



# WE WILL CREATE THE GREENEST CITY IN THE WORLD

London could be leading the way with our response to the climate and ecological crisis.

But no Mayor of our city has yet acted with the real urgency needed.

Too many of our homes are cold and damp, our green spaces – so precious to us now – are being built on.

And our air, water and habitats are polluted, while we burn too much of our waste and our recycling rates are going in the wrong direction

A Green Mayor is the only one you can trust to set the right targets and make the right plans to meet them, working with citizens across the city on this vital mission.

For our health and for our future, we need real Green action on climate, green space, nature, waste, and the resources we use.

And, crucially, we need to transform our economy and create good green jobs to make, re-use and repair more of our stuff locally. That's the recovery we want to lead, and we need everyone with us.

## CLIMATE

Action to stop climate chaos isn't the priority of the Conservative Government, but we can find hope in our cities in 2021.

Across the world, city mayors have often taken the lead when national governments have proved they are not up to the job.

We believe in powering local action and working with communities, and a Green Mayor will start by cancelling all the projects from the current Mayor that would make the climate and ecological emergency worse.

We will invest in green jobs and transforming our economy, using all the resources we can muster to create new green energy, and cut wasted energy and carbon emissions from our homes, transport and businesses.

## STOP MAKING THINGS WORSE

The current Mayor is still pushing policies and plans that will make climate chaos harder to prevent. This is unacceptable.

- ▶ A Green Mayor will cancel traffic-inducing road schemes, including the Silvertown Road Tunnel and the Croydon Five Ways road plan, diverting the funding to clean transport and better streets.
- ▶ Greens would oppose all airport expansion in London. The current Mayor is supporting London City Airport to increase flights and backs the expansion of Gatwick Airport.

## WE WILL SET THE RIGHT TARGETS THAT SCIENCE DEMANDS

- ▶ All our targets - in the London Plan and in all the Mayor's strategies - will urgently be brought forward to 2030 in line with avoiding the risk of going over a 1.5C rise in global temperatures.
- ▶ A Green Mayor will set the right targets and review all the statutory strategies to make sure our actions in London are focused on doing everything we can to avert a climate and ecological disaster.
- ▶ We will change the rules for Mayoral decision-making so that every budget plan and official decision report in City Hall includes an assessment of the impact on climate and ecology, to help reduce our footprint every time we make new policies or spending plans, and so we can be held to account.
- ▶ A Green Mayor will tell the truth about our impact. The overall carbon impact of decisions and the progress of current policies will be reported in writing every quarter to the Assembly, with dedicated time within the Mayor's Question Time four times a year for questions about work within the city to stop climate chaos.
- ▶ We will set up an independent Citizen's Assembly on the climate and ecological emergency, recruiting a representative group of Londoners to serve for a year at a time on a permanent body, supported by and working with the London

# WE ARE FACING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY



**W**hen the UN's IPCC special report came out in October 2018, Greens across the country took immediate action. First in Bristol, where Councillor Carla Denyer proposed and passed the first motion in Europe declaring a climate and ecological emergency.

Since then, more than 300 elected bodies in the UK have followed her lead, including Parliament.

The London Assembly passed a climate emergency motion proposed by Green Assembly Member Caroline Russell in December 2018.

## **We must listen to the people on the streets**

When Extinction Rebellion started their protests in April 2019, the current Mayor told them the city should 'get back to business as usual' and, ever since failing

to ban the protests, the police have tried to extend their powers.

Greens say business as usual is the problem. We support not only the right to peaceful protest across the world, but also policies that will lead to the system change we need to solve the crisis.

## **We need to set the right targets**

The Mayor's strategies still have climate targets based on becoming a zero-carbon city by 2050. All targets in every policy urgently need to be brought forward to 2030 to avoid the risk of going over a 1.5C rise in global temperatures.

Green Assembly Member Caroline Russell has challenged the current Mayor repeatedly about his failure to update his plans and targets to reflect the science.

Assembly Environment Committee. The Assembly will be resourced with expert support to examine the Mayor's policies, hold all the GLA organisations to account, and find and propose new ideas to respond to the crisis.

- ▶ A Green Mayor will also work with active climate campaigners and citizens' groups to help plan and support our action to meet climate targets. This Climate Emergency Alliance will be independently run and funded without conditions to advise and hold our work to account.
- ▶ We will work with all borough councils across London to meet our climate targets, and immediately push all of them to declare a climate emergency and set targets that match those of the Green Mayor in City Hall. We will also encourage and support other public bodies and businesses with guidance to define their own adaptation plans and actions on the climate emergency.
- ▶ Continued investment in carbon-intensive, fossil fuel industries and climate-damaging activities is unacceptable in the face of the climate emergency. A Green Mayor will take the necessary steps to divest all GLA-controlled investments by 2022. We will support and acknowledge those boroughs already planning to divest their funds and will work with the others in setting and achieving their own divestment objectives.

## **A CLEAN ENERGY REVOLUTION**

- ▶ A Green Mayor's strategic goal will be for 100 per cent renewable energy supply for all the GLA's operations by 2026 and a zero carbon energy system for the whole city by 2030, including removing any reliance on natural gas or wood burning. This is a hugely ambitious task to achieve, but we can only get to the place science demands by setting the right goals and working towards them in every way we can.
- ▶ The current Mayor has failed to lead the way – refusing to set up a green energy company owned and run by Londoners, instead opting for a limited model under the wing of a larger supplier. Greens in City Hall will correct this and set up an ambitious independent energy supplier for London, investing in clean, green energy and offering Londoners an ethical, good value alternative to the Big Six to save money on our bills.
- ▶ All profits from our Energy for Londoners company will be reinvested into energy saving measures for the homes of people in fuel poverty, which will be backed up by borrowing and investment directly from the GLA budget.
- ▶ Working with Energy for Londoners we will ensure people have access to useful advice, services to use and best practice actions they can take to save money on essential bills such as electricity, water and heating.
- ▶ Community energy projects in London are not receiving the support and funding

London's strategic planning policies have recently been updated. Greens have worked throughout the process of drafting the London Plan and the examination by the Planning Inspectorate to win good new policies for the climate, including:

- ▶ Strong new wording that green energy now needs to be 'maximised' in developments.
- ▶ The social and educational value of green spaces is now recognised.
- ▶ Protection for real 'ecological corridors' not just green spaces.
- ▶ Requiring a net biodiversity gain from new developments.
- ▶ The cooling properties of trees and green spaces in a warming city are included.
- ▶ New water management requirements in flood risk areas.
- ▶ A higher green transport mode share target for central London.
- ▶ Embodied carbon included for the first time, with a requirement to measure the whole life-cycle carbon impact of development.

However, there is much more that our planning policies could do, and many of our proposals have not been taken up, in addition to new climate targets.

A Green Mayor will put this right, review the London Plan and bring in new

policies for the climate and communities:

- ▶ Protection for allotments extended to urban farms and community food growing spaces, something the current Mayor has so far ignored.
- ▶ The list of planned transport schemes still includes dangerous, traffic-generating new road crossing schemes in east London, like the Silvertown Tunnel, which will be cancelled and removed
- ▶ Aviation policies that oppose all airport expansion in London and the South East, not just Heathrow, and make plans for the area around City Airport to become a Mayoral Development Corporation to develop a new quarter for the city in place of this airport.
- ▶ We will expand the embodied carbon policies in planning rules to specifically preference re-use and refurbishment over demolition and set new standards and incentives so embodied carbon is reduced.

Throughout all this we've argued for a better process, asking the Mayor to make the plans citizen-led and inclusive, with a formal Statement of Community Involvement, as put forward by the organisation Just Space, which has helped many hundreds of Londoners to engage with the process. In our review of the London Plan, we will make greater citizen involvement a priority from the start.



**RETHINK THE  
LONDON PLAN**

they should. We will put London at the forefront of community energy, with a target to increase capacity at least 25-fold by 2024 with support from Energy for Londoners, improved planning policies and direct funding from City Hall. This will support our zero carbon energy goal and our additional target of at least 1 GW of solar energy capacity in London by 2030.

- ▶ A Green Mayor will call on the Government to stop the practice of routing nuclear waste trains through London. As the most dangerous freight carried on the railways, it is unacceptable for highly radioactive nuclear fuel rods to be transported through densely populated areas.

## A GREEN NEW DEAL FOR HOMES

Our fresh thinking on housing will ensure that all Londoners have a warm home that's cheap to run, thanks to investment in insulation and clean energy.

- ▶ A Green Mayor will take immediate action to reduce energy use in homes and cut fuel poverty, using London's own resources, and would campaign with other city mayors to push the Government to invest in a huge programme of energy-saving across the country.
- ▶ The Green budget amendment for the GLA in 2020 was able to deliver a tripling of the current Mayor's plans for greener homes, simply by leveraging

borrowing from expected savings to the energy costs on the GLA's own estate. With a Green Mayor, this approach will be extended across London to create a Green New Deal that multiplies by an order of magnitude the energy saving investment in London's housing stock.

- ▶ We will work in partnership with councils, pension funds and housing associations to amplify our Green New Deal investment fund further and create a massive new level of investment for our homes. It would focus investment initially on council and housing association homes, but also seek to bring private landlords and homeowners into the scheme as it matures.
- ▶ Cutting fuel poverty, poorly heated and damp homes will be the focus for who benefits from our programmes for energy saving, with every Londoner benefiting by 2030. We will set up an immediate insulation and ventilation taskforce to deal with cold damp homes, and cut the number of these by at least a third by 2024 – going faster if more funding can be obtained.
- ▶ A Green Mayor will campaign hard for Government to put a zero carbon new home standard in place by 2023 at the latest.
- ▶ A Green Mayor will write new planning rules for London to make it easier to apply to work on insulation and retrofit projects for whole streets at once.
- ▶ Within City Hall we will set up a team of experts who can be employed by councils

golubovy/stock.adobe.com



## THE CARBON IN OUR STUFF

The carbon emissions involved in creating the things we use and consume every day are a huge gap in other parties' policies. We need bold new plans and strategies if we are to become truly carbon neutral in time to avert climate chaos.

Our policies to cut embodied carbon include:

- ▶ We will correct the gap in our waste targets by setting a goal to reduce the baseline amount of waste produced, not just set recycling targets in percentage terms.
- ▶ A Green Mayor will also expand the embodied carbon policies in planning rules to preference re-using

buildings and avoiding demolition as a principle. This is a big gap in London's carbon policies so far, which is now being picked up by a strong retrofit campaign by architects.

- ▶ Reducing the amount of resources we produce and waste means getting business on board with setting targets of their own, and we would aim for 100 of the biggest businesses in London to have set targets to reduce their own 'stuff turnover' by the end of our first year in City Hall.
- ▶ Our business and high street improvement policies will also focus on promoting and supporting enterprises and community organisations that help people to re-use, re-sell and repair existing goods.

# PREPARING FOR CLIMATE RISKS

## CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS FOR LONDON

A REVIEW OF EVIDENCE UNDER 1.5°C AND DIFFERENT WARMING SCENARIOS

A report on behalf of  
Caroline Russell AM  
City Hall Greens

**G**reen London Assembly Member Caroline Russell commissioned research in 2019 to show the risks to London from climate change.

For the first time, her evidence gave an insight of what life will be like in London if we reach 1.5 degrees warming – even hotter heatwaves than in recent summers, higher chances of flooding for thousands of homes and hundreds of schools, and extreme strain on emergency services.

Key findings from Caroline's report, *Climate change risks for London*, include:

- ▶ Two thirds of London flats could experience overheating (temperature over 28°C) by 2030.
- ▶ For every 1°C increase over 20°C ambulance call outs increase by 1 per cent.
- ▶ In the most vulnerable districts in London, the odds of dying from cardiorespiratory causes increased by more than 10 percent for every 1°C increase in temperature.
- ▶ 23 stations on the London Underground Network are at significant risk of flooding. The Northern and Central lines have the most stations at risk.
- ▶ 643 schools are at risk from a 1 in 30 year flood (this is considered high risk)
- ▶ An increase of up to 40 per cent in water supply is needed by 2040 in order to meet the water deficit in London and the south east.

In 2019, London saw several incidents that show these risks are very real and immediate. Caroline found that 137 tube stations suffered flooding-related disruption during just one bout of exceptional rainfall.

Caroline says: "These events are the reality we are living in now, and as our climate emergency continues, they will only become more and more common.

"The current Mayor's failure to do timely research on the impact of extreme heat to places like schools and workplaces means that we aren't yet properly prepared."

- ▶ A Green Mayor will plug the gaps in our knowledge about how badly our city will be affected by climate change, and will review and make new plans to protect people from impacts such as extreme heat, flooding and a secure water supply during droughts.
- ▶ We will create a standing scientific advisory group for the GLA, which will assist the Assembly in scrutinising independently assess and propose policy to the Mayor to help avoid and deal with climate risks.
- ▶ Our planning policies will prioritise water security; focusing to reduce flooding of homes and businesses, protect London's water supplies and allow the aquifers beneath our soil to recharge whilst preventing the spread of pollution from roads and landfill sites.

that are struggling to properly staff energy standards inspections in private rented housing. We will compile data on the results of these inspections and report to councils on their performance and how they compare to others.

## OUR AVIATION ACTION PLAN

Greens have led the opposition to airport expansion in the Assembly, pushing the current Mayor not just to oppose Heathrow Airport's third runway but also holding him to account over his support for City Airport and Gatwick expansion.

- ▶ We will always oppose any expansion of aviation in London and will plan to reduce flights dramatically in line with climate goals.
- ▶ A Green Mayor will support workers at Heathrow and in surrounding businesses that depend on the airport with a 'just transition' policy to create opportunities and training for quality jobs in the local communities as flying is reduced. This will be done through targeted Green New Deal investments in industries and job markets that can sustainably offer high-quality employment opportunities in areas such as renewable energy, housing stock improvements, education and community support.
- ▶ We have worked with and will continue to support the campaigns against aircraft noise across London, aiming to limit early morning and late night flights, and oppose the concentrated flight paths

that make life a misery for people in the worst affected parts of the city.

- ▶ When we first proposed to target the most frequent flyers through a Frequent Flyer Levy, the Mayor and Labour Assembly Members laughed. Now this policy is gaining support from across the political spectrum. A Green Mayor will continue to lead the way and push for innovative ways to cap flying through Government policies, without affecting those who fly the least already.
- ▶ In 2016, Sian Berry proposed closing City Airport to free up a huge area for housing and create a new quarter for London. This inspiring policy and new vision for the east of the city caught the imagination of Londoners, and in this election we will push once again for the owners to rethink the use of their land.

## ENVIRONMENT

Greens in City Hall have been working for twenty years to bring the urgent attention needed to the ecological and climate emergency.

From our work to establish the Green Grid and save the Wildlife Crime Unit to our research exposing the loss of front gardens, time and again Greens have stepped in when other parties have failed.

As chair of the Environment Committee for the past three years, Green Assembly Member Caroline Russell has focused new thinking on issues as diverse as unflushable plastics in period products, aircraft noise, tube dust risks, and farming

in the Green Belt.

A Green Mayor will protect and link up nature in a true ecological network. We will make sure our citizens, particularly our children, have access to the health and education benefits of nature, and protect all London's people, plants and animals from chemical, light and noise pollution.

A Green Mayor will set the right environment targets, including an overall waste reduction goal that will underpin new work and policies to reduce resource use in our economy, cut down on demolition in favour of refurbishment, and support new re-use and repair businesses.

Greens are the only ones who truly get this, and our policies for a greener, cleaner London are integrated, comprehensive and long overdue.

## OUR ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY

- ▶ Ecology in London is in crisis and needs to be supported across all areas of policy. To make this possible we must properly establish and nurture a core network of ecological corridors, both at a strategic and local level. Greens in London have been influencing local and neighbourhood plans to protect existing green corridors but, across the city, far too many planning applications are allowed that cut through these networks and cut off plant and animal species from places to live, and the opportunity to migrate, breed and thrive.
- ▶ A Green Mayor will create a new, finer grained Green Grid strategy, working

with and through the National Park City initiative to involve local ecology and wildlife groups and guardians, friends of green spaces and local communities in identifying and improving local ecological assets and corridors.

- ▶ Our work on ecological corridors will be paired with increased support for network building between boroughs to make sure these links cross borough boundaries, and to increase the number and quality of green spaces, and parks. We will share clear advice on how to achieve Green Flag Award status for parks, with a target set to increase these awards in London.
- ▶ We will also deliver clearer planning and strategic protections for smaller green spaces that form key parts of the network, such as preserving the links to and between rows of back gardens, which are neglected in current mapping and plans.
- ▶ In the development of the new London Plan, Green Assembly Members have worked hard to introduce planning policies that require net biodiversity gain from new developments, including habitats for threatened species such as bats, sparrows, hedgehogs, swifts, bees and pollinating insects. However, the current Mayor's approach does not do enough to preserve existing biodiversity and the requirement for an overall 'urban greening factor' to be achieved is too general. We will strengthen these policies, and specific requirements for individual key species will be introduced.

# GOLD PLATE THE GREEN BELT

**W**ork by Greens on the London Assembly has shown there is a huge potential for London's Green Belt land to be used for the benefit of London's people, nature, ecology, flood protection, energy and food production.

Green Assembly Member Caroline Russell has worked on these policies in the the Assembly and says:

"The Green Belt is under threat like never before. It needs a plan for improvement and stronger protections."

A fifth of London is protected as Green Belt land. It is our 'city limits', preventing urban sprawl, providing a home for wildlife, a place to visit and relax, as well as farms that grow food.

Established over 70 years ago, London's Green Belt is under threat. Only seven per cent of the Metropolitan Green Belt is within the GLA's area but we believe it is our duty to take a lead from City Hall to improve and protect it.

There is currently no plan for our Green Belt, or to work with surrounding councils to improve and protect it. Only a Green Mayor will have the true leadership and vision to get this right.

▶ A Green Mayor will bring together councils, farmers, landowners, local residents, wildlife, ecology, land management and flooding experts, water companies, green energy

providers and transport providers, including Transport for London, to make a comprehensive new strategy to revitalise London's Green Belt.

- ▶ We will improve access, linking up existing public Rights of Way, creating new footpaths, promoting visits through Transport for London, and improve landscapes and engage with NGOs and community groups to find new ways to enjoy and promote sports and leisure activities.
- ▶ Sites of importance for nature conservation make up 44 per cent of the Green Belt, but these sites need to be better connected in networks and green corridors. We will bring together everyone working in the Green Belt to make a new plan for nature.
- ▶ We will champion ten new nature-friendly farms on existing agricultural land and other appropriate sites in the urban fringe. This can integrate increased tree cover fruit and other trees that can be used for human consumption and ensure no net loss of high grade farmland.
- ▶ Increasing food production close to London, particularly fruit and vegetables would improve food security. There are more than 200 existing farms in the Green Belt, and our strategy will help them diversify, farm more sustainably, improve and

conserve the soil and provide more of the food London needs.

- ▶ We will support farmers and growers to get longer tenancies and access to London's customers and businesses, from farmers' markets and community group box schemes to supermarkets.
- ▶ Locally grown fruit and vegetables can create 1000s of London Living wage employment opportunities, improve food security and support the local economy.
- ▶ The Green Belt can play a useful part in cutting carbon and providing London with sustainable energy sources. Through our green energy company, we'd work to bring new community energy projects to the Green Belt to support our zero carbon energy goal and our additional target of 1GW of solar power capacity in London by 2030.

- ▶ Main roads and motorways are a real barrier to nature, and millions in green road funding lies unspent by Highways England. We will work with Highways England, councils and community groups to find places for green bridges across motorways and roads around London to help link up nature across our boundaries.
- ▶ To help meet climate targets, we need to rewild and reforest large areas of land. Only 16 per cent of London's Green Belt is covered by woodland, and our strategy would aim to create new woods on any land not needed for farms and energy, working in tandem where possible, through agroforestry.

- ▶ A Green Mayor will immediately stop the use of all chemical pesticides and herbicides, including glyphosate, from use on GLA-controlled land. We would work to increase the number of councils adopting the same policy for public spaces, footpaths and estates, and to remove these chemicals from garden centres and retailers in the city. This will be combined with a focused education, equipment and skill-sharing programme for borough councils, housing associations and domestic gardeners on effective alternatives, including approaches that manage spaces to be less tended in order to reduce the need for plant management of any kind. We will set a target for zero glyphosate use within London within two years.
- ▶ Our planning policies will oppose all development that would damage ancient woodlands and veteran trees, based on their unique value for the climate and ecology. Architects and developers should regard these assets as a bottom line for preservation and design schemes that avoid ever cutting down or damaging them.
- ▶ Light and noise pollution are also damaging to our quality of life and to wildlife. We will develop and promote best practice for street and development lighting design to reduce light pollution and preserve and extend dark sky areas.
- ▶ We will build upon work by campaigners showing the level of noise inside many of our parks, and fund the creation of at least 100 'tranquil areas' in green

spaces, using improved noise shielding in landscaping and removing and reducing traffic around and within existing parks

- ▶ A healthy population of bees and other pollinators is critically important to London's ecology, and Greens will make sure all parks and green spaces, including roadside planters, verges, and our new bee-friendly bus stop roofs, support bees with wildflowers and suitable planting.
- ▶ We will bring in new planning and transport policies (including our bid for London to fully control traffic and parking laws) to make it easier for councils and community groups to create 'parklets' in place of car parking and at places where streets are closed to through traffic.
- ▶ A Green Mayor and Assembly Members will continue to ensure adequate resources for the Metropolitan Police Wildlife Crime Unit and establish a Habitat Crime Unit to tackle more serious and organised wildlife crimes up to and including ecocide; this would also include the prevention and investigation of fly-tipping on farmland, country lanes and in wildlife sites within London.

## OUR GREEN AND BLUE INFRASTRUCTURE

- ▶ A Green Mayor will recognise the vital importance of strategic policies for green and blue infrastructure in tackling the climate emergency, and will set an

overall target for London's green and blue spaces to exceed 50 per cent by 2024, and a further target for overall green and blue cover, including green roofs and new wetlands, to reach 55 per cent or more by 2030.

- ▶ The National Park City initiative has proved to be a hugely successful way to link up a range of policy areas and put weight behind a whole-city strategy to value our green building blocks and infrastructure. The work done by the campaign in mapping and linking the community assets and groups working on these issues has been invaluable, and includes transport, heritage, education and business initiatives, in addition to core values supporting wellbeing and nature. A Green Mayor will therefore boost support for National Park City work, increase its promotion (including through our new advertising policies on public transport) and will host gatherings for the initiative in City Hall to celebrate every season.
- ▶ We also commit to back the call from 20 environmental groups for the next Mayor to create ten new district level parks in areas of deficiency of access to green spaces, and will support the development of new 'regional park' areas and strategies to mirror the work already done in the Lea Valley, focused again on river improvements and corridors based on water ecology, such as the Wandle Valley, Brent River Park, Dollis Valley Green Walk and the Quaggy River Park.

- ▶ To help preserve and get more green spaces into community hands, we will support local communities in designating the open spaces and places for nature they value as Assets of Community Value, which gives them the right to bid when an asset comes up for sale, and we will campaign for a Community Right to Buy to strengthen these rights and protections.
- ▶ To help local communities improve and create new green spaces in their areas, we will at least double the grants available from the Green City Fund, and target and promote these to more disadvantaged areas and excluded groups, with additional staff and resources to make sure this happens.
- ▶ Our planning policies will prioritise water security; focusing to reduce flooding of homes and businesses, protect London's water supplies and allow the aquifers beneath our soil to recharge while preventing the spread of pollution from roads and landfill sites.
- ▶ A Green Mayor will ensure no development leads to the net loss of permeable land or water storage capacity. We will improve streetscapes and water permeability using transport funding to support sustainable urban drainage, and step up work to restore and re-wild London's rivers and other historic and biodiverse habitats.
- ▶ We will aim to cut water pollution and supply pipe leakage by working with Thames Water, boroughs and the Environment Agency to improve



responses to large scale pipe failures, and coordinate action to reduce water pollution from road run-off.

- ▶ We will ensure that any green space protection gaps in the current London Plan are checked and amended, and create at least ten major new schemes on GLA controlled land that showcase the health, sustainability and nature benefits of redeveloping land previously devoted to car use, such as car parks, or by reducing main road widths.
- ▶ We pledge to increase tree canopy cover sensitively and sustainably by at least 20 percent by 2030, including through:
  - large scale woodland creation in the Green Belt
  - at least 100 new street tree schemes
  - growing more woodlands and trees in public parks and green spaces
  - updating council strategies and working with landowners.

## GREEN SPACES FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- ▶ Green proposals for the London Plan successfully won the inclusion of education as well as wellbeing as benefits to be considered when green spaces are threatened. This will help more local communities to defend green spaces and parks from development. To further cement these benefits into policy, we will establish a London-wide 'green living' supportive educational and social prescribing programme for all ages, to

connect people with local green and blue spaces.

- ▶ A Green Mayor will work with education authorities to enable a comprehensive environmental education programme within schools, including support for outdoor Forest Schools and Natural History curriculum support.
- ▶ We will develop a strategic plan to expand the Walk London network, with at least six new high-quality green walking routes that link green spaces to bring nature closer to people, and review the current footpath strategy. These plans reflect the strategies to make London's streets safer, more pleasant to use and to support people in engaging holistically with their local environment.
- ▶ We will double the funding currently available through the Greener City Fund for community green space projects, with a specific programme for schools to connect children with nature, and review other funding streams to ensure they deliver beneficial climate, nature and health outcomes.
- ▶ We will work to ensure that sufficient resources are provided to enable housing associations to effectively deliver plans set out in green infrastructure strategies, and provide good quality green space that links well with the surrounding environment, highlighting the importance of open space for residents of social housing. We will support initiatives enabling residents and landlords to provide space for producing food and work with social landlords.



## OUR RECYCLING POSTCODE LOTTERY

**D**oes your local borough council recycle these everyday items?

- plastic buckets
- crisp packets
- aluminium foil
- black plastic food containers
- biro pens
- bike tyres
- Tetra Paks

Green Assembly Member Caroline Russell asked every council in London the same question in January 2020 and uncovered London's confusing recycling postcode lottery.

Her research found that none of the London boroughs was able to consistently recycle a list of seven common household items, and that a lack of London-wide oversight means that Londoners are left confused as

recycling rules vary from one borough to the next.

Caroline says: "We know people are desperately concerned about their impact on our environment, from the new awareness around single-use plastics to fast fashion. But it is too hard to know what to do with your rubbish in London.

"When boroughs provide no clarity on what can be recycled, where, and in what condition, it is no wonder that London's waste mountain keeps growing."

- ▶ A Green Mayor will campaign hard to get rid of London's recycling postcode lottery, working with councils to build more consistency into their services, and demanding the power from Government to take more control of how London's waste is handled.

- ▶ A Green Mayor will also support the target set by 20 environmental groups to support the creation of a minimum of 150 new community orchards, providing healthy, diverse and resilient green spaces for residents.
- ▶ We will also support initiatives to create community-led allotments, enabling residents to interact with and experience nature as well as providing access to locally grown fruit and vegetables.

## WASTE — SET THE RIGHT TARGETS

- ▶ With a Green Mayor, London's target will be to become a true zero-waste city by 2030, with no need to rely on incineration to avoid landfill waste.
- ▶ A Green Mayor will set a new, ambitious primary waste reduction target that will underpin new work and policies to reduce the 'stuff turnover' in our city's economy. This target will apply to the total 'arising' of waste material produced, not just to recycling or 'residual' waste that is incinerated or sent to landfill.
- ▶ Our new waste reduction target, with an effective suite of policies, will mean we will need no new incinerators to meet our statutory target to cut landfill waste.
- ▶ Evidence shows that incinerators, even modern plants, create huge air pollution risks for people living around them, as well as creating new incentives and markets for waste, including materials

based on fossil fuels, and depressing recycling levels. Greens in London have helped lead campaigns against new incinerators and are opposing those proposed in Edmonton and Belvedere. We will continue to oppose and protest against all new incineration capacity within London.

- ▶ A Green Mayor will work with boroughs and businesses to set individual targets for waste reduction in their own operations and across their areas, and develop new ways to monitor progress, publishing data showing the achievements and performance of boroughs each year, and showcasing good practice.

## REDUCING 'STUFF TURNOVER'

To meet our waste reduction targets and become carbon neutral before it is too late, we need to consider the carbon embodied in the materials we use, and cut down dramatically on the throughput of resources in London.

A change in the whole character of our economy is needed, where every business and public body aims to eliminate unnecessary resource use, helping to cut down on the 'stuff turnover' of all that we do in the city, from the buildings we construct to the products we use in our daily lives.

A Green Mayor's new waste reduction target will underpin a wide range of new policies.

## A CITY-WIDE STRATEGY FOR RE-USE AND REPAIR

- ▶ A Green Mayor will publish a new waste reduction strategy, including a comprehensive set of policies to increase reduction, reuse and repair. Work will include gathering and promoting comprehensive information on where Londoners can find pre-owned goods, get items repaired or maintained, and sell or donate used items.
- ▶ Working with campaigners, we will create a new fund to support councils and local enterprises to use empty high street shops and council buildings (including temporary use) to provide a repair centre on every high street. The fund will also support universities and colleges to create reuse and repair workshops.
- ▶ The fund will also support the establishment of a 'library of things' in every borough, where residents can borrow infrequently needed household items, such as power tools, sewing machines, specialist cooking, cleaning and decorating products, electronics, camping equipment and luggage.
- ▶ Using GLA land or developer requirements for a major site, a Green Mayor will help found a London Repair Academy, which will be a London-wide resource, hub and educational establishment for training and information on repair skills and training on how to run these kinds of social enterprises.
- ▶ We will also campaign for a comprehensive Right to Repair that will require manufacturers to keep goods operational for years after purchase and encourage repair and reuse. GLA procurement scoring will be reviewed to focus on purchasing goods and equipment that can be repaired and are not designed to become obsolete within a few years.
- ▶ Reducing the amount of resources we produce and waste means getting business on board with setting targets of their own, and we would aim for 100 of the biggest businesses in London to have set targets to reduce their own 'stuff turnover' by the end of our first year in City Hall.
- ▶ From a resource perspective as well as meeting climate targets, it is much better to refit and refurbish buildings than to demolish them, which also causes waste, pollution and social problems. Our priority will always be to protect the environment, people and future generations, and to protect the social cohesion of an existing neighbourhood.
- ▶ A Green Mayor will expand the embodied carbon policies in planning rules to preference re-using buildings and avoiding demolition as a principle. This is a big gap in London's carbon policies so far, which is now being picked up by a strong retrofit campaign by architects.
- ▶ We will encourage builders to adopt a more 'naked homes' or bespoke, buyer-led approach to fitting out new homes, so that new bathrooms, kitchens, doors and

other fittings in new build homes are not installed as standard only to be quickly removed by new owners to fit their own styles.

## ELIMINATE SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

- ▶ A Green Mayor will lobby the Government to tighten up all product and packaging regulations to remove more single-use plastic items at source with better regulation, and to require manufacturers to use a certain percentage of recycled and biodegradable content in any unavoidable plastic packaging. We will also work to make sure items labelled 'compostable' meet minimum standards.
- ▶ The current Mayor has introduced a number of distinctive water refill fountains, which have helped reduce single-use plastic bottles by a small fraction. A Green Mayor will expand this network, and include new designs that allow for direct drinking as well as bottle refills, and designs that are more suitable for parks and heritage areas.
- ▶ We will guarantee free drinking water in all GLA-provided public toilets, including the new provision we are funding in Transport for London tube and rail stations.

## CUT DOWN ON FOOD WASTE

- ▶ A Green Mayor will encourage councils to include the reduction of food waste in local climate action plans, in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12.3 which calls for a 50 per cent

reduction in food waste from farm to fork.

- ▶ We will work with councils and waste disposal authorities to ensure no organic waste goes to landfill or incineration by 2030.
- ▶ We will promote food redistribution initiatives. Remaining surplus food will be used for animal feed, community composting or sent for anaerobic digestion rather than being incinerated.
- ▶ We will campaign for powers for the Mayor to roll out a consistent set of recycling services across London boroughs, and push boroughs to work on common standards and information, so that every home in London has a standardised service for recyclables and food waste collection every week.
- ▶ We will optimise opportunities for creating energy from food waste, including sending public-sector food waste and parks waste to anaerobic digesters, and funding pilot projects for up-to-date compost and waste technologies.

## EMBODIED CARBON IN BUILDINGS AND HOMES

- ▶ A Green Mayor will put together comprehensive policies to cut down on the carbon impact of material turnover in new and refurbished buildings. We will expand the embodied carbon policies in planning rules to specifically preference re-use and refurbishment over demolition, and set new standards

and incentives so that embodied carbon is reduced not just reported.

- ▶ We will require whole-life carbon emissions impact to be assessed on completion of buildings not just at the application stage. To make these assessments easier, the GLA will create a database of authenticated data on supply chain emissions in the building sector.
- ▶ We will campaign for Government to include these rules and standards in its own policies and push hard for VAT on repair and green refurbishments to be cut at a national level.
- ▶ As part of new planning conditions, a Green Mayor will ensure that, in every application, an assessment of options compared on a whole-life carbon basis has been carried out. Where demolition takes place, we will introduce a requirement for diversion of waste from landfill and demonstration that demolished fabric is kept at its highest possible use-value, in line with circular economy principles.
- ▶ For councils, housing associations, community organisations and co-operatives who own and run buildings, we will offer advice and guidance from City Hall on how to not only avoid demolition but refit, extend and refurbish existing homes to reduce energy use and carbon emissions, developing case studies, best practice and advice services.
- ▶ We will also introduce policies to enable and incentivise the use of lower carbon

building materials, including safe timber, cement alternatives, recycled steel and remanufactured building materials, and to reduce the volume of material used in new buildings.

- ▶ Offsite construction methods can be more efficient in the use and re-use of materials and can make safe and efficient use of timber. We will work with landowners and companies to create at least one facility for the construction of modular building construction that exemplifies circular economy practices within London by 2024.
- ▶ Working with both small and large construction companies, we will create a London-wide database of upcoming and available materials for re-use in buildings, helping to create new businesses that store and provide these materials if needed.

## ANIMAL WELFARE IN LONDON

- ▶ A Green Mayor and Assembly Members will continue to ensure adequate resources for the Metropolitan Police Wildlife Crime Unit, supporting the investigation and detection of cruel and ecologically damaging trades in wild animals and animal products.
- ▶ We will strongly resist calls for any cull of urban foxes and other animal populations posing a concern. We will discourage growth in numbers – for example, we will work to get fast food waste off the streets by making shops take more responsibility, and use any new waste powers and strategies for more consistent recycling to make sure street bins and waste containers provided to households are secure against fox and seagull scavenging.
- ▶ We will ensure that the rules around puppy selling, as set out in ‘Lucy’s Law,’ are properly enforced and ensure action is taken against people selling animals illegally.
- ▶ We will support the rights of renters to keep pets and work to expand school and community-based education programmes on responsible pet ownership.
- ▶ We will only use humane pest control methods where animal populations are controlled on GLA property.
- ▶ A Green Mayor will lobby boroughs, the Royal Parks and other landowners to ban any animal circuses, not just for wild animals as new national laws now require.
- ▶ We will make sure all purchasing across the GLA group of organisations conforms to strict ethical rules, including non-animal tested cleaning products.
- ▶ We will engage with universities and the wider science and knowledge sectors to make London a world centre for non animal biomedical research. We will encourage all establishments in London that conduct research using animals to publicly commit to replacing animal experiments with humane alternatives, reducing animal numbers and suffering and improving animal welfare.
- ▶ We will lead the way in making London a vegetarian and vegan-friendly city, increasing the availability of plant-based options on menus wherever we have an influence. We will reduce the use of meat and dairy produce in catering procurement decisions across the GLA, influencing the wider London catering industry.
- ▶ Animal welfare will remain a concern whenever meat, milk or eggs are used, and we will bring in policies across the GLA for the use of only organic, higher welfare products. We will conduct research in City Hall to monitor and report on which of London’s schools, hospitals and prisons offer healthy vegetarian and vegan options, and offer advice and support to increase these options and reduce meat consumption across the public sector.

- ▶ Our new advertising policies for Transport for London will help people choose a diet based more on sustainably grown plant products and avoid mass-produced animal products that take little account of health and animal welfare.
- ▶ We will promote a cruelty-free economy and cruelty-free practices, and advocate for clear food labelling on welfare practices, and for especially and inherently cruel foods such as pâté de fois gras to be banned.
- ▶ We will campaign to end London’s fur trade, and push for London Fashion Week to remain free of fur, using the GLA’s funding of the event as a lever to persuade designers to avoid this horrific trade. We will also campaign for more councils to follow Islington’s lead in banning fur sales in its area.

○ SEE MORE ABOUT OUR ETHICAL ADVERTISING POLICIES IN THE CHAPTER **A MISSION TO TRANSFORM OUR ECONOMY**



# JOIN OUR TEAM

To get involved in our campaign to transform London, contact [team@london.greenparty.org.uk](mailto:team@london.greenparty.org.uk) or visit [www.sianberry.london](http://www.sianberry.london)



[@sianberry](https://twitter.com/sianberry)



[sian\\_berry](https://www.instagram.com/sian_berry)



[facebook.com/sianberrygreen](https://www.facebook.com/sianberrygreen)