

Climate Change Mitigation and Energy Strategy

Environment Committee response to public consultation draft

Recommendations adopted

The Mayor has taken forward several recommendations from the Committee, and these are welcomed.

Longer-term strategy

As recommended, the Mayor has adopted the national target of an 80% reduction in emissions by 2050.

Funding

The Committee recommended a number of improvements to the strategy to make it clear how the necessary £5 billion or more investment in decentralised and renewable energy would be secured. The Committee also recommended that the strategy reflect GLA Group budget plans. The Mayor has responded that the annual monitoring report for the strategy will address funding issues across all areas of action, which is welcome, if it is to do so in a clear and forward-looking way. In particular, there should be an immediate report covering funding for actions towards the 2012 targets. If a monitoring report shows that targets have been, or are set to be missed, the monitoring report should indicate how the strategy and implementation plans will change as a result.

Working with national strategies and interventions

The Committee recommended that the strategy should identify more clearly how the GLA Group's interventions complement national strategies and interventions, and should continue to set out where further government action or policy changes may be necessary to support GLA Group strategies and interventions. The new strategy is improved in this regard.

Recommendations outstanding

The Mayoral contribution to achieving the Mayor's target

The Committee recommended that the public draft of the strategy should contain a set of options for further carbon reduction measures so that, in combination with 'business as usual' projections, committed government plans and the Committee on Climate Change recommendations, the effect of the Mayor's strategy is sufficient to meet his 60 per cent emissions reduction target by 2025.

The public consultation draft points to possible further Mayoral action, but this is dependent on further support, including funding from government and the private sector. Meeting the target also still relies on further government action.

The Committee identified one area where a greater Mayoral contribution should be possible: the Mayoral contribution to energy supply carbon savings reaches a plateau in 2020, whereas the government contribution to energy supply decarbonisation increases rapidly from 2020-2025. The Committee recommended that further London measures to decarbonise the energy supply from 2020 onwards should be identified. The public draft of the strategy does include more ambitious targets from 2020-25, which we welcome. But again these targets are dependent on further public and private funding which is not yet agreed.

The Committee still expects that, since 60 per cent is the Mayor's own target, the Mayor's final strategy and associated documents should include agreed actions and resources sufficient to deliver it. For resources that are beyond the time frame of current plans, there should be concrete evidence that government planning and market expectations are consistent with the strategy's projected resource needs.

Monitoring data

The Committee recommended an annual CO₂ reduction target and annual monitoring reports. Interim targets remain at 5-yearly intervals, not annual. The strategy does state an intention to develop a methodology to enable more timely annual monitoring, and the Committee welcomes this.

The Committee also recommended better data on renewable and decentralised energy generation. The new draft of the strategy places a greater emphasis on mapping London's renewable and decentralised energy capacity. It is not explicit that the actual generation of renewable and decentralised energy is to be measured, nor that capacity and generation information is to be kept up to date through the lifetime of the strategy – as the Committee's previous response noted, both of these will be needed if the achievement of targets in the strategy is to be monitored.

Energy supply

The current draft of the strategy has also developed material on work to enable the delivery of decentralised energy through private investment. The Mayor's response to the Committee's last recommendations pointed to the 2009 decentralised energy prospectus *Powering Ahead* – however, the Committee's discussions with the Mayor's environment adviser in 2010 indicated that private investment in decentralised energy remained a difficult challenge on which progress was being made. The Committee therefore expects to see in the final strategy and associated documents evidence of this progress, providing sufficient detail on how private investment is to help deliver the Mayor's objectives on decentralised energy.

Transport measures

The Committee recommended that key Mayoral transport decisions should have an accompanying statement of the likely impact on carbon emissions. The Mayor's response to the Committee looked forward to TfL's Strategic Assessment Framework (SAF). The SAF has now been adopted, and includes carbon emissions along with other objectives from the Mayor's Transport Strategy. We would therefore now recommend that assessments against the SAF, where produced, should be included in the documentation for Mayoral Decisions.

The Committee recommended that the next draft of the strategy show a range of further options for increasing modal shift, particularly through a more active encouragement of cycling and walking, including in outer London, to reduce CO₂ emissions more quickly. The recommendation was declined, with the Mayor's response referring only to previously-identified measures. The Mayor's Transport Strategy now has a target range for 2025 CO₂ emissions that could be consistent with the CCMEs, but the targets for modal shift remain unchanged and there is no evidence that the possible further reduction would be achieved through modal shift. The Committee's recommendation stands, except that since the next draft of the strategy is final, it should give approved measures rather than options.