

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Our Ref: MGLA110221-5789

2 March 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information which the GLA received on 11 Feb 2021. Your request has been dealt with under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) 2004.

You asked for;

- 1. Has your council declared a climate emergency and produced an action plan/strategy or policy that covers carbon sequestration and offsetting? If yes, please attached a copy of the policy/strategy or provide a link to the online copy.*
- 2. Have you, within your existing or planned strategies/policies, considered carbon sequestration and offsetting? If yes, please outline those plans not included in question 1 or attach a copy or link to an online copy.*
- 3. What forms of carbon sequestration have you considered, and which have you excluded? What was the basis of that decision?*
- 4. How have you or do you plan to quantify the extent of carbon sequestration required to offset your carbon emissions within the council? Please provide any figures and equations you have used. What was the basis for using those figures/equations?*
- 5. Do you as a council or your contractors use any of the offsetting schemes ie Woodland Trust to offset your carbon emissions? If yes, please list those used.*

Our response to your request is as follows:

1. The Mayor has declared a climate emergency and London was one of the world's first major cities to publish a 1.5C Climate Action Plan which is compatible with the highest ambition of the Paris Agreement, which is available here:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/climate-change/climate-action-plan>

The Mayor's priority is to achieve actual carbon reductions to achieve his ambition for London to be net zero carbon. The 1.5C Climate Action Plan recognises that it will be difficult to eliminate some residual emissions from old building stock, aviation and parts of industry. London's zero carbon pathway therefore assumes there will be approximately 10 per cent residual emissions and which will need to be offset through negative emissions technologies such as carbon capture and storage or tree planting.


2. The Mayor's London Plan sets a net zero carbon target for major development in which on-site carbon reductions must be maximised first before developers make a cash-in-lieu contribution into the relevant borough's carbon offset fund to make up the shortfall to zero. The London Plan is available here https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/the_publication_london_plan_2020_-_clean_version_0.pdf

The Mayor's Carbon Offset Fund Guidance provides advice to boroughs on setting up funds and how they should be spent and monitored. The Mayor reports annually on the amount of offset funding that has been collected and how it is being spent. Further information is available here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/planning-applications-and-decisions/pre-planning-application-meeting-service-0>

3. See the guidance above outlining how carbon offset funds may be spent, including guidance on solutions such as tree planting.
4. As above, the Mayor's priority is to achieve actual carbon reductions in reaching net zero carbon with an approximate 10 per cent residual emissions. The proportion of carbon sequestration has not been calculated.
5. The GLA offsets carbon emissions from flights through the carbon offsetting service provided by Carbon Footprint Ltd a leading carbon offset solutions provider and using Gold Standard Certified Emission Reduction carbon credits. From 2014/15 – 2018/19 the GLA's offsetting payments were spent on the Zhangbei Dayangzhuang Wind Farm Project in China. In 2018/2019 the GLA's offsetting payment went towards the Nanyang Dankian River Solar Cooker Project in China. In 2019/20 the GLA's offsetting payment went towards a project called "Fuel Efficient Stoves for North Darfur Women" due to the co-benefits around air quality, gender equality and health.

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 Officer – Climate Change 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>