

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[REDACTED]
(By email)

Our ref: MGLA010520-0588

Date: 20 May 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information which the GLA received on 30 April 2020. Your request has been dealt with under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) 2004.

You asked for:

- 1. A list of all (or as many major ones that are accessible under compliance limits) tree planting projects that have happened in the area under your jurisdiction since 2015 and any that are planned for the future, which have been acknowledged by the council in official correspondences, strategy documentation or press releases in relation to the council's carbon reduction strategy.*
- 2. Copies of the official correspondences, strategy documentation or press releases covered by part 1.*
- 3. A copy of any planning and strategy documents for the projects covered by part 1, which includes details of who is carrying out a project, how much it costs, where it is taking place and the reasons behind it taking place.*
- 4. Details of any tree-planting projects covered by part 1 that is specifically being used in a carbon offsetting project by the council, where the carbon absorption of trees is being matched with emission of carbon elsewhere.*
- 5. Details of any schemes that are in place to ensure the protection of the tree planting projects covered by part 1 - including any guarantees against the risk of them being chopped down, and any guarantees about their being replaced should they die.*

Our response to your request is as follows:

Your request refers to 'councils'. The Greater London Authority (GLA) is London's strategic government and does not operate in the same way as local councils. Details about the GLA's role can be found at www.london.gov.uk/about-us/how-we-work-london. You can find details of London's boroughs via this page: www.london.gov.uk/in-my-area.

- 1. A list of all (or as many major ones that are accessible under compliance limits) tree planting projects that have happened in the area under your jurisdiction since 2015 and any that are planned for the future, which have been acknowledged by**

the council in official correspondences, strategy documentation or press releases in relation to the council's carbon reduction strategy.

The GLA holds information in relation to tree planting projects which have been funded via our grant schemes and tree planting programmes. The GLA does not hold information about all tree planting projects in within the Greater London boundary. None of the tree planting projects funded by the GLA have been specifically related to carbon offsetting as part of our carbon reduction strategy, although many of the projects will help store carbon. Some of the projects funded may be contributing towards borough carbon reduction strategies.

List of tree planting projects funded by the GLA since 2015 can be found on the following webpages:

- Community Tree Planting Grants 2019-20 www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/parks-green-spaces-and-biodiversity/greener-city-fund/community-tree-planting-grants-2019-20
- Community Tree Planting Grants 2018-19 www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/parks-green-spaces-and-biodiversity/greener-city-fund/community-tree-planting-grants-2018-19
- Community Tree Planting Grants 2017-18 www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/parks-green-spaces-and-biodiversity/greener-city-fund/community-tree-planting-grants-2017-18
- Tree Planting grants 2016-17 www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/parks-green-spaces-and-biodiversity/trees-and-woodlands/tree-planting-grants
- Street tree planting 2019-20 and 2020-21 www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/mayor-announces-thousands-of-new-street-trees
- National Tree Week 2019 activities www.london.gov.uk/city-hall-blog/londoners-mark-national-tree-week-planting-80000-trees
- National Tree Week 2018 activities www.london.gov.uk/city-hall-blog/londons-biggest-ever-tree-planting-weekend
- Programmes prior to May 2016 www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/parks-green-spaces-and-biodiversity/previous-green-space-and-tree-programmes

2. Copies of the official correspondences, strategy documentation or press releases covered by part 1.

London Environment Strategy (2018) www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/london-environment-strategy

Climate Action Plan (2018) www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/climate-change/climate-action-plan

Press releases

www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/mayor-announces-thousands-of-new-street-trees

www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/mayor-urges-londoners-to-plant-100000-trees

www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/mayor-marks-tree-week-with-giveaway

www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/record-80000-trees-to-be-planted-in-london

www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/mayor-delivers-40000-new-trees-2

www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/mayor-delivers-750000-to-fund-thousands-of-trees

3. A copy of any planning and strategy documents for the projects covered by part 1, which includes details of who is carrying out a project, how much it costs, where it is taking place and the reasons behind it taking place.

None of the tree planting projects funded by the GLA have been specifically related to carbon offsetting as part of our carbon reduction strategy, although many of the projects will help store carbon. Some of the projects funded may be contributing towards borough carbon reduction strategies. Therefore, these projects are not covered by part 1.

4. Details of any tree-planting projects covered by part 1 that is specifically being used in a carbon offsetting project by the council, where the carbon absorption of trees is being matched with emission of carbon elsewhere.

None of the projects funded by the GLA are being used as carbon offsetting projects by the GLA.

5. Details of any schemes that are in place to ensure the protection of the tree planting projects covered by part 1 - including any guarantees against the risk of them being chopped down, and any guarantees about their being replaced should they die.

The GLA grant agreements for grant funded tree planting projects includes a clause stating that the grant recipient will be responsible for maintaining or making arrangements for maintenance and or replacements for failed trees planted for a minimum period of three years.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely



Principal Policy and Programme Officer
Environment Team

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:

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