisations and those organisations procuring this food to create a thriving local food economy. The food partnership will act as a repository and dispensary for food education and information within the borough and will lobby at a local, regional and where appropriate national level for systems change in relation to food, by the end of 2022.
- F1.2. The council will coordinate a food mapping exercise to understand what food initiatives and businesses are being run throughout the borough and to show where there is lack of access to affordable, healthy, and sustainable food, to understand where food is being grown in the borough, by the end of 2022.

FOOD OBJECTIVE 2. Ealing residents will have greater access to healthy, seasonal, local and sustainable food

F2. FOOD TARGETS

- F2.1. A review of the effectiveness of current planning policies in protecting existing provision and securing access to space for community food growing within developments will be completed by the end of 2021.
- F2.2. Informed by the review of current policy performance, an appropriate policy response will be developed as part of preparation on the new Local Plan which is due to be adopted in 2023.
- F2.3. All council food procurement contracts (including school meals contracts) must include "meat free" days minimum of twice a week and offer at least one vegan and one vegetarian meal every day.
- F2.4. The council will undertake a review and create a sustainable sources policy which will include local and organic food principles by the end of 2022. Once adopted this policy will require those tendering for food contracts with the council to evidence that they are obtaining their food from sustainable sources.
- F2.5. Five new open days at community growing spaces (including allotments and farms) will be held in 2022.
- F2.6. By 2023, ten businesses in the borough will have signed up to the healthy workplace charter.
- F2.7. Using the data from the mapping exercises (F1.2), by 2025, three new markets will be set up in areas of the borough which do not currently have adequate access to fresh fruit and vegetable sales
- F2.8. 15% more food retailers in the borough will accept Healthy Start vouchers by 2024.

FOOD OBJECTIVE 3. Residents in Ealing will have access to more information about healthy, seasonal, local and sustainable food systems.

Note: These targets will be owned by the Ealing Food Partnership (EFP) and therefore the deadlines set for accomplishment are dependent upon the capacity of the EFP.

F3. FOOD TARGETS

- F3.1. By the end of 2023 food education materials will be sourced and/or developed with nutritionists and food educators in the borough which will cover sustainability, health, cultural and money-saving information.
- F3.2. By summer 2024 the borough wide food education information developed under target 3.1 will be made available through an online portal and in the community spaces in the borough including community centres, schools, doctors' surgeries, food banks, guides, and scout huts, allotments and community growing spaces.
- F3.3. Increase of schools participating in food growing/cooking initiatives and schemes and including sustainable food education on their curriculum by a percentage each year to be agreed by EFP between now and 2025.
- F3.4. Pilot a flagship educational programme with a farm (or series of plots through the borough) which is/are open to schools and community groups to access practical education on healthy, seasonal and organically produced food.
- F3.5. By the end of 2024 identify which schools in the borough need support to sign up to a holistic approach to healthy and sustainable food on the school's premises, which incorporates school events.
- F3.6. By the end of 2024 a pilot a scheme with local/independent food retailers to design shopping experiences which brings forward ideas of sustainability and seasonality.
- F3.7. By the end of 2025, a pilot scheme will begin with Ealing's Integrated Care Partnerships and community organisations to develop how sustainable and seasonal eating could be incorporated into social prescribing.
- F3.8. By 2024 housing associations/ residents' groups in the borough will be members of the EFP, giving support, education and access to healthy, sustainable, seasonal and affordable food to these organisations.
- F3.9. The EFP and council will have developed a borough wide sustainable food business programme with a rating system by 2023.

TWO YEAR ACTION PLAN – FOOD (to be developed after consultation)