

# GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA220421-1273

27 May 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information which the Greater London Authority (GLA) received on 22 April 2021. Your request has been dealt with under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) 2004.

You asked for:

*We have carried out some preliminary research of the London Assembly and note that the Assembly made a climate emergency declaration on December 6th, 2018.*

*It appears that the London Assembly currently supports the Mayor's 1.5c plan from December 2018 and has tried to monitor the progress of Local Authorities in relation to that plan. Our initial research noted that it was difficult to find information directly on the London Assembly rather than collated from Local Authorities.*

*Following our initial review, we would like the Council to provide the following information:*

- 1. Please provide a detailed account of the emissions that are directly caused by the Greater London Assembly, including emissions from energy use, waste disposal, transportation, or any other issues within the Scope 1, 2 or 3.*
- 2. If no figures are available, please provide when the figures relating to emissions will be available.*
- 3. Please provide any detailed information on how the London Assembly has/plans to decrease its own carbon emissions, if any.*
- 4. While the Carbon Offset Funds Survey Results 2019 research looked at the carbon offsets of 35 individual local authorities, it is unclear if the Assembly itself is participating in carbon offsets. Please clarify if the Assembly is taking any independent actions in the realm of carbon offsets, including buying offsets or directly offsetting emissions, and any information relating to such actions.*
- 5. Please clarify if the Assembly has an independent plan from the Mayor's plan.*
- 6. In a previous unrelated EIR, the Greater London Authority reported that it is in the implementation phase of the Mayor's climate action plan. Please provide more information on what the implementation currently looks like and what are the next steps.*

7. *Please outline what steps the Assembly have taken/will take to engage with their own employees, local business, residents, and tourists on this issue of climate change policy, beyond of the advice to engage in walking, cycling, or using public transportation.*
8. *Please provide reference to any plans the London Assembly has regarding climate change adaption, including adaptation to climate-induced flooding and overheating, if any.*
9. *Please confirm how many Town Councils and/or Parish Council/Community Councils in your area have made Climate Change Emergency Declarations; please also provide the names and contact details of each of these.*
10. *Please confirm how your Authority collaborates with any Town Council, Community Groups, and/or Parish Council/Community Councils.*

Our response to your request is as follows:

We asked you to clarify whether your request was aimed at the 'London Assembly' or the GLA and to confirm which parts of your request are for the Assembly and which parts are for the GLA. You confirmed that your request was aimed at the London Assembly.

We believe there may be some confusion of the wording of the motion put forward by the Assembly and we are unable to respond to your request in full. We can however respond to part 6 of your request which is aimed at the GLA / Mayor of London.

The [London Environment Strategy](#) was published in May 2018. It sets out the Mayor's overall vision to protect and improve London's environment. It also sets a direction of travel for the Mayor and his partners who need to collaborate to achieve these ambitions. This set out policies and programme in relation to climate change mitigation and energy mainly in Chapter 6 for energy efficiency and energy systems and then also in Chapter 4 that addresses Air Quality where the emissions related to transport are tackled.

The Mayor also published an [Implementation Plan](#), which focuses on those actions that the Mayor has prioritised to take forward directly between 2018 and 2023 to help implement the policies and proposals in the strategy. The plan included a commitment to report on progress each year.

The '[One Year On](#)' document is the first of these annual progress reports and it summarises the actions taken by the Mayor against the policies and proposals in the strategy, covering the period May 2016 to October 2019. There will be an updated document setting out progress produced later this year but a summary of some of the main actions are included in the text below.

The London Environment Strategy was one of the first city plans to be published that was compliant with the highest ambition of the Paris Agreement. The [1.5°C Compatible Climate Action Plan](#), published in December 2018, looks at the different scenarios London can take to reduce its emissions and to reach its zero carbon target.

The Mayor subsequently declared a climate emergency in December 2018 and in early 2020 brought forward his net zero carbon by 2050 target and declared a new ambition for London to be a net zero city by 2030. The Mayor was re-elected in May 2021 and work is now being undertaken to update our targets in-line with his manifesto commitment for London to be net zero carbon by 2030.

Below are some more recent programme development with some outputs. More information will be available when the update to the 'One year On' document is produced:

- **[London Plan](#)**

- In 2019, [new developments in London](#) achieved carbon savings 40.6 per cent higher than required by national Building Regulations as a result of the London Plan energy policies. Since 2016 and up until the beginning of 2020, planning applications referable to the Mayor have secured circa 21.7MW of solar PV panels.
- Policies in the new London Plan that have made London the only major city in the UK to have a zero carbon standard for both homes and non-domestic buildings too. As a result of the new Energy Efficiency targets in the London Plan we are seeing savings from energy efficiency alone in the order of 16.7 per cent, the highest reduction we have seen since we started reporting in 2011; the same figure in 2018 was 13.5 per cent.
- The new London Plan also introduced policies to fully capture the carbon impact of new development by requiring post-construction monitoring and whole life-cycle carbon assessments, which includes the need to reduce the embodied carbon from construction.
- We are also seeing whole life-cycle carbon assessments being submitted for the first time.

- **[Divestment](#)**

- Divestment work with the LPFA has seen their investments, as of February 2021, in direct extractive fossil fuels, reduced to just £2.9m (0.05% of Assets Under Management (AUM)). So, over this administration, the percentage has fallen from £43.6m or 1% of AUM to 0.05% (ie. A reduction of over 90% of AUM).

- **[A Green New Deal for London](#)**

- The first year of [Green New Deal Funding](#) was announced in November 2020 which is supporting £10m of projects. The first phase of the fund will secure jobs for Londoners, and support the green industries that are crucial to meeting the city's climate targets and recover from the economic and social impacts of COVID-19. Projects funded include:
- **Decarbonising the Built Environment:**
  - North London District Energy Network
  - London Community Energy Fund
  - Old Oak and Park Royal Solar PV programme
  - Solar Together London
- **Green Transport and Public Realm:**
  - Bus electrification and electric vehicle charging
  - 2030 Future Neighbourhoods
- **Green Foundations:**
  - Advance London
  - Better Futures

- **[Commercial Energy Efficiency](#)**

- Business Climate Challenge programme was launched to help businesses tackle the climate emergency and achieve London's net-zero target. The pilot will challenge 20 businesses in the Better Bankside BID to reduce their building energy consumption by 10 per cent in 12 months.

- **Accelerators - Project Pipeline Development**
  - Retrofit Accelerator - Homes - Helps social housing landlords cut carbon and reduce energy bills by drastically improving the energy efficiency of their homes through a 'whole-house' approach
  - Retrofit Accelerator – Workplaces – Helps public sector organisations to design a retrofit programme for their buildings to be more energy efficiency and save carbon
  - Local Energy Accelerator – Supports projects looking to transform the way London generates, supplies, integrates and uses clean local energy in buildings and transport.
- **Warmer Homes**
  - Now in its second phase the programme provides grants of up to £4,000 to improve the heating, insulation and ventilation in the homes of low-income owner-occupiers and private tenants.
- **Community Energy**
  - This provides much-needed support to get community energy projects up and running and delivered.
  - The London Community Energy Fund has allocated over £1,000,000 across 4 rounds since 2017 to support 86 projects across London
- **Solar Together**
  - Solar Together London is a group-buying programme that enables Londoners to install solar panels on their homes at an affordable price.
  - Now in its fourth phase, with around 1000 homes having already had solar panels successfully installed through the scheme.
- **Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ)**
  - The Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) was launched in April 2019 and it will be expanded to the North and South Circular (in October 2021) and London-wide for lorries, coaches and buses (in March 2021).
- **Low Emission Zone**
  - Introduced tougher standards for heavy vehicles operating in the London-wide Low Emission Zone (LEZ) in March 2021. These new standards match the ULEZ emission standards.
  - 12 low emission bus zones completed and reducing bus-related NOx emissions by an average of more than 90 per cent along some of the capital's most polluted routes.
- **Decarbonising the Bus Fleet**
  - Transforming London's bus fleet by phasing out pure diesel buses and committed to purchase only hybrid or zero-emission double decker buses from 2018, with the entire fleet becoming 'zero emission' by 2037.

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

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: [Freedom of information | London City Hall](#)