

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

Our reference: MGLA150322-6854

Date: 11 April 2022

Dear

Thank you for your request for information which the Greater London Authority (GLA) received on 14 March 2022. Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information regulations (EIR) 2004.

Our response to your request is as follows:

1. As a preliminary question we would be grateful if you could confirm the present status

The [London Environment Strategy](#) was published in 2018 as was the Mayor's [1.5°C Compatible Climate Action Plan](#). These documents outlined the strategy for delivering net zero emissions in London by 2050. The [Mayor's Transport Strategy](#) was also published in 2018 and outlines how transport in London needs to be decarbonised. In 2021, the Mayor was re-elected with a manifesto commitment to reduce emissions to net zero by 2030. Following that accelerated ambition, in January 2022, the Mayor published [further analysis](#) on possible pathways to achieving net zero in London by 2030, alongside a [response](#) explaining the Mayor's preferred pathway and the rationale for that choice. This preferred pathway to net zero by 2030 now replaces the previous trajectory in the 1.5°C Plan.

Two progress reports have been published since the publication of the London Environment Strategy. These can be found [here](#) and [here](#), and they summarise actions taken by the Mayor against the policies and proposals in the London Environment Strategy.

Progress in the GLA and GLA group in reducing its own emissions between 2016 and 2020 is shown in the table below:

	City Hall	Trafalgar Square	TfL	London Fire Brigade	Metropolitan Police	London Legacy Dev't Corp.	GLA group Total	% reduction from 2015/16
Year	CO ₂ emissions (tonnes/annum)							
2015/16	1,563	120	1,541,000	13,057	115,627	1,411	1,672,778	-
2016/17	1,506	119	1,427,000	13,435	109,039	1,057	1,552,156	-8%
2017/18	1,314	100	1,306,000	13,359	91,064	991	1,412,828	-18%
2018/19	1,067	89	1,146,000	12,175	78,446	4,987	1,242,764	-35%

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

2. Please provide an update as to the progress made on the Mayor's commitment to funding the woodland projects in Enfield and Havering to add to the Green Belt.
3. Please provide further information on the status Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) extension plan.

We are unable to respond to this part of your request with any meaningful data we hold.

4. Please provide a note of all planning applications in the last 2 years that have been refused primarily on the basis of climate change concerns.

As the Mayor's planning powers are of a strategic nature the GLA is therefore not the local planning authority for majority of applications. However, as per the Mayor of London order the Mayor can intervene and direct refusal on planning applications that fall within the Mayor's planning remit, please see the full detail via link here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/planning-applications-and-decisions/direction-refuse-applications-0>. the full reasons for refusal are contained within each decision letters, we have also included a link to our public access database where you are also able to search individual planning applications [Public Register Home \(london.gov.uk\)](https://www.london.gov.uk/public-register-home).

5. Please provide details of all planning application in the last 2 years have been granted because they will or should be securing significant carbon reduction in the locality and the wider world]

All planning applications which have been considered by the Mayor of London are available on our public access database [link] where you can also use the advanced search to search for decisions made within a specific time period. As the Mayor is not the Local Planning Authority for the majority of applications received, we would not hold the information in an accessible format as requested, however, all the information is contained within reports on the abovementioned database.

Please also note that for questions 4 and 5, we are only referencing 'referred applications to the Mayor'. The Mayor only sees planning applications that meet a certain criteria (primarily based on size). More information on this is available here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/planning-applications-and-decisions/what-powers-does-mayor-have-planning-applications>. We do collate information on all planning applications across London through the London Planning Datahub which you may find useful: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/digital-planning/planning-london-datahub#acc-i-62039>.

6. Please confirm which other community groups/organisations the Council is working with on climate change and noting e.g. those that may have made a Climate Emergency Declaration or adopted any associated plans or strategies.

The Greater London Authority engages the London Boroughs, 28 of which have declared a climate emergency.

The GLA also works on a wide range of programmes relating to climate, including:

- Future Neighbourhoods 2030, in which the GLA is supporting two main future neighbourhoods with capital projects delivering climate action, and then a further ten areas to develop future neighbourhood strategies out to 2030. Each of these neighbourhoods are working closely with local community groups on climate change.

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

More information on this programme can be found here:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/mayor-london-councils-convene-climate-summit>

- The Climate Kickstart Prize will help five London secondary schools to pioneer environmental projects to engage young Londoners in climate action. The winners and their projects are announced on our website: <https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/mayor-announces-winners-of-climate-kickstart-prize>
 - Cool Spaces: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/climate-change/climate-adaptation/cool-spaces>
 - Climate Resilient Schools Programme – a £1.5m programme to enhance the climate resilience of up to 100 schools. <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/climate-change/climate-adaptation/climate-resilient-schools>
 - London Community Energy Fund <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/energy/london-community-energy-fund>
 - Green and resilient spaces fund – £4m has been awarded to projects that will tackle the climate and ecological emergencies: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/parks-green-spaces-and-biodiversity/green-and-resilient-spaces-fund>
7. Please could you provide an update on the Business Climate Change Programme launched in March 2021 to encourage businesses to reduce their energy consumption.

The Business Climate Challenge Programme was launched as a pilot programme in February 2021 and is running in the Better Bankside Business Improvement District with 19 businesses. These businesses are progressing through the pilot having made commitments to reduce their energy consumption over the pilot period. They have received free tailored technical advice from Turner and Townsend on how to decarbonise their buildings and improve the energy efficiency of their buildings.

This programme is being scaled up with the ambition of reaching 250 businesses in the next year. This scaled up programme has not yet been launched but the GLA has a tender out to contract up to ten business engagement partners who will recruit 20-50 businesses each to the programme, when it launches.

More information on the pilot and the scaled up programme can be found on our website here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/climate-change/business-climate-challenge>

8. Please provide details of any other local community action your Council is carrying on to pursue any plans and commitments relating to your Climate Emergency Declaration and any associated plans or strategies.

Nothing further to add.

9. In the Council's opinion, is there any additional support from central government that could assist local authorities in meeting their carbon neutral targets?

There are many things Government could do that would support London meeting its carbon targets, these include:

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

- Redress the balance between electricity and gas levels so that high carbon forms of heating fuel bear the heaviest tax burden, to encourage a switch away from natural gas. This needs to be done in the context of a just transition, to ensure that those who cannot afford to switch away from gas without support are not unfairly penalised.
- Set tighter standards on minimum energy efficiency standards for existing buildings or devolve the powers and funds to set and enforce these standards locally.
- Provide adequate funding for the enforcement of existing minimum energy efficiency standards and remove existing loopholes in this legislation.
- Provide a consistent and longer-term programme that provides financial incentives (e.g. grants, low interest loans) to encourage people to improve the energy efficiency of their homes
- Provide appropriate fiscal incentives to improve the energy efficiency of homes
- Support the development of retrofit skills to meet increasing demand created from the initiatives above
- Ensure London receives its fair share of national funding for retrofit schemes
- Mandate operational performance ratings for all buildings
- Provide a long-term commitment to the funding required to fully decarbonise heat across all tenure types
- Significantly increase the level of the Boiler Upgrade Scheme and the overall size of the fund so that more boiler replacements can be supported
- Set a date for banning the replacement of fossil fuel systems in new buildings and existing buildings. The Mayor's preferred pathway, Accelerated Green, indicates this would need to be around 2025 and 2026 respectively.
- Deliver a successor to the non-domestic RHI to support exploitation of large-scale renewable heat sources, including for district heat networks
- Accelerate the legislation required for both the Market Framework and Heat Network Zoning to continue developing the regulatory and policy framework required to support heat network expansion and growth
- Greater investment in local public transport to reduce car use, including supporting bus electrification and promotion of active travel
- Update the Airport National Policy Statement to be in line with the Government's net zero target
- Put in place a mandate for 10% sustainable aviation fuel by 2030 and support production of sustainable aviation fuel in the UK
- Ensure smart meter roll out reaches all buildings
- Funding and financing for building level solar PV and support for community energy
- Accelerate the readiness of Carbon Capture Usage and Storage (CCUS)

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference MGLA150322-6854.

Yours sincerely

Information Governance Officer

If you are unhappy with the way the GLA has handled your request, you may complain using the GLA's FOI complaints and internal review procedure, available at:

City Hall, Kamal Chunchie Way, London E16 1ZE ♦ london.gov.uk ♦ 020 7983 4000

GREATER**LONDON**AUTHORITY

<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/sharing-our-information/freedom-information>