

LONDON ASSEMBLY

February 2026

Environment Committee

The GLA have provided the Committee with information about progress on its Environmental Priorities to help inform the investigation into [London's Progress on Environmental Priorities](#).

While regular updates are provided by the Corporate Performance Report, the GLA has also provided an update on the delivery plan for MD3397 - Delivery Plan: Reducing non-residential emissions was signed in December 2025, therefore its progress was not captured in Q2 reporting as for other mandates

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London Environment Strategy: Progress Against Selected Targets

December 2025

The London Environment Strategy (LES) was published in 2018. Current environmental priorities for this Mayoral term are set out in the Mayoral mandates and delivery plans. This document provides a short commentary on selected LES activities only, and does not reflect the full breadth of progress across policy areas.

The last formal LES progress report [published](#) in March 2024. The report noted that “*the Mayor has limited direct powers over most environmental policy areas, and the actions in this report rely on the efforts of partners, stakeholders and Government to deliver the objectives set out in the strategy.*”

1. Air Quality

Emissions reduction

London has made significant progress following the Mayor’s world-leading air pollution policies, achieving legal limits for toxic NO₂ pollution for the first time – almost 200 years earlier than predicted. The recently published London Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (LAEI) 2022 outlines more of our achievements.

The GLA has commissioned a scientific and technical evaluation to identify actions that would enable London to achieve its existing target of 10 µg/m³ annual average PM_{2.5} by 2030. Stakeholder engagement concluded in 2025, and the project is now in the modelling phase of the evaluation project, led by Imperial College London.

Improvements in London’s fleets

The Mayor and TfL have continued to accelerate improvements in London’s fleets. Since 2019, all new taxis licensed for the first time have to be zero emission capable. The maximum age limit for older, polluting taxis is set to 12 years, compared to 15 years for newer taxis, to help accelerate the uptake of cleaner vehicles. Moreover, since January 2023, all private hire vehicles licensed for the first time must be zero emission capable, and vehicles already licensed by TfL must be no older than 10 years at the time of relicensing. Sixty-six per cent of London-licensed taxis and 62 per cent of London-licensed private hire vehicles are now zero-emission capable or fully electric.

The mayor’s manifesto committed to making the entire TfL bus fleet zero emission by 2030. There are over 2,600 zero emission buses in TfL’s bus fleet, or a quarter of buses on London’s roads. This is the largest zero emission bus fleet in Western Europe.

2. Green Infrastructure

The Mayor is committed to ensuring that more than half of London is green.

Green infrastructure projects

London is currently over 50 per cent green, but maintaining this level will require sustained effort. The Mayor's Green Roots Fund will continue to support projects that increase green cover. Changes to national planning policy and the planned review of the Green Belt may have implications for maintaining this target, although details are still to be determined. Efforts are underway to ensure that any planned release of Green Belt will ensure improved access to high quality green space.

Tree planting

Since 2016, the Mayor has funded the planting of over 620,000 trees and continues to support London's urban forest through the Green Roots Fund. The Mayor also supports and convenes London's Urban Forest Partnership, which is delivering a range of actions to support the growth and resilience of London's canopy cover.

The 2025 target for new woodland creation has already been exceeded. Two major projects at Enfield Chase and Hainault Forest have delivered 85 hectares of new woodland, putting London on track to meet the 2050 target of 200 hectares. The Mayor's Rewild London Fund (RWL) has supported the creation and restoration of more than 305 hectares of grassland, significantly exceeding the 2025 target. The Mayor's Green Roots Fund will continue to support nature recovery.

Waterway restoration

The Environment Agency reports that more than 27km of rivers have been restored across Greater London by multiple organisations. The Mayor's Green Roots Fund and delivery of actions through his Clean and Healthy Waterways Plan will continue to support waterway restoration projects.

The Mayor's Rewild London Fund has also supported significant progress in reedbed creation and restoration, with more than 10 hectares delivered so far. The Mayor's Green Roots Fund will continue to back these efforts, including wetland restoration linked to the Clean and Healthy Waterways Plan.

3. Climate Change Mitigation and Energy

Net Zero 2030

The Mayor's net zero by 2030 target is ambitious. London is making progress in reducing its emissions but achieving a zero-carbon city will require coordinated action, policy change and investment from businesses, communities, boroughs, and national government, as well as the Mayor of London.

The London Energy and Greenhouse Gas Inventory (LEGGI), published in December on the [GLA datastore](#), shows that in 2023, London's CO₂e emissions were 28.61 million tonnes – 37 per cent lower than 1990 levels and 44 per cent below peak emissions in 2000.

The GLA group is also progressing towards net zero. Through the Climate Budget process, the GLA Group has shown that it is currently on track (with measures already funded) to reduce emissions across estates and fleets to 86 per cent below 2015-16 levels by 2030.

Emissions in 2015–16 were estimated at 1.7 million tonnes of CO₂e. They are expected to fall to 0.8 million tonnes in 2025-26, a 52 per cent reduction. Additional measures will be identified to reduce emissions to net zero by 2030 along with off-setting measures.

Solar

Solar PV is one of the areas that the Mayor is supporting through his programmes and powers. It is estimated that current Mayoral programmes will contribute 27.4MW of solar capacity by 2030, through programmes such as London Community Energy Fund; Greener Schools London; The Mayor's Retrofit Accelerator Workplaces; Local Energy Accelerator; Solar Together London; The Zero Carbon Accelerator.

A further 80.7MW has been secured through Planning applications since 2016 (including 13.8MW from applications in 2023), through proposed solar PV from approved referable planning applications. However, data on actual installations is not tracked.

TfL recently agreed a 15-year Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) to supply 80 GWh of clean electricity annually, which is equivalent to powering more than 29,000 homes. The solar farm providing this clean power is in Longfield Essex.

4. Waste

The Mayor has several targets supporting London's transition to zero-waste city. Significant progress continues: for example, in 2023-24, only 0.04 per cent of London's Local Authority Collected Waste was sent to landfill, down from 72 per cent in 2000-01 and 12.5 per cent in 2016-17. However, there are challenges in progressing zero waste city ambitions, including tracking our progress due to data gaps.

Waste and recycling

From April 2025, legislation has been implemented requiring all businesses with ten full-time employees to recycle food and collect dry recycling. However, significant improvements in local authority commercial waste recycling remain essential. London's Local Authority Collected Waste recycling rate was 28.8 per cent in 2023-24. The Mayor has no powers to direct businesses to improve recycling, and it can be challenging for local authorities to introduce commercial services in a competitive market.

Municipal waste recycling performance is difficult to estimate without mandatory reporting by businesses. It is estimated to be 42 per cent in 2020, based on internal GLA modelling and assumptions such as historical Defra commercial waste composition data.

Progress against household waste recycling target has been hampered by a delay in national legislation that would drive up London's recycling performance, including the implementation of Simpler Recycling, Extended Producer Responsibility and a national Deposit Return Scheme. The positive impact of these changes is expected to be seen in coming years.

Increasing recycling in London is challenging as a high proportion of Londoners live in flats (up to 80 per cent in some areas). London also has a highly transient and diverse population with over 100 languages spoken, which can make communicating different borough services more difficult. Compared to other English regions, London is a highly urban environment with limited space for segregation of waste and less garden waste produced.

Food waste

Household food waste volumes have remained unchanged since the LES was published. This is likely due to a combination of Covid-19, Brexit, and the cost-of-living crisis. Data gaps for commercial food waste volumes prevent accurate analysis, and previous plans for mandatory commercial reporting did not proceed under the former Government.

5. Climate Change Adaptation

Preparations for climate impacts include progressing delivery of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS). The SuDS retrofit map, hosted on the GLA website, provides a voluntary record of SuDS schemes delivered across London. Since 2016, the map shows 97 hectares of drainage to SuDS, though this is likely an underestimate due to voluntary reporting.

The London Surface Water Strategy, published in 2025 and developed by a partnership convened by the Mayor, will increase the number of SuDS being delivered through the catchment partnerships work being undertaken. In addition, London Plan policy ensures that SuDS are incorporated into all new major developments.

Reducing Non-Residential Emissions Delivery Plan Progress

MD3397 - Delivery Plan: Reducing non-residential emissions was signed in December 2025, therefore its progress was not captured in Q2 reporting as for other mandates.

Please find below key updates from December 2025 on projects included in the mandate.

Table 2: Reducing non-residential emissions Delivery Plan progress	
Projects	Notes
1. Reducing emissions from London's buildings	
Delivering the Greener Schools initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Greener Schools pilot is supporting 48 schools across 18 boroughs. This includes 10 schools funded via Department for Energy Security and Net Zero's Mayoral Renewables Fund. Twenty projects have completed to date.
Ensuring London's planning policies support a transition to a zero-carbon economy while delivering housing and economic growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> London Plan evidence base work is on track. The 2024 Energy Monitoring Report will be published in January 2026.
2. Supporting a flexible, low carbon energy system	
Delivering another round of the London Community Energy Fund.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The eighth round of London Community Energy fund (LCEF) closed for applications in December 2025, offering up to £630,000 to projects supporting the development of London's community energy sector. Winners will be announced in spring 2026. To date over 194 grant offers have been made through the LCEF over seven rounds of funding since 2017, totalling £2.5 million of grant offers. The second Community Energy Taskforce meeting and the launch of London Councils Community Energy took place on 15 December 2025.
Supporting the GLA Group to consume and generate clean power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TfL is making significant progress in securing further Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), as evidenced by the recently announced TfL PPA comet which will supply 80 GWh of clean electricity to TfL annually, equivalent of powering more than 29,000 homes. The Clean Power Programme is supporting the remaining GLA Group organisations to choose and implement their most suitable clean power solution.

3. Enabling the financing of the transition	
Driving a pipeline of viable and investible decarbonisation projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the Zero Carbon Accelerator, 32 support packages are in delivery and a further 14 are in development. • Focus on supporting Warmer Homes Social Housing Fund recipients and RE:FIT 5 for remainder of programme.
Financing projects through the Mayor's London Climate Finance Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Green Finance Fund continues to be a success, with over two thirds of the £500m commitment allocated to 15 projects to date. Demand from the fifth round of Expressions of Interest is high and so the pipeline of projects likely to be seeking finance from the GFF over the next two years is strong.
Developing a new strategy for enabling London to access green finance at scale.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first Mayor's Climate Finance Taskforce meeting was successfully held on 24 November 2025. Taskforce members are actively engaging to help deliver this project at pace.
4. Tackling emissions from waste and promoting a circular economy	
Supporting London's waste authorities, citizens, and businesses to reduce waste, reduce carbon emissions and increase circularity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The London Plan evidence base is on track for delivery. • The Deputy Mayor is supported as chair of ReLondon, attending regular board meetings.
5. Leading by example and connecting Londoners with our net-zero ambition	
Maintaining London's role in climate leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London Climate Action Week 2025 hosted more than 700 in-person and virtual events and attracted more than 45,000 people to the capital. Activities included launching the Mayor's Green Roots Fund; a seeds giveaway; a Climate Innovation Forum; the inaugural London Climate Action Week Youth Summit at ZSL. • The new London Climate and Sustainability Commission (LCSC) commissioners were announced in December. • The London Energy and Greenhouse Gas Inventory (LEGGI) was published in December on GLA datastore. In 2023, London's emissions were 28.61 million tonnes (MtCO₂e). This represents a 4.7 per cent drop compared with 2022 emissions.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retrofit of the Royal Institution building is slightly delayed due to delays in planning permission and permits for scaffolding. Deed of Variation now signed to extend to March 2026.
Ensuring the GLA Group is leading by example	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The GLA Group's third Climate Budget for 2025-26 was published in January 2025. • Climate literacy training has trained up 402 members of GLA staff so far. • The new Responsible Procurement Delivery Plan was agreed, and is now taking forward actions to reduce supply chain carbon emissions, drive London's circular economy, and improve air quality. A report of case studies on delivery will be published in early 2026.