



## **EALING MATTERS' RESPONSE TO EALING COUNCIL'S DRAFT CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY STRATEGY**

Ealing Matters is a borough-wide alliance of more than 60 residents' associations and community groups. Our aims are to raise awareness of how Ealing is changing and to help local people shape these changes and enhance their quality of life.

Ealing Matters is very pleased that the Council has been considering its response to Climate Change. For very many of us in the Borough this is the most urgent and intractable issue of our time. It is one for the entire population to address.

The Council's commitment to make the Borough of Ealing carbon neutral by 2030 is an ambitious one. Clear and well thought through strategies will be required.

Disappointingly, the strategy document on which the Ealing community is being consulted fails to provide the level of clear thinking necessary to put the Council's bold commitment into effect. For this reason, Ealing Matters feels unable to respond to the specifics of the proposals. Instead this response highlights some of the main areas where we think the strategy needs to be strengthened. These areas are broadly linked and need to be considered in the round.

1. The Council provides no base data. It should be self-evident that without any idea of the Borough's carbon footprint now, it will be impossible to devise meaningful strategies to cut it.
2. No evaluation of areas the Council can influence. The things the Council could be considering relate to the areas they can influence. One of these areas, not even mentioned in the strategy document, is its role as the planning authority, and its ability to grant or withhold planning permission for the development of land.

In this regard we would note the RetroFirst campaign championed by the Architect's Journal. This shows the very clear advantage of refurbishing buildings over their redevelopment. The AJ campaign explains that over 50% of a building's lifetime carbon use is expended before its first occupation. The Council's strategy needs to take such information on board. With the Local Plan now under review how can Ealing's planning decisions be more climate friendly?

3. No consideration of priorities. The consultation document identifies four areas around which it proposes targeted actions. Apart from offering no reasons for choosing these particular four areas, it gives no indication of their relative priority.
4. No indication of how outcomes are to be measured. It is a well understood principle of management that the success of new initiatives needs to be measured. As management guru Peter Drucker puts it: 'What gets measured gets done'. It is unfortunate then that the strategy is very weak on how the initiatives are to be managed, let alone the extent to which they will enable the Council to meet its 2030 carbon neutral target.

5. No provision for reporting. Apart from managing the targets, provision also needs to be made for reporting their performance so that initiatives can be modified, strengthened or even abandoned if necessary. It is especially important to establish where the responsibility lies for the success of the programme. Ealing Matters believes that climate change is not a party-political matter. It is far more important than that. The whole community needs to be involved in the response to climate change, and the reporting systems relating to this strategy need to reflect this.
6. Lacking a community engagement strategy. This is a point of principle that should be central to the development of the strategy as a whole. Ealing Matters is disappointed that the strategy on which we are now being consulted was drawn up without any prior discussion with the people of Ealing who will implement it or at least be affected by its consequences. A significant majority of the community must be brought on board to own the changes that will be required to achieve a carbon neutral state by 2030. This means that there must be full engagement with the community from the outset. Otherwise there is a very significant risk of creating confrontational opposition which works against the strategies rather than for them.

The recent experience with Low Traffic Neighbourhoods offers a very good example of what can happen if things are not addressed this way. The LTN programme is in principle a good one that could achieve positive outcomes in reduced rat-running and car use generally. Unfortunately, the current programme has been clumsily introduced. Neighbourhoods have come together in opposition to the programme, and views on either side of the argument are becoming unconstructively entrenched.

The Council needs to find a better way to develop strategies like this - methods that involve people from the start and avoid areas where conflicts can be anticipated. As an umbrella groups of local residents' associations, Ealing Matters is well placed to contribute to debates constructively.

An interesting model, to which we would refer the Council, is the Local Agenda 21, a programme set up after the 1992 Rio de Janeiro sustainable development summit. This called on local authorities around the world to consult with their communities to produce their own local agendas for sustainable development. Under Cllr John Cudmore's leadership, LA21 blossomed with groups across the borough actively engaged. While it may not have achieved all that it originally promised, it did open the way to better communication between councils and their communities, leading to farmers' markets, new green spaces, innovative approaches to awareness raising and much more. The Council could do much worse than dust down its LA21 programme and relaunch it to address the current climate change emergency.

Wil French

Ealing Matters 27 September 2020.

The following tables comprise the draft Strategy. Where officers are still gathering data to solidify targets, the areas have been highlighted in yellow. These targets will be confirmed before the Strategy adoption.



<p>We are leading the way to meet a zero carbon future by managing, designing, building and refurbishing properties using Passive Building design principles.</p> <p>We are enabling residents and businesses to opt for renewable sources of energy and requiring developers to build low and zero carbon heat networks.</p> <p>We are ensuring all buildings borough-wide reduce energy consumption, to address fuel poverty and lessen energy demand.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased health and wellbeing of residents with better insulated homes</li> <li>• Improved air quality</li> <li>• Lower energy costs for residents and businesses</li> <li>• Reduction of households in fuel poverty</li> <li>• Support of the local, green economy</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Council (Domestic)</u></b></p> <p><b>Reduce Energy Consumption of all Existing Buildings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% of housing specifications will contribute to zero carbon outcomes</li> <li>• All council owned homes will have an average EPC rating B (SAP points) by 2030</li> <li>• All staff responsible for managing properties will receive training on climate change, with all new role profiles requiring a focus on sustainability</li> </ul> <p><b>All New Residential and Commercial Buildings to be Built to Zero Carbon Standards</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All new council owned housing will be designed to zero carbon standards by 2020</li> <li>• All new council owned housing will be built to zero carbon standards by 2022</li> </ul> <p><b>Increase Investment in Renewable Energy Generation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actively install low carbon replacement heating solutions from 2020</li> <li>• Last replacement gas boiler will be installed in 2025 for blocks</li> <li>• Last replacement gas boiler will be installed in 2030 for street properties</li> <li>• Assess all non-regeneration properties for solar PV installation within the next 5 years</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Private (Domestic)</u></b></p>
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<p>We are changing the landscape of travel for Ealing residents and guests and reducing the dependency on motorised vehicles by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investing in sustainable active travel via walking and cycling infrastructure</li> <li>Supporting plans to extend public transport links</li> <li>Supporting the electrification of London buses</li> <li>Investing in electric vehicle infrastructure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved resident and guest health: 23% reduced risk of heart disease and stroke and 15% reduced risk of type 2 diabetes by including 15 minutes of active travel into commute</li> <li>Immediate improvement in air quality and respiratory health for residents</li> <li>Reduce congestion in Ealing and cut time stuck in traffic by 15% per day</li> <li>Support the creation of jobs in</li> </ul>	<p><b>Reduce Number of Vehicles Travelling in and Through Ealing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>To be confirmed</b> - Introduce <b>six</b> Healthy Neighbourhoods (including school streets) across the borough by 2030</li> <li>All Ealing roads to have 20mph speed limit by 2021</li> <li>Introduce Workplace Parking Levy across the Borough by 2030</li> <li>Consider parking management and/or charges and introducing road user charges across the Borough</li> <li>Introduce flexible/demand responsive bus services (e.g. Heathrow and Park Royal) by 2026</li> <li><b>To be confirmed Freight consolidation target</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Increase Active Travel (Mode Shift)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement high quality cycle network/route across the Borough by 2030</li> <li>60% of schools STARS accredited by 2025 (an increase of 32 percentage points from 2020)</li> <li>At least 80% of Ealing Council staff travelling sustainably to work by 2030 (actively or by public transport)</li> <li>Significantly increase behavioural change activities to schools and adults, support five behaviour change events annually from 2020</li> </ul> <p><b>Decrease Carbon Intensity of Fuels Powering Motor Vehicles</b></p>
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	<p>e.g. the cycle industry which is worth three times more than the UK steel industry and employs twice as many people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduction in noise pollution</li><li>• Improved mobility for the poorest and most vulnerable members of society. Providing access to jobs.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Significant increase in the provision of electric vehicle charge points (EVCP); all residents to be within a five-minute walk of an EVCP by 2025</li><li>• All council fleet and contractors to have electric or zero carbon fleet by 2030</li></ul>
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<p>We are boldly striving towards a circular economy by 2050 through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoiding waste creation at every instance</li> <li>• Seeking opportunities to reuse and repair, maximising the use of materials</li> <li>• Recycling materials to make the most of our resources</li> </ul> <p>In addition to this we will adopt operational changes to minimise carbon emissions in waste management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased savings for consumers</li> <li>• Increase food redistribution to shelters / communities in need</li> <li>• Support the creation of jobs in reuse and repair industry</li> <li>• Improved air quality</li> <li>• Nurturing community and creativity</li> </ul>	<p><b>Reduce Overall Waste Arising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce household waste arisings per head by 2% by 2030</li> <li>• Prevent an increase in local authority collected waste arisings (from 2020 baseline) by 2030 by engaging in active citizens programmes</li> <li>• Implement a school behaviour change programme utilising WRAP resources</li> <li>• Initiate shared economy projects, e.g. library of things</li> <li>• WLWA waste prevention events – support 50% more annually</li> </ul> <p><b>Reuse, Repair, Recycle: Maximise Use of Materials- Circular Economy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase local authority collected waste recycling rate to 50% by 2025 (in line with London Environment Strategy objective)</li> <li>• To divert 30% of household bulky waste for reuse, repair, or recycling</li> <li>• Increase recycling rate in LA schools to 70% by 2030</li> <li>• Increase reuse and recycling site diversion rates to 80% by 2030</li> <li>• Review and verify circular economy statements on all major and minor applications</li> </ul> <p><b>Reduce Environmental Impact of our Operations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>To be confirmed</b>- Reduce emissions from operations associated with local authority collected waste by <b>XX</b> from 2020 baseline</li> <li>• Heavy vehicles to be 100% ULEZ compliant by July 2020 and options for alternative fuels and electric in future</li> <li>• Light vehicles electric where possible and to be reviewed by Greener Ealing Limited in 2025</li> </ul>
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<p>We are expanding our traditional network of green spaces to maximise carbon capture and we are modernising operations to reflect our commitment to a zero carbon future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will include rooftops and public assets such as highways</li> <li>• We will adopt management practices to minimise carbon emissions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased mental health and wellbeing of residents with access to nature</li> <li>• Improved air quality</li> <li>• Increase biodiversity and connections for wildlife</li> <li>• Increased community engagement amongst residents, reducing loneliness</li> <li>• Reduction in noise pollution</li> <li>• Reduce chance of flooding</li> </ul>	<p><b>Increase in Canopy Cover Across Ealing by 2030</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase canopy cover to 23% by 2030, achieving a 35% increase in canopy cover across Ealing (up from 16.9%)</li> </ul> <p><b>Manage Green Spaces to Increase Biodiversity, Increase Natural Carbon Capture and Reduce Carbon Emissions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% maintenance equipment to be zero carbon by 2030</li> <li>• No green waste to leave Ealing borough by 2030</li> <li>• Increase meadows by 10% by 2025</li> <li>• 50% of vehicles to electric/hybrid by 2026</li> <li>• To increase the area of flower-rich grassland by creating new meadows in parks, housing estates, new developments, schools and community gardens. Target: 5 hectares</li> <li>• To enhance the biodiversity of existing meadows habitats by implementing various management practices, including the introduction of early spring cuts, sowing Yellow Rattle and grazing. Target: 100 hectares</li> </ul> <p><b>Utilise Green Infrastructure to Capture Carbon, Mitigate Surface Water Flooding and Improve Biodiversity and Water Quality</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All residential and commercial new builds and refurbishments to include green infrastructure from 2021 (Improve/change of use planning policies to ensure green infrastructure is delivered)</li> <li>• All paving in Ealing developments must be permeable where technically feasible from 2021</li> </ul>
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**Appendix 1. 19 May 2020**  
**Draft Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy**

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All highways schemes will be designed and delivered to include a substantial Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems elements where technically feasible from 2020</li><li>• Establish and restore 2500 m<sup>2</sup> of wetlands in the borough and region by 2030</li><li>• To create 6 new ponds over 10 years with community involvement with total surface area of at least 0.25 hectares</li></ul>
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