2025 Progress Report

Ealing Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy





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1.0 Context

1.1 Progress report 2025

The borough has made significant progress in reducing its environmental impact since the council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and published the Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy in 2021. These gains are part of a wider shift. Last year, renewables made up 93% of all new power generation globally^{1,2}, and nationally the electricity grid is decarbonising at pace.

In Ealing, our achievements over the last four years have brought benefits to our residents by improving health, reducing bills and creating a more pleasant and greener borough. It is now clear that climate action just makes sense (see infographic on the next page).

There is much to celebrate, and residents will benefit more the faster we take the actions needed to reduce borough emissions.

This two-year update highlights our progress to date and outlines our new approach to action including how to ensure everyone feels the benefits of climate action, how we work with communities, and how the council will respond to climate impacts.

¹International Renewable Energy Agency

²Carbon Brief



1.2 Achievements

Summary of achievements since 2021

Largest
deployment of
solar power
in West London



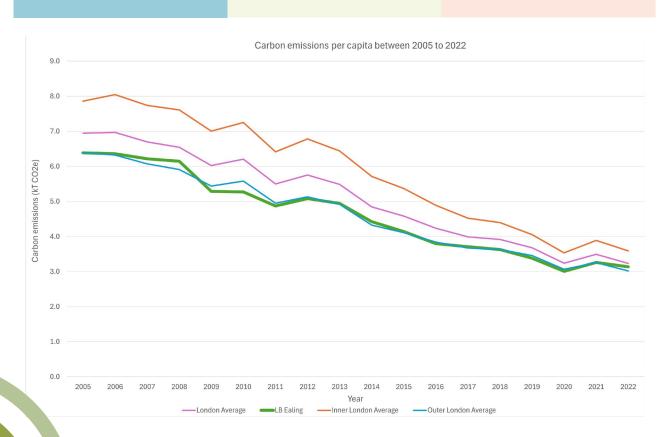




A 575-hectare
Regional Park
plan connecting
green spaces
and improving
existing ones



19 schools are saving over £50,000 per year on energy bills through community-owned solar power



1.3 A new approach

In 2025, a public ballot with residents from all seven towns took part in workshops to determine priorities and share ideas on how to improve the borough; 'Your Voice, Your Town' invites people to take the lead in making change happen.

The council wants to ensure it speaks to the priorities people express and wants to work harder to tackle inequalities through climate action. That is why this 2025 progress report introduces a new Better Living Framework to ensure our approach to climate action remains relevant to residents' interests and needs. The framework requires our projects to be able to demonstrate one or more of these tangible benefits: *Healthier Lives*, *Comfortable Spaces*, *Greener Borough*, *Improved Financial Resilience*, *Good Jobs*, *Social Connection*.

Secondly, this report introduces a new Collective Action Plan to make it easier for everyone to get involved in climate action and foster a borough-wide effort to tackling the climate crisis.

A third and key part of our new approach is to build a borough prepared for severe weather and the realities of a changing climate by launching Ealing's Climate Adaptation and Resilience Programme.

The following sections explain more about how we are refreshing our approach.

Better Living Framework

The Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy delivers on more than carbon reduction; it helps us to improve people's lives.

The Better Living
Framework for climate
action ensures everyone
feels these benefits.

Collective Action Plan

Working collectively is key to tackling the climate crisis and creating thriving neighbourhoods in the process. Our collective action plan sets out how the council can create an environment for everyone to participate and feel the benefits of climate action.

Climate Adaptation and Resilience Programme

We are already experiencing the impacts of climate change which will worsen in the coming years and decades. The council are launching our Climate Adaptation and Resilience Programme to ensure those living, working and visiting the borough are better protected from climate impacts now and in the future.



2.0 Refreshing our approach

2.1 Better Living Framework: using climate action to build a more equitable borough

Most people are worried about climate change. Climate action can bring benefits to all our lives at the same time as reducing carbon emissions and creating a liveable and thriving planet. For example, electric cars reduce air pollution, retrofitting homes minimises cold, damp and mould, and our health outcomes in turn improve.

Everyone needs to feel the benefits of climate action, particularly those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. As a council we will make creating an equitable borough a priority in our work to tackle the cause and mitigate the impacts of the climate crisis.

Our Better Living Framework sets out six key outcomes that will guide all our efforts to tackle climate change and improve peoples' lives. All our work will contribute to one or more of these core outcomes:



Healthier lives - improved physical and mental wellbeing through opportunities for active travel and access to green space, healthy food and improved air quality.



Comfortable spaces – more homes, workplaces, public- and private- spaces are thermally comfortable all year round.



Greener borough – improved public spaces in the borough which enable nature to thrive through green and blue infrastructure.



Improved financial resilience – improved resistance to energy price spikes and damaging weather events.



Good jobs – increased business resilience, innovation and growth that drives local job creation and facilitates more sustainable business practices across our foundation and priority growth sectors, including the green economy.



Social connection – more people come together through community-led action which creates the spark and momentum needed for greater change.

The table below shows how the Better Living Framework relates to the themes of our Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy.

	Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy Themes					
Better Living Framework	Energy	Transport	Nature	Waste	Food	
Healthier lives	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Comfortable spaces	✓		✓			
Greener borough		✓	✓		✓	
Improved financial resilience	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Better jobs	✓	✓		✓		
Social connection	✓		✓	✓	✓	

Examples of Better Living:



Healthier lives: Air pollution - linked with dementia, diabetes, stunting lung growth - has **reduced 31%** since ULEZ expansion, which has also reduced carbon emissions³.



Healthier lives: People commuting by bike or walking have lower risk of cancer, heart disease, and any hospitalisation⁴.



Greener borough: Regular access to greenspace is good for our mental and physical health – it reduces GP visits by 28%. Yet one-third of people cannot access greenspaces or natural spaces within 15 minutes of their home - climate action can help to create equitable access to greenspaces⁵.



Improved financial resilience: Loft insulation saves more than £150 a year on bills⁶.



Good jobs: London will see rapid growth in green jobs as we transition to a low-carbon future - 605,000 in 2030 up from 243,000 in 2020⁷.

² Green Jobs and Skills for Londoners: Cross-London report published - West London Alliance



³ London-wide Ultra Low Emission Zone One Year Report | London City Hall

⁴ Health benefits of pedestrian and cyclist commuting: evidence from the Scottish Longitudinal Study | BMJ Public Health

⁵ Growing together – how community-led green infrastructure delivers health and climate benefits – Natural England

⁶ Greenleaf Road Retrofit Factsheet.pdf

2.2 A plan for collective action

The council want to create the right environment to make it easier for everyone to get involved in climate action, and to feel the benefits this can bring to them and their community.

Our collective action plan breaks down barriers to participation. For example, by helping people find out what to do, offering them advice and resources or connecting them to people willing to support them with experience and expertise.

The plan sets out how the council aims to inspire, enable and mobilise participation across our 7 towns.

Inspire, enable, mobilise

As a public authority, our involvement with different stakeholders – schools, community groups, faith leaders, businesses, developers, neighbourhood forums – means our reach is wide. This gives us the opportunity to engage borough-wide and bring people together who might not otherwise meet.

The council will use an evidence-based and inclusive approach to:

- 1. Inspire engage and communicate
- 2. Enable remove barriers
- 3. **Mobilise** work and partner with others

Ealing Council recognises that it is part of the collective so will also lead on its own projects to develop an evidence base for communicating, growing networks and identifying what real-world challenges residents are experiencing.

Following the evidence

Our plan is inspired by guidance created using academic research from the UCL Climate Action Unit and supported by a network of 80 UK-based universities working to promote a zero carbon, resilient future. They published Communicating climate risk: a handbook.

The handbook is accessible here.

Ealing Council also participates in a national network of local authorities sharing best practice on public engagement.



LeadBe part of the change

Inspire

Engage and communicate

- use evidence-based communication style
- use social norms to drive uptake
- ensure the council
 is inclusive and uses
 diverse approaches to
 talk with residents

Enable

Remove barriers

- financial: use grants and microgrants
- knowledge: spotlight resources, provide guidance
- social: work inclusively in line with our Community Charter

Mobilise

Work with others

- nurture and support pre-existing networks
- connect people and groups together
- prioritise partnership work

Inspire - how we engage and communicate

The council wants to inspire residents to act, to try new approaches and to replicate what works, by celebrating action in the borough and by leaning on habits and social norms to encourage behaviours that benefit people and reduce the impacts of climate change⁸.

Our approach to inspiring action must be evidence-based. Communication purely on the threats of climate change is often ineffective and can feel detached from our day-to-day lives. The council will be more precise in how we communicate which means talking more about relatable issues and showcasing local positive stories of action.

The council will use diverse approaches to talk about climate change with residents to expand its reach.

Enable – how we remove barriers

There are financial, knowledge-based and social barriers which can prevent people from getting involved in climate action, despite them having an interest to participate.

The council can remove some of these barriers:

- **Financial**: the community climate grants and micro-grants schemes create a financial resource that helps projects get started, brings residents and communities together, and enables communities to deliver change.
- **Knowledge-based**: the council can overcome knowledge limitations by providing advice, creating easy-to-understand and accessible resources and using data-based approaches to target interventions to those who need them most.



• **Social**: the council can remove social barriers by ensuring climate action is inclusive – aligning our work with Ealing's <u>Community Charter</u> – and representative of the borough's culture and diversity.

Mobilise – how we work with others

Working in partnership with people across the borough is key to building a collective approach to action. The council want to create opportunities for those living, working and studying in the borough - including individuals, community groups, businesses and institutions - to learn from one another to guide local climate action.

Case study

Mobilise: Ealing Climate Week

In September 2025 we hosted Ealing's first climate week, which saw over 100 community partner events.

The week celebrated the diversity of activity already happening across the borough and made people more aware of local nature, climate action, and the many partners working on this agenda. The aim was to make it easy to get involved.

Ealing Council also participates in a national network of local authorities sharing best practice on public engagement.





The council aims to strengthen partnerships with three groups: institutions, community organisations and schools, while continuing to work closely with local businesses.

Mobilise with institutional partnerships:

Sharing resources, skills and knowledge will help to achieve more. There are many people working on climate action in and around the borough who are experts in what they do. A Community of Practice will build on pre-existing networks and sharpen the focus on climate, working together with public and private sector partners to enable them to exchange ideas and share what works well to drive progress (see table below).

Mobilise with community partnerships:

Community organisations across the borough are undertaking inspiring action and making a difference in their communities and neighbourhoods. ActforEaling brings together 60 of these organisations and gives them with a platform to share their work and to collaborate. The council wants to build on its role as a convener by bringing together more organisations across the 7 towns and creating opportunities for groups to work together, learn and celebrate action.

Mobilising in partnership with schools:

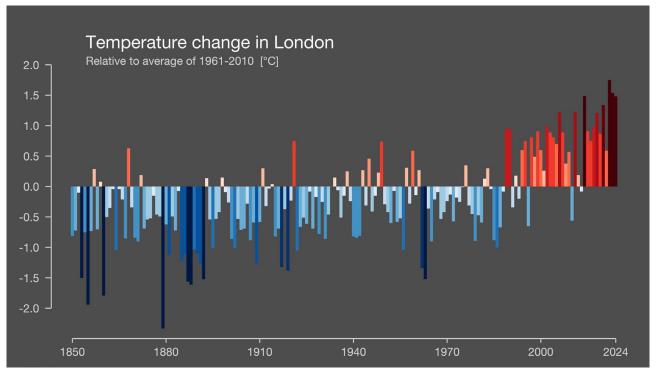
The council already has strong partnerships with schools via the Green Schools Network which embeds climate action into the heart of everyday school life and helps schools to write their climate action plans which is now a requirement for every school.

The council will support the network to expand, bring together other partners, for example Ashden Let's Go Zero, and where possible support projects, such as the Pupils Profit Refill Scheme – which reduces single-use plastics through student run eco-shops – to enable schools to meet their climate goals and create opportunities for young people to get involved in climate action.



2.3 Introducing the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Programme

We are already seeing the effects of climate change. During the June–July 2025 heatwave in London, high temperatures led to around 260 heat-related deaths, triple the amount expected without climate change. There are financial costs too: summer heat is already estimated to reduce productivity by £600 million a year in London and food prices could rise by up to 34% by 2050^{10} .



Annual temperature change in London from 1850 to 2024.

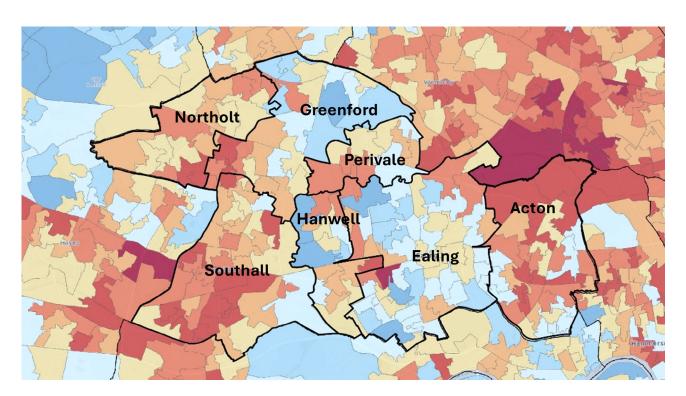
The council will keep working to cut the borough's emissions, because every fraction of warming prevented matters; but we also recognise the need to invest to protect people now and in the future. That is why the council introduced an Adaptation and Resilience Programme at the end of 2024 to:

- Demonstrate responsible leadership and build confidence
- Frame the work we need to do as a council
- Accelerate local action and provide direction for our businesses and institutions
- Ensure we are well positioned to seize opportunities and invest to reduce future costs

Who will be impacted by climate change and what we can do about it

Everyone will feel the impacts of climate change, but it won't affect everyone equally. The map shows that some neighbourhoods in the borough are more likely to be impacted than others¹¹.

Collectively as a borough we need to adapt to reduce the impacts of climate change. This is about more than protecting people, infrastructure and nature from severe weather; it is about improving people's lives and creating an equitable borough, through improving health, the comfort of homes and access to green space.



GLA climate risk mapping of overall risk in Ealing. Areas highlighted in red indicate parts of the borough most at risk to climate impacts.

Making Ealing resilient to climate change

A climate-resilient borough will better handle severe weather and climate risks, protect the most vulnerable and focus on promoting equity like making sure everyone has fair access to green spaces.

Our better living framework will guide our approach to creating a resilient borough and reducing inequalities. This means:

- Healthier lives: council services, especially health and social care, will support residents during severe weather events.
- Comfortable homes: older buildings will be upgraded, and new ones built to cope with future climate challenges.
- Greener borough: nature will be protected and supported, through nature-based solutions such as green walls and rain gardens, and access to green space will be improved.

⁹ London Climate Resilience Review

¹⁰ Autonomy Institute

¹¹ Climate Risk Map | London City Hall

- Improved financial resilience: the cost of damage from severe weather will be reduced through better preparedness.
- Good jobs: new opportunities will be created, and people and businesses will be supported by encouraging green jobs and innovation.
- Social connection: community-led initiatives which bring together residents and community groups will be enabled through council support.

What our programme and strategy will do

Ealing's Climate Adaptation Programme was introduced in November 2024. Over the last year the council has undertaken four workshops (natural environment, built environment, businesses and healthy communities) with internal staff and external stakeholders to identify capacities, needs and opportunities for adaptation and resilience across our 7 towns.

The upcoming Adaption and Resilience Strategy will support the delivery of our programme. It identifies outcomes and actions to be implemented across council teams and recommends actions to be taken by borough stakeholders including businesses and communities. It sets out a borough-wide approach to creating a climate-resilient borough which prioritises people and neighbourhoods most vulnerable to climate change.



3.0 2025 progress report and forward look

The council has made good progress across the five themes of the climate strategy. Each update highlights what more needs to be done to reduce our environmental impact, key progress made since the strategy was adopted in 2021, a spotlight on one of our projects and the council's priorities going forward.

3.1 Energy update

Reducing energy demand whilst providing heat and electricity from clean, renewable energy sources, and using energy in a smart way







Comfortable homes



Improved financial resilience



Good jobs



Social connection

What needs to be done: the amount of energy we use needs to be reduced and old gas boilers need to be replaced with electric heating. Burning gas for heat accounts for over 40% of our emissions. The switch can help provide more comfortable homes, with improvements reducing the pressure on NHS and people's health¹²; good jobs; and when combined with smarter energy use, improve our households' financial resilience.

The council also faces new challenges. Going green means using more electricity, but the data centres integral to our connected economy use 25% of Ealing's electricity. By using waste heat from these buildings, seizing opportunities to add to our solar capacity (already the largest in west London) including through community groups, the council can tackle this challenge and are working on a 'Net Zero Pathway' that works out the best, cheapest way to reduce carbon.

¹²BRE report finds poor housing is costing NHS £1.4bn a year



Highest installed solar capacity of all west London boroughs





home visits a year supporting vulnerable people with home efficiency measures

19 schools are saving over £50,000 per year on energy bills through community-owned solar power

Over £80,000
distributed to community organisations to save money on energy efficiency measures

Case study

Acton Baptist Church, Community Climate Grant recipient

Our community climate grant scheme empowers local organisations to lower carbon emissions and promote sustainability.

The programme offers grants of up to £10,000 per organisation, with no minimum application amount, to help fund projects that: make a tangible impact on energy efficiency, reduce carbon emissions, and bring community benefits.

In 2024, a climate grant supported Acton Baptist Church to install 18 solar panels on their roof. With lower energy bills, they now offer better rates for community room hire and have reduced their dependence on gas.



Going forward:



Local planning policies

Raise sustainability standards in new development by reducing embodied carbon of buildings: the carbon released when making and delivering materials before they are used.

Convert wasted heat for usable low-carbon heating

Explore opportunities to heat homes and workplaces through district heat networks by focusing on fair prices and high quality.



3

Enabling community energy

Drive energy change through grassroots action and bring benefits of energy production to communities.

Tackling emissions and overheating of assets within the council's portfolio

Set a standard for others to follow in addressing complex decarbonisation of our own assets and overheating risk.



5

Creating comfortable and low-carbon homes

Enable access to funding for low-income households, deliver improvements to hundreds of council homes, and design new council-owned housing to be <u>certified</u> Passivhaus.

3.2 Transport update

How we travel matters







Greener borough



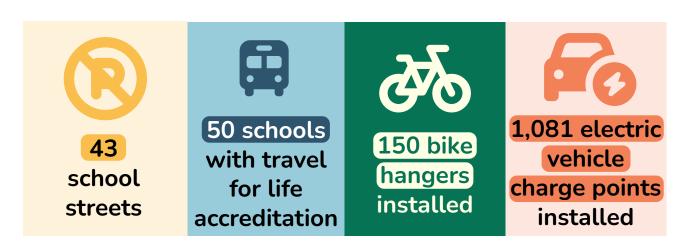
Improved financial resilience



Good jobs

What needs to be done: the council needs to create safe, clean and sustainable transport options to enable people to walk, wheel and cycle. This helps to improve air quality and our health, create a greener borough and save residents money. The council also needs to enable people to switch to electric vehicles for journeys not possible by walking, wheeling or cycling.

Since 2023, the council has made great strides delivering the three manifesto commitments relating to bike hangars, EV charge points, and School Streets. Alongside that, micromobility (e-bike and e-scooter) hire has expanded from covering only Ealing and Acton, to serving the whole borough with a network of marked bays. There is more to do to improve transport in the borough. The team has been developing the new Transport Strategy, with the Cycle Network Plan approved by Cabinet in January 2025 and are increasingly focusing on the kerbside.





Case study

School Streets

One quarter of London's morning peak hour traffic is made up of families on the school run. In Ealing, 84% of primary school aged children live within one mile of their school. This distance takes approximately 20 minutes to walk or 5 minutes to cycle.

By closing roads leading to school gates to general traffic during school opening and closing times, school streets encourage children and families to switch to walking and cycling to school, make the school run feel safer and reduce pollution.

So far 43 education providers are benefitting from the programme and from these School Streets school-related car use has reduced by 7% and active travel to school has increased by 9%.

To hear from members of the community benefitting from school streets, visit our website: What the community think of their School Street | Ealing School Streets | Ealing Council







Going forward:



Active travel

Make it easier and more appealing to walk, cycle and use public transport instead of driving for everyday journeys.

Delivering the Cycle Network Plan

Continue to deliver safe, comfortable and well-connected cycle routes across the borough. The improved cycling facilities in Northolt have increased cycling levels, and there are forthcoming improvements to the Uxbridge Road, Boston Road, Park Royal Road, and key corridors across Southall.





The kerbside

Look at new ways to use the space at the edge of our streets – like pavements and parking areas – so it is easier and safer for people to walk, wheel, cycle or use public transport.

Strategic transport

Work to ensure that major transport projects such as HS2, improvements at Heathrow Airport and road schemes work well for residents and help people choose more sustainable ways of traveling.





Data and engagement

Build an evidence base for transport and highways projects by collecting a wide range of data and listening to residents' views and ideas for transport plansimprovements to hundreds of council homes, and design new councilowned housing to be <u>certified Passivhaus</u>.

3.3 Nature update

Ensuring equitable access to nature







Greener borough



Social connection

What needs to be done: everyone, including animals and birds, benefits when they have access to green space. We want to make Ealing greener and better for wildlife by planting more trees, creating connected green spaces, and making sure everyone can enjoy nature especially in areas that don't have much green greenery. The council are updating planning policies so that new buildings and developments help nature, not harm it. We're also working with local people to look after trees and restore natural spaces.

At the same time, the council are trying to use more electric vehicles and equipment in parks, but we are still working out which options work best and last the longest.



Case study

The West London Regional Park

The West London Regional Park is a flagship project by Ealing Council to transform a network of fragmented green spaces into a 575-hectare parkland. The park connects key sites such as Pear Tree Park, Warren Farm, Churchfields Recreation Ground and Horsenden Hill, serving nearly 200,000 residents within a 20-minute walk.

The park is a direct response to the council declaring a climate emergency in 2019 and helps to reduce borough emissions and adapt to the impacts of a changing climate.

Habitat creation across wildflower meadows, wetlands, and woodlands absorbs carbon whilst creating active travel routes, spaces for leisure and improving access to greenspace in neighbourhoods with less greenery.







Over
40,000 trees
planted



Over 1km of hedgerows planted



Community-led beaver project delivered



residents through the creation of a new Regional Park for West London



Going forward:



Tree planting

Plant 10,000 more trees, prioritising areas with the least greenery.

Connecting people to nature

Continue enhancing access to nature and improving health through the Regional Park plans by creating active transport routes and edible gardens.





Nature restoration

Expand activities to restore nature across the borough including at Horsenden and Warren Farm.

Blue infrastructure

Continue to create standing water schemes and SUDS, and improve the water quality of the River Brent, in collaboration with communities.





Canopy cover

Undertake an updated canopy cover survey to guide our approach to enhancing wildlife and connecting people to nature.

3.4 Food update

Creating a more equitable, sustainable and resilient food system







Greener borough



Improved financial resilience



Connected communities

What needs to be done: collectively we need to create a more equal, sustainable and resilient food system in Ealing, however the link between the food we eat and climate change can often feel distant. The council needs to build awareness on how residents can eat sustainable and healthy diets whilst celebrating the cultural diversity of food in the borough.

The Ealing Food Partnership, which connects local food organisations and community groups, has made good progress in working towards this vision. The partnership will continue to work with residents to improve access to healthy local and sustainable foods through community growing spaces and distributing surplus food.

Progress highlights:



Developed an AI tool to improve access to cheap, healthy and sustainable food







In the top third of London boroughs for improving access to food support services



Improved our Good
Food Local score from
53% to 75%

Case study

Healthy Planet & Food Cultural Competence Project

The Healthy Planet & Food Cultural Competence Project is a collaboration between Ealing Food Partnership, Ealing Council, and West London NHS Trust. It addresses key issues like carbon emissions from food, diet-related health problems, and the lack of culturally relevant advice on sustainable eating.

The project will run 14 workshops across Ealing's seven towns, focusing on communities such as Tamil, Sri Lankan, Somali, South Asian (including Pakistani Muslim and Gujarati Hindu), and Afghan communities. Early workshops have shown how traditional dishes can be made healthier and more sustainable.

This initiative supports inclusive climate action, showing that environmental efforts can celebrate cultural diversity while improving health and cutting carbon emissions.





Going forward:



Community support tool

Create an easy-to-use tool to help residents access food services, including food banks, and cost-of-living support.

Sustainable Food Policy Development

Support more organisations across the borough to supply healthy and sustainable food, in particular schools and healthcare providers.



3

Reduce food waste

Create website resources and educational materials to reduce food waste and distribute surplus food.

Education programmes

Deliver community-centred workshops with a focus on the cultural diversity of food in the borough.





Community food growing

Explore opportunities to create community food growing spaces including in the plans for the Regional Park.

3.5 Waste update

Waste – a construct of the past





Improved financial resilience

Good jobs

What needs to be done: the council is supporting residents and local community groups to keep items in use for longer. Many of the items thrown in the rubbish could be reused by others and many need never have been bought in the first place if it was easier to borrow and share in our communities – for example school uniform swaps help to save money and cut waste.

The council needs to make it easier to recycle and create opportunities to borrow and to maximise the life of materials through reusing and repairing.





Case study

Pupils Profit

Pupils Profit, a student-led eco-refill shop initiative, empowers entrepreneurship for young people whilst promoting sustainability and low-waste behaviours. Students across 7 schools in the borough have been supported to set up refill shops selling washing liquid, hand wash and laundry liquids.

The project teaches the students about finance, marketing and sales, whilst building confidence and team-working. They are also helping to cut single-use plastics and encouraging school communities to change how they think about waste.





Going forward:



Circular economy

Support our communities to making it easier to refill, borrow, share and swap items, including through launch of ReActon.

Enable reuse

Work with local community organisations to increase repair skills in Ealing.





Reduce contamination

Reduce the amount of rubbish being put in recycling bins.

Food waste collections

Increase the number of households in the borough with a food recycling service to over 80%.





Increase recycling

Increase the number of e-waste items and textiles recycled.



4.0 Ensuring we deliver progress

Governance

Since our previous progress report the council set up a Climate Leadership Board to focus its commitment to tackling the climate emergency. The board meets regularly to ensure that action on climate change is joined up and remains a priority across council decisions.

The board is chaired by the Strategic Director for Economy and Sustainability and is attended by officers who support the delivery of Energy, Transport, Nature, Waste and Food targets. This fosters a collaborative effort to creating a climate conscious culture across the council and a climate-friendly borough.

Monitoring

The CEES is reviewed and refreshed every 2 years. The next review is due to take place in 2027.

In addition to this regular review, progress against the CEES targets will be routinely monitored to sharpen council teams' ambition, communicate successes and workshop solutions to identified constraints. The council also tracks progress against local authority territorial emissions data published annually by the Department of Energy and Net Zero¹³.

