

# London Borough of Merton: Climate Change Strategy 2009-2012

The future is in our hands



# Contents

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>Foreword</b>                                      | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>Introduction</b>                                  | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>Energy</b>  | <b>12</b> |
| <b>Planning and development</b>                      | <b>18</b> |
| <b>Waste</b>   | <b>22</b> |
| <b>Transport</b>                                     | <b>26</b> |
| <b>Water</b>   | <b>32</b> |
| <b>Biodiversity and natural environment</b>          | <b>36</b> |
| <b>Environmental education and awareness raising</b> | <b>40</b> |
| <b>Procurement, fair-trade and food</b>              | <b>46</b> |
| <b>City knowledge</b>                                | <b>50</b> |
| <b>The governance of climate change</b>              | <b>54</b> |

# Foreword



As Merton Council's cabinet member for the environment I am pleased to introduce our first climate change strategy. It reaffirms our ambition to lead by example and make Merton a greener borough. The strategy presents a number of actions that demonstrate how we will seek to reduce carbon emissions across the borough. Climate change is clearly affecting us all today, but the most severe effects will be felt years into the future unless we all take action now to limit the damaging effects of climate change for future generations. That means we must adapt to the changes in climate which we will experience over the coming decades. Our strategy marks a commitment from the council to fight climate change. There are many small lifestyle changes we can all make that together can make a huge difference in bringing down our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. So we are asking all our residents, businesses and partners to embrace the changes that must take place across the borough so we can achieve our goal of being a truly green borough. Let us all remember, tackling climate change is no longer just a "nice thing to do" it is a "must do" for the sake of future generations and the responsibility lies with all of us. The future is in our hands.

**David Simpson**

Cabinet member for the environment

# 1. Introduction

“Climate change requires everyone to work together to make adjustments to their lives, businesses or communities in order to secure a better future for all.”



# Introduction

**1.1** This strategy sets out how the London Borough of Merton as a council and a community can take action on climate change. Climate change requires everyone to work together to make adjustments to their lives, businesses or communities in order to secure a better future for all.

Every action specified in this document will have a delivery time scale associated with it. The start point for these delivery times is from publication of this document in March 2009.

**1.2** There are nine key themes to our strategy:

- Energy
- Planning and development
- Waste
- Transport
- Water
- Biodiversity and the natural environment
- Environmental education and awareness raising
- Procurement and fair trade
- City knowledge

**1.3** This strategy is the main summary document and should be considered in conjunction with the evidence base document that gives more detailed information on the science of climate change, its policy context and why Merton must take action.

## Why do we need a strategy?

**1.4** Combating climate change is one of the greatest challenges that we face as a society. The environmental, social and economic impacts of climate change are already being felt and they will continue to grow in severity.

**1.5** Merton's community plan<sup>1</sup> 2006-2015 sets a target to cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 15% by 2015 in our borough. This target was developed in consultation with residents, community groups, schools, businesses, charities, local practitioners and many others to create a collective vision. Therefore this represents the principal target that this strategy is designed to meet.

**1.6** This strategy must harness existing activity and communicate to everyone how the community can collectively reach the community plan target.

**1.7** The science is clear<sup>2</sup> that climate change is a reality and it is imperative to act now in order to prevent catastrophic climate change events.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.merton.gov.uk/community/communityplan.htm>

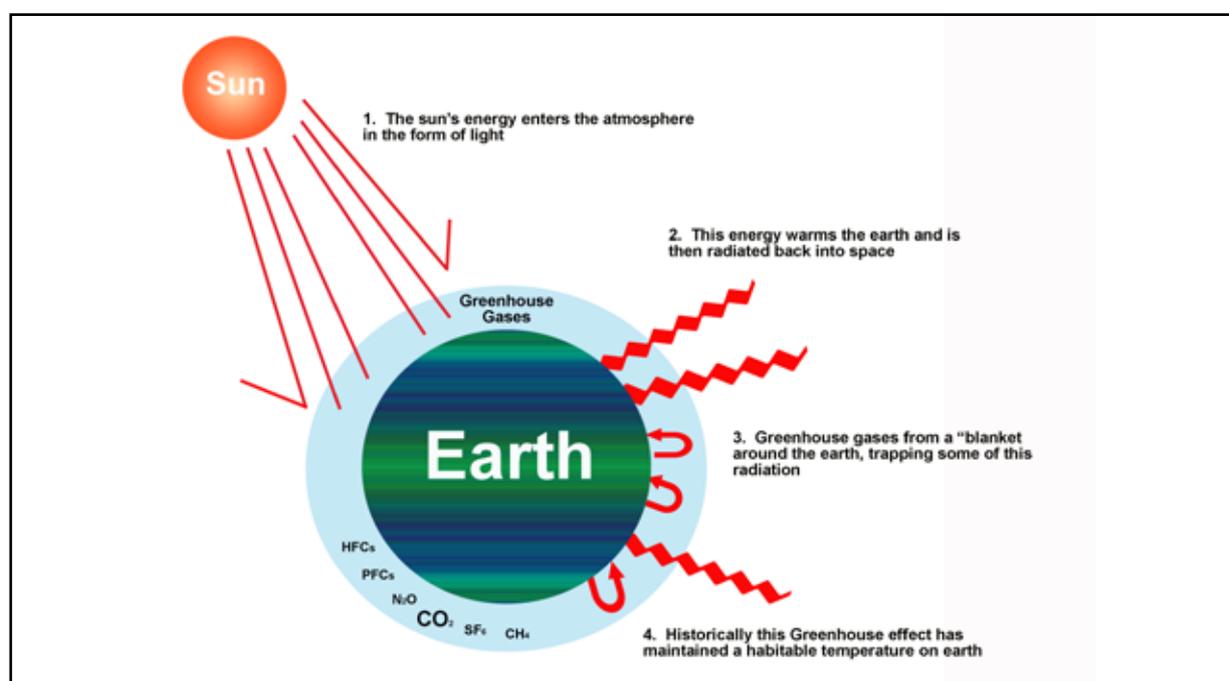
<sup>2</sup> See Merton's Climate change Strategy: Evidence Base for further information. ([www.merton.gov.uk/climatechangestrategy](http://www.merton.gov.uk/climatechangestrategy)).

## What is climate change?

**1.8** The earth's climate is changing predominately because of an increase in greenhouse gases, in particular CO<sub>2</sub>, caused by human activity<sup>3</sup>.

**1.9** The greenhouse effect (Figure 1) is a natural occurrence trapping heat that originates from the sun, and then radiating it back to the earth. Human activity is upsetting this balance causing an 'enhanced' greenhouse effect.

**Figure 1 -The Natural Greenhouse Effect (Source: GLA, 2007:6)**



**1.10** It is predicted that we must stabilise concentrations of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> at 450 parts per million (ppm). Failure to do so will tip the planet over into catastrophic climate change events. Atmospheric concentrations are currently at 384 ppm and rising at 3 ppm each year. This means that there are only 22 years left to stabilize emissions before the tipping point is reached. We must therefore take extensive action now to mitigate such an event and stabilise emissions.

**1.11** We will experience climate change in the next 30-40 years due to our past greenhouse gas emissions and climate change later this century will be determined by the emissions we produce now<sup>4</sup>. Consequently, we must make adaptations to counter some of the possible effects outlined below.

<sup>3</sup> Stern 2006 [http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/independent\\_reviews/stern\\_review\\_economics\\_climate\\_change/stern\\_review\\_report.cfm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/independent_reviews/stern_review_economics_climate_change/stern_review_report.cfm)

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.merton.gov.uk/community/communityplan.htm>

## What will be the effects of climate change?

**1.12** The direct effects of climate change will vary depending on geographic location; nonetheless, Merton's emissions will contribute to the effects both locally and internationally. Research from the Hadley Centre<sup>5</sup> suggest they include:

- Higher temperatures all year: more heat waves in summer; possible disappearance of snow and freezing weather from all but the highest mountains.
- More extreme weather events including hurricanes, flash floods, droughts and heat waves.
- Less rain overall, especially in the south and east in summer (i.e. where water shortages are already the biggest potential problem), although there may be more in the west and in winter (i.e. where excess rain is already a problem).
- More coastal and river flooding. Flood plains and other low-lying areas are at an increased risk.
- More frequent disruption to transport and other infrastructure.
- Increasing risk of failure of infrastructure operating beyond the conditions that it was designed for (e.g. roads melting, rails buckling in extreme high temperatures; drains overwhelmed by rate of rainfall).
- Fewer winter deaths and illnesses as a result of cold, but more heat-related summer deaths and stresses.
- Invasion of pests and diseases currently prevented by cold weather
- Loss of wildlife, especially species near the southern end of their ranges.
- Dense urban areas are likely to suffer worse extremes of summer heat because un-shaded buildings; roads and paved areas absorb and retain solar heat.
- Agriculture will change as we are unlikely to be able to sustain traditional English crops, habitats and landscapes. More irrigation will be required.

**1.13** These points outline the wide-ranging impact of climate change and almost every department within the council will have to respond to either adapt to changes or to help mitigate future effects.

## Policy context

**1.14** Every tier of government has made a commitment to take action on climate change and it is important that this strategy is set in the context of these over-arching policies.

<sup>5</sup> LGA, 2005 (10-11) <http://www.lga.gov.uk/documents/publication/leadingtheway.pdf>

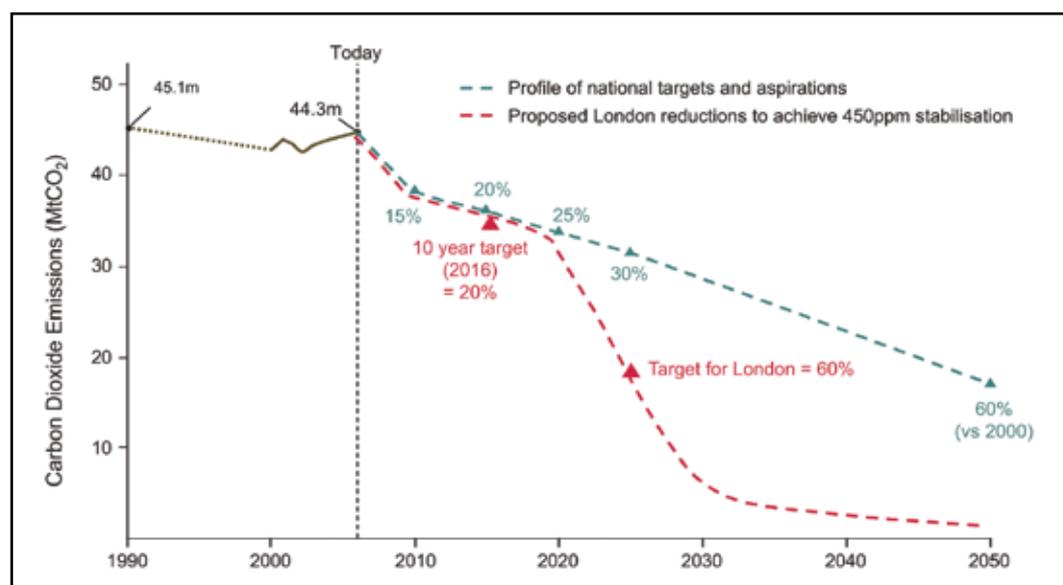
## CO<sub>2</sub> Reduction Targets

**1.15** Following on from the 1992 Kyoto Protocol<sup>6</sup>, the recent international Climate Change conference in Bali<sup>7</sup> concluded with 180 countries agreeing on global targets to decrease emissions of greenhouse gases by 5.2% by 2012 based on 1990 emissions. The UK's contribution is a 12.5% reduction by 2012 though the government set its own, more ambitious target at 20% reduction on 1990 levels by 2010. The recent Climate Change Act 2008 has taken on board the latest scientific evidence and amended the targets to a 26% reduction on 1990 levels by 2020, rising to an 80% reduction by 2050.<sup>8</sup>

**1.16** In response, London's Climate Change Action Plan<sup>9</sup> states that London has to limit the total amount of carbon dioxide produced between now and 2025 to about 600 million tonnes. Meeting this CO<sub>2</sub> budget will require ongoing reductions of 4 per cent per annum. This implies a target of stabilising London emissions at 60 per cent below 1990 levels by 2025. This compares to the existing UK government aspiration of a 60 per cent reduction from 2000 levels by 2050 (Figure 2). The plan adopts these targets and prioritises actions across all sectors to achieve them<sup>10</sup>.

**1.17** It is important that this strategy reflects and complements this plan. By not only meeting its community plan target to reduce emissions by 15% by 2015 but, by looking further ahead, the council and its partners will not only create a better life for residents of Merton but for those of London as a whole.

**Figure 2 - Potential London CO<sub>2</sub> trajectories (excluding aviation)**



<sup>6</sup> Kyoto Protocol - [http://unfccc.int/kyoto\\_protocol/items/2830.php](http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/items/2830.php)

<sup>7</sup> [http://unfccc.int/meetings/cop\\_13/items/4049.php](http://unfccc.int/meetings/cop_13/items/4049.php)

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/latest/2007/climate-0313.htm>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/environment/climate-change/ccap/index.jsp>

<sup>10</sup> [http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/environment/climate-change/docs/ccap\\_execsummary.pdf](http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/environment/climate-change/docs/ccap_execsummary.pdf)

## Benefits of introducing a strategy

**1.18** Climate change must be addressed now. A definite commitment and a clear set of actions that will contribute to this global priority and help Merton meet its community plan target.

**1.19** The council is already doing a great deal of work to combat climate change and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. This document collates this activity to provide an overview and present a way forward for Merton.

This document is the first step in the battle against climate change. Following its agreement an action plan will be developed that will fully detail how we will meet the high-level aims and actions presented in this document and who will be responsible.

## Living Document

**1.20** Rarely does a day go by without a new initiative or technology to combat climate change becoming available. Consequently, this document must react and respond accordingly.

**1.21** This document along with the actions and priorities presented in this strategy must be reviewed as new technologies become available.

## Who will be responsible?

**1.22** Everyone has a responsibility for tackling climate change and it is important to recognise the need for the whole community to work together; everyone should understand the role they can play in addressing this challenge. Everyone must be prepared to make changes to the way they live and support the changes that must be made in our efforts against climate change.

**1.23** The actions presented in the strategy are not mutually exclusive and will require joint working across council departments, across the partnership and also regionally and nationally. Nonetheless, it is important that the council (and others where appropriate) recognises its role as:

- A community leader
- A service provider
- An estate manager

**1.24** The initial consultation<sup>11</sup> on this document has shown the strong opinions residents and organisations hold about climate change. The consultation on this document is just the start of a continued dialogue with all partners and residents who will be asked to contribute throughout the development of our programme to tackle climate change.

## Adaptation/Mitigation

**1.25** It is now widely accepted that a certain amount of climate change is inevitable even under the most optimistic carbon reduction scenarios. Merton's climate change strategy must therefore incorporate two types of response:

- **Mitigation:** those responses that seek to reduce the impact of our behaviour on the natural systems of our planet
- **Adaptation:** those responses that seek to better prepare us for the challenges likely to arise from climate change.



<sup>11</sup> [www.merton.gov.uk/climatechangestrategy](http://www.merton.gov.uk/climatechangestrategy)

## 2. Energy

“The council understands the need for energy and the comfort it provides. However, these comforts can be achieved in a low carbon way if everyone makes and accepts changes to the way they live.”



## Issues

**2.1** 75% of all our energy needs are met by burning fossil fuels (coal, oil, gas) that emit high levels of CO<sub>2</sub>, 22% from medium CO<sub>2</sub> emitting nuclear power, and only 3% coming from low and zero CO<sub>2</sub> sustainable sources<sup>12</sup>. This is unsustainable, not only due to high CO<sub>2</sub> emissions but also because fossil fuels are being depleted and therefore increasing in price.

**2.2** Further, if we continue to use energy produced by fossil fuels at the present rate, we will reach a point where our demand for oil will outstrip supply. Once this point is reached the price of oil will escalate and become increasingly volatile<sup>13</sup>. As such we must find new ways at a local level to reduce our consumption and produce energy that is more efficient to prevent a future energy crisis and reduce carbon emissions.

**2.3** Excluding aviation, the domestic sector contributes nearly 40 per cent of total London emissions. This includes gas for cooking and heating as well as electricity for lights and appliances<sup>14</sup>.

**2.4** The council understands the need for energy and the comfort it provides. However, these comforts can be achieved in a low carbon way if everyone makes and accepts changes to the way they live.

## What we do now

**2.5** The council has recognised the importance of reducing energy consumption by using it more efficiently and using renewable energy where possible for a number of years. We have published a report that sets out the energy conservation measures needed to improve energy efficiency in residential accommodation by 30% over the next 10 years.

**2.6** To ensure we lead by example the council is 'getting its own house in order' and has employed a full-time energy and sustainability manager who is charged with reducing energy consumption in the council's own buildings.

**2.7** Other current actions include work to examine the possibilities of implementing a District Heat and Power network in Merton and the procurement of green energy by the council's street management division, which is also planning to phase in low wattage street lamps

<sup>12</sup> More information of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from energy consumption can be found: GLA (2007:107) [http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/environment/climate-change/docs/ccap\\_fullreport.pdf](http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/environment/climate-change/docs/ccap_fullreport.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> <http://postcarboncities.net/>

<sup>14</sup> GLA (p33) [http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/environment/climate-change/docs/ccap\\_fullreport.pdf](http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/environment/climate-change/docs/ccap_fullreport.pdf)

## Case Study

### Setting up an Energy Services Company (ESCO)

In 1999 Woking Borough Council entered into a joint venture with a Danish company to set up an ESCO called Thameswey Energy Limited. This company has used private finance to build and run a district wide combined heat and power network that provides customers (including the council) with sustainable energy at an affordable cost in comparison with normal energy providers. It can do this, despite the higher cost of the sustainable energy plant, due to the long-term payback from the plant by the sale of heating, cooling and electricity.

Due to the way the ESCO is set up, the council only has to contribute 4% of the capital cost of any project; that's just £40,000 for every £1,000,000 invested. This investment allowed the council in 2007 to purchase 90% of its thermal energy and 11.5% of its electrical energy from local sustainable sources.

For further details visit: - [www.ideascentre.co.uk/download/file?ref=68](http://www.ideascentre.co.uk/download/file?ref=68)

# Energy

| Issues  | Key action  | Adaptation/<br>Mitigation | By when   |
|---|---|---------------------------|-----------|
| We want more of Merton's energy to come from green sources  | Actively seek private sector partners for setting up Energy Services Company (ESCo)           | Mitigation/<br>Adaptation | 1-5 Years |
|   | Develop an integrated low-carbon district heat and power networks                             | Mitigation                | 1-5 Years |
|   | Procure "green" electricity for council buildings wherever possible                           | Mitigation                | 1-3 Years |
| We want to reduce the energy used and wasted in homes and businesses across the borough           | Build on successful home insulation and boiler replacement programmes                         | Mitigation                | Current   |
|   | Investigate possibility of loan facility for private renewable technology installations       | Mitigation                | 1-2 Years |
| We want to reduce the energy use and CO <sub>2</sub> emissions of Merton Council's building stock | Determine current CO <sub>2</sub> emissions and monitor progress of CO <sub>2</sub> reduction | Mitigation                | 1-5 Years |
|   | Reduce CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from the council owned buildings                             | Mitigation                | 1-2 Years |
|   | Enforce energy saving measures throughout the council   | Mitigation                | Current   |

## What you can do

### Avoid the need for energy

- Do not use unnecessary electrical items or lights.
- Turn appliances off properly. Do not leave them on standby.

### Use energy more efficiently

- Replace your light bulbs: low energy light bulbs save energy and last longer (saving you money).
- Improve the insulation in your homes.
- Draft proof all windows and doors.

- ▶ Turn your thermostat and the wash cycle on your washing machine down - every degree can make a difference.

## Use renewable energy

- ▶ Consider installing renewable energy into your homes. There are many grants available – please visit our website for information.
- ▶ Purchase green energy: energy companies have started to supply ‘green energy’ that is generated by renewable energy sources and available via the grid.



# 3. Planning and Development

“Over a third of all CO<sub>2</sub> emissions come from buildings. Planning can ensure that new developments (including extensions) and communities are designed to be more energy efficient and sustainable.”



# Planning and Development

## Issues

**3.1** Over a third of all CO<sub>2</sub> emissions come from buildings. Planning can ensure that new developments (including extensions) and communities are designed to be more energy efficient and sustainable. However, it is important that individuals and businesses, such as house builders, support the council to make these changes.

## What we do now

**3.2** The council's planning powers enable us to promote low carbon lifestyles through development control and spatial planning (how and where buildings are built). The Local Development Framework<sup>15</sup> and other guidance documents such as the 'Sustainability Check-list' already set out specific measures that new developments should incorporate. Merton's most recognised achievement, the Merton Rule 10% policy, was included in our Unitary Development Plan (UDP) after it was considered necessary to have a policy that required rather than encouraged developers to use renewable energy.

### Case Study – The Merton Rule

The 'Merton Rule' is the groundbreaking planning policy, developed by Merton Council, which requires the use of renewable energy onsite to reduce annual carbon dioxide emissions in the built environment.

The council is currently updating the Merton Rule to include all developments taking place in the borough. It is the council's policy to try and work with developers to bring about change in the built environment. To this end we are working on ways to develop the Merton Rule to make it more flexible, in recognition of the difficulties of fitting highly individual projects into a 'one size fits all' policy.

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.merton.gov.uk/living/planning/planningpolicy/ldf.htm>

## Planning Action Table

| Issues  | Key action   | Adaptation/<br>Mitigation | By when   |
|---|--|---------------------------|-----------|
| New developments add to the energy load and increase CO <sub>2</sub> emissions  | Extend the Merton Rule to include residential developments   | Mitigation                | 1-3 Years |
|   | Ensure that large development sites incorporate Combined Heat and Power and/or District Heat and Power                         | Mitigation                | Current   |
|   | Require all new domestic developments to be built to the highest standards of sustainable design and construction              | Mitigation                | 1-2 Years |
| Developments can impact on local jobs, shops, leading to greater pressure on transport. They can also affect biodiversity | Ensure that all developments over a certain size to be mixed use, incorporating housing, shops and employment                  | Mitigation                | Current   |
|   | Write planning policies that strongly promote a wide range of sustainability issues  | Mitigation / Adaptation   | 1-5 Years |
|   | Define and implement a set of biodiversity criteria that must be met by all new developments                                   | Mitigation / Adaptation   |           |
| We need to come up with innovative solutions to generating green energy in Merton   | Initiate a public consultation process regarding the siting of wind turbines on open spaces to generate electricity for Merton | Mitigation                | 1-2 Years |
|   | Identify possible sites for alternative energy generation infrastructure   | Mitigation                | 1-2 Years |

## What you can do

- Use our sustainable buildings planning guidance: if you are planning changes to your home, look at ways of making it more sustainable.
- Support energy efficient design measures in new buildings.
- Support and enable the erection of renewable energy technologies across borough.

## 4. Waste

“The UK throws away 14 billion plastic bags every year many of which end up disrupting fragile marine and land based eco-systems.”



160

## Issues

**4.1** Managing waste is an essential part of combating climate change. In 2006/07 total household waste produced in Merton was 75, 363 tonnes. This is similar to the previous six years although more of this waste is now being recycled than ever before.

## What we do now

**4.2** Merton has already made excellent progress and our Municipal Waste Strategy 2005-2021<sup>16</sup> sets out our current performance and future projections. Merton has a largely effective kerbside-recycling scheme in place and has the capacity to take more recycled waste. The council provides an 'on-request' service for garden waste disposal and is also conducting a trial of food waste collections while at the same time promoting household composting by providing cut-price compost bins. There is an education programme for primary and secondary schools<sup>17</sup>.

**4.3** The council's trading standards department monitors the packaging used by local businesses in an effort to reduce unnecessary waste going to landfill and has initiated a strong communications campaign aimed at local business.

**4.4** We also promote waste reduction through the Vine Project, an innovative re-use and repair enterprise operation. This is a good example of how the council works in partnership to both reduce waste to landfill and support vulnerable households<sup>18</sup>.

### Case Study – Merton 'Bag for Better Lives'

The UK throws away 14 billion plastic bags every year many of which end up disrupting fragile marine and land based eco-systems. To combat this, local climate change action group Sustainable Merton, in conjunction with local businesses and the council, produced and distributed 3,000 cotton shopping bags throughout the Merton Park area.

One day this may be seen as the first step on the road to making Merton the first plastic bag free borough in London.

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.merton.gov.uk/municipal-waste-strategy> ([www.merton.gov.uk/climatechangestrategy](http://www.merton.gov.uk/climatechangestrategy)).

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.merton.gov.uk/living/environment/recyclingwastemanagement/wasteeducation.htm>

<sup>18</sup> [http://intranet/vine\\_project.pdf](http://intranet/vine_project.pdf)

### Case Study – Power from waste

New technology allows us to divert large proportions of waste from landfill and turn it into energy. Anaerobic digestion and pyrolysis are two techniques that hugely reduce the volume of waste while generating useful biogas. This gas can then be used to power energy generating systems. This elegant relationship between waste disposal and energy generation points the way towards a sustainable future where waste no longer has to go to landfill and low-carbon energy can be generated for the borough.

## Waste Action Table

| Issues   | Key action   | Adaptation/<br>Mitigation | By when   |
|--|--|---------------------------|-----------|
| We want to reduce the amount of waste Merton sends to landfill                               | Promote the waste hierarchy of: reduce, reuse and recycle in homes, schools and businesses           | Mitigation                | 1-2 Years |
|  | Increase recycling of household and commercial waste   | Mitigation                | 1-2 Years |
|  | Work with the Chamber of Commerce to increase levels of commercial recycling                         | Mitigation                | 1-2 Years |
| How do we make something useful out of the waste we do produce?                              | Work towards introducing Advanced Thermal Treatment (pyrolysis) and Anaerobic Digestion technologies | Mitigation                | 1-5 Years |
|  | Increase the tonnage of waste to be composted  | Mitigation                | 1-2 Years |
| Too much waste is generated unnecessarily by excessive packaging and disposable plastic bags | Work with residents and businesses to make Merton the first plastic bag free borough in London       | Mitigation                | 1-2 Years |
|  | Lobby Government to set guidelines on excess packaging   | Mitigation                | 1-5 Years |

### What you can do

- Reduce waste
  - Take your own reusable bags when shopping.
  - Avoid buying unnecessary packaging.
  - Use reusable cups, plates and so on when holding events.
- Re-use/Recycle waste
  - Conform to the council's recycling regime.
  - Identify local charities that will take unwanted goods.

# 5. Transport

“It is estimated that 40 per cent of an average UK citizen’s contribution to CO<sub>2</sub> comes from transport.”



2553

# Transport

## Issues

**5.1** Greenhouse gas emissions from transport are growing at a faster rate than in any other activity in the UK, with 29% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions coming from transport. This is expected to rise, with car traffic increasing to 22% above 2000 levels by 2010.

**5.2** It is estimated<sup>19</sup> that 40 per cent of an average UK citizen's contribution to CO<sub>2</sub> comes from transport. Almost three quarters of this can be attributed to car use, with almost a quarter coming from flying. Consequently, changes that will do most to reduce individuals' transport emissions include cycling, walking, using public transport, buying lower-carbon cars, and driving more efficiently, for example by braking more gently ('eco-driving').

## What we do now

**5.3** Transport is a key element in the fight against climate change and the council has already taken action as both a provider and facilitator.

**5.4** The council worked in partnership and showed innovation in transport sustainability by helping develop the Merton-Croydon Tramlink and facilitating the improvement of interchange opportunities such as the new Eastfields station.

**5.5** The council has promoted and helped implement a successful 'walking bus' programme for primary schools, a 'Walk on Wednesday initiative and two 'walk to school weeks' a year. The council has also been proactive in supporting schools to produce and implement their own travel plans; 90% currently have a new plan in place which is 20% higher than the London target.

**5.6** There are many deterrents to using sustainable transport and the council is already undertaking a wide-range of road safety initiatives to encourage people to walk or cycle. Additionally the council is promoting sustainable transport through Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ) that reduce commuter parking, sustainable transport action plan, cycling measures such as contributing to the expansion of the London Cycle Network Plus (LCN+), and the development of a Sustainable Travel Action Plan to address the reasons why people choose other options.

**5.7** Internally the council is producing its own travel plan that will act as a good start in changing travel behaviour. It has already developed an ongoing travel awareness campaign to promote walking, cycling through a salary sacrifice programme, public transport season ticket loan and car sharing.

<sup>1</sup> IPPR (2007) <http://www.ippr.org/publicationsandreports/publication.asp?id=541>

## Case Study



### **Tramlink**

Recognising the need to improve public transport accessibility and encourage increased use of public transport, Merton was part of a joint project connecting major town centres and residential areas in south London through the Wimbledon to Croydon Tramlink.

As a direct result of introducing Tramlink, 7,028 vehicles a day have been removed from the road network (Transport Supply and Demand Study). Car usage has dropped from 59% to 32% on weekdays and from 72% to 41% at weekends along the tram routes; a decrease of 27% and 31% respectively.

# Transport

## Action Table

| Issues  | Key action   | Adaptation/<br>Mitigation | By when           |
|---|--|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Too many journeys in Merton are made by car causing congestion and emitting CO <sub>2</sub>         | Implement a borough wide Travel Plan and liaise with neighbouring councils to improve cross council transport                          | Mitigation                | 1 - 3 Years       |
|   | Improve and promote walking and cycling facilities across the borough coupled with a borough wide walking and cycling mapping exercise | Mitigation                | 1-5 Years         |
|   | Look at ways to promote car clubs and alternative fuelled vehicles such as electric cars and hybrids.                                  | Mitigation                | Current – 2 Years |
|   | Promote car free developments and car-pooling  | Mitigation                | 1-2 Years         |
|   | Increase amount of secure cycle storage at major shopping areas and transport hubs   | Mitigation                | 1-5 Years         |
| The council needs to lead by example in trying to reduce transport's contribution to climate change | Trial the use alternative fuels for council vehicles   | Mitigation                | 1-6 Months        |
|   | Improve cycle storage and install changing facilities throughout council buildings to encourage running and cycling to work            | Mitigation                | 1-5 Years         |
| The school run is a major source of congestion and CO <sub>2</sub>                                  | Introduce and promote more "walking buses" for school children   | Mitigation                | 1-2 Years         |
|   | Work with schools to ensure that every one has a SMART travel plan   | Mitigation                | 1-6 Months        |

## Case Study

### The benefit of car clubs

Car clubs are neighbourhood-based services offering access to car use on demand. Car clubs have been operating in continental Europe for over a decade. There are currently two car club schemes active in Merton.

BCS, the German car sharing association, reports that car club members cut their annual car mileage by up to 70% over five years. In the German city of Bremen, 28 car club members shared 3 vehicles in 1990. Today 2,200 people in a city with a population of 540,000 share 90 cars across the city. Members have cut their annual car mileage by an average of 3,500 miles and 500 to 700 private cars have been replaced, winning back 2.5km of street space.

## What you can do

- Make short journeys by sustainable transport. Walking or cycling will also improve your health.
- Encourage your children to participate in the walking school bus - or set one up if it doesn't exist.
- Change your fuel type: when buying a new car consider purchasing an alternatively fuelled vehicle or one that emits less CO<sub>2</sub>.
- Work on your driving skills: gentle braking, slower acceleration and lower speeds reduce fuel consumption and air pollution.
- Turn off your car engine when you are likely to be stationary for more than 30 seconds.
- Join a Car Club.



## 6. Water

“On the whole, the yearly amount of rain in London and the South-East has decreased over the last few years and is forecast to continue.”



# Water

## Issues

**6.1** Scientific evidence strongly argues that global warming is likely to intensify the water cycle, reinforcing existing patterns of water scarcity and abundance<sup>20</sup>. A primary consequence will be less rain overall, especially in the south and east. On the whole, the yearly amount of rain in London and the South-East has decreased over the last few years and is forecast to continue.

## What we do now

**6.2** The council already understands that water is a precious resource that must be managed sustainably. As such, we have undertaken detailed work to identify opportunities to sustainably manage water across the borough. We have effective emergency planning procedures in place to ensure services continue if there are floods and we have started to identify changes to water intensive services to reduce consumption.

### **Case Study – Porous surfaces in front Gardens**

Paving over all or part of your front garden to create a parking area for your car has two worrying knock on effects:-

- Increased levels of water runoff leading to higher risks of flash flooding
- Loss of biodiversity

Using porous paving materials allows rain water to be absorbed reducing the risk of flooding and the council will work with residents to ensure that these materials are used whenever possible.

<sup>20</sup> Stern (2006:2) [http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/3/6/Chapter\\_1\\_The\\_Science\\_of\\_Climate\\_Change.pdf](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/3/6/Chapter_1_The_Science_of_Climate_Change.pdf)

## Water Action Table

| Issues   | Key action   | Adaptation/<br>Mitigation | By when    |
|--|--|---------------------------|------------|
| We need to reduce the amount of water we use                 | Require water saving equipment in new building developments and renovation work            | Mitigation/<br>Adaptation | 1-5 Years  |
|  | Campaign for repairing of water leaks and promote public awareness of water use            | Adaptation                | 1-5 Years  |
|  | Encourage the installation of water meters in homes and businesses                         | Mitigation/<br>Adaptation | 1-2 Years  |
| Merton is vulnerable to flash flooding during heavy rainfall | Require sustainable urban drainage systems in new developments                             | Mitigation/<br>Adaptation | 1-6 Months |
|  | Use porous hard surfaces to aid natural drainage and alleviate urban flash flooding        | Adaptation                | Current    |
|  | Map water usage and drainage so as to better understand how to deal with flood and drought | Adaptation                | 1-2 Years  |

## What you can do

### Use less water

- Wait until you have a full load before switching on your washing machine and dishwasher.
- Displace water in your toilet cistern and save water when you flush. You can get a free water saving device from Thames Water ([www.thameswater.co.uk](http://www.thameswater.co.uk)) and save up to three litres per flush.

### Waste less water

- Ensure that leaky taps are repaired quickly.
- Turn off taps when not in direct use e.g. while brushing your teeth.

### Recycle more

- Grey water (non-drinking water) can be recycled for other uses such as flushing toilets or watering gardens. Collect shower and bath water in a water butt and use this water to water your garden. South East Water (<http://www.southeastwater.co.uk>) offers discounts on water butts.

### Regulate

- Purchase a water butt and harvest rainwater for watering your garden.

## 7. Biodiversity and the natural environment

“The Council will use the powers available to protect and develop such spaces across the borough. Part of this programme will involve the replacement of inappropriate trees and plants with more suitable species for the location.”



# Biodiversity and natural environment action table

## Issues

**7.1** The biodiversity of the UK is vital in the fight against climate change. Tree cover, as opposed to simply tree numbers, will become increasingly important as climate change progresses. As well as converting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions into oxygen, trees will be a valuable resource in the UK as the climate warms providing shade for buildings in summer, shelter in winter, and will help absorb water during heavy downpours. However, as the climate changes Merton will see changes in the natural environment and many natural habitats are at risk of dying out.

**7.2** The importance of biodiversity in terms of the benefits it can bring and also the challenges it faces are well documented<sup>21</sup>. The council will use the powers available to protect and develop such spaces across the borough. Part of this programme will involve the replacement of inappropriate trees and plants with more suitable species for the location.

## What we do now

**7.3** Merton's open space strategy<sup>22</sup> (MOSS) identifies the environmental benefits of open space and outlines a commitment to maintaining them. Within this context of MOSS the council has worked with a number of local groups to develop their natural surroundings such as on Cannon Hill Common.

**7.4** The council understands the need to manage these open spaces sustainably. The council will look to use electric vehicles where possible, use recycled materials for playgrounds, use recycled water to irrigate bowling greens in a number of parks. In addition, we are exploring the use of green roofs on park buildings and have moved to a more sustainable approach to planting. We incorporate green waste bays into parks to recycle green waste easily and also promote cycling and walking across the borough.

**7.5** The current Unitary Development Plan<sup>23</sup> contains a section on the natural environment and this is carried through into the forthcoming Local Development Framework<sup>24</sup> that has a chapter dedicated to the natural environment.

## Case Study

### Wandle Valley Regional Park

An ambitious plan to create a new regional park along the banks of the Wandle river is well underway. The project will draw on the earlier experiences in European Regional Parks in Saarland (Germany) and Amsterdam (Netherlands),

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/biodiversity/index.htm>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.merton.gov.uk/living/environment/openspaces/moss.htm>

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.merton.gov.uk/udp.htm#udp-online>

<sup>24</sup> See chapter four of <http://merton-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/planning/dc/dcpo>

engaging Merton, Wandsworth, Croydon and Sutton, key statutory agencies, the Wandle Forum of local communities, young citizens and adults, but also particularly targeting the large number of businesses and industrial estates as key stakeholders.

This practical engagement process will be led by Groundwork (which already works with some industrial estates) with the Wandle Forum. The aim will be to integrate a regional park plan with wider regeneration objectives for the Valley.

| Issues  | Key action   | Adaptation/ Mitigation  | By when    |
|---|--|-------------------------|------------|
| Trees absorb CO <sub>2</sub> and provide shade. Can Merton maximise both these attributes in its green areas. | Increase programme of urban tree planting and sustainably manage existing trees                  | Mitigation / Adaptation | 1-5 years  |
|   | Promote carbon offsetting schemes such as the “Woodland Trust” for residents and businesses      | Mitigation              | 1-2 Years  |
| Our natural eco-systems will come under increasing stress due to climate change                               | Nature reserves to be increased and protected as a resource for raising awareness of eco-systems | Adaptation              | 1-2 Years  |
|   | Biodiversity should be considered in relation to every development                               | Mitigation              | 1-2 Years  |
| Merton is vulnerable to flash flooding during heavy rainfall  | Use tree and shrub planting as a way of absorbing water and helping to prevent flash flooding    | Adaptation              | 2-5 Years  |
| Forests around the world are being harvested unsustainably to supply construction timber                      | Promote the use of only sustainably managed timber in new buildings and renovation work          | Mitigation              | 1-6 Months |

## What you can do

- Feed the birds.
- Put up nesting boxes.
- Create a wildlife area. This could range from a small window box to a pond.
- Sponsor a wildlife project – contact the council to see if your business could sponsor a local project.
- Consider adding features to promote wildlife to existing and new buildings such as a green roof.

## 8. Environmental education and awareness raising

“The importance of educating people of all ages about environmental sustainability has been a long-standing focus of the council.”



# Environmental education and awareness raising

## Issues

**8.1** More than ever before people are concerned for the future of the planet and the well-being of people in all countries. The effects of climate change are motivating people to change their lifestyles and there is pressure on all tiers of government to respond and facilitate a shift in awareness. Merton council understands that it cannot fix things for people - we can only try to fix things with people. The council can facilitate and sometimes provide the means for action but residents must help their local environment by supporting new initiatives, championing 'green-activity' within their communities, and ensuring they reduce their impact by recycling and adapting their lifestyles to use less energy.

**8.2** The Institute of Public Policy Research<sup>25</sup> has highlighted that over 70 per cent of people accept that they personally contribute to the production of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and thus climate change. But those people also said they did not believe that they had a responsibility to act to reduce their contribution, and just 7 per cent felt they personally could influence it to a large extent<sup>26</sup>.

## What we do now

**8.3** Recognising the importance of educating people of all ages about environmental sustainability has been a long-standing focus of the council – and we have achieved a number of successes. For example, we have established a successful Eco-schools programme, with schools from across the borough participating.

**8.4** Communicating climate change issues is vital. The council has developed a strong relationship with the local press, which understands these issues and is committed to running regular 'green' stories and competitions.

**8.5** It is important for the private sector to play its part, and we work with partners such as the chamber of commerce to help companies 'green' their businesses. In addition, our trading standards department has initiated a campaign to reduce packaging promoting the cost benefits to organisations.

**8.6** Internally, there is already a strong message promoting sustainability at work and recycling facilities are provided throughout the civic centre. The council signed the Nottingham Declaration<sup>27</sup> in 2007, underlining our commitment to tackling climate change.

<sup>25</sup> IPPR (2007:7) Positive Energy Executive Summary.

<http://www.ippr.org/publicationsandreports/publication.asp?id=541>

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.ippr.org/publicationsandreports/publication.asp?id=541>

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/housingbuildings/localauthorities/NottinghamDeclaration/>

## Case Study

### **Signing the Nottingham Declaration**

In November 2007 Merton Borough Council signed the Nottingham Declaration, a voluntary pledge to address the issues of climate change. In doing so, the council has committed to a range of actions, from working with central government to deliver the UK Climate Change Programme to monitoring the progress of its own plans and publishing the results.

## Case Study

### **Working with the local press**

In order to raise awareness levels of environmental issues in a way that would encourage active participation, Merton Council, in association with the local Guardian newspaper works to publise environmental stories and raise the profile of environmental issues to Merton residents, schools and businesses through a medium that is both readily available and accessible.

## Environmental education and awareness raising

### Environment education and awareness raising action table

| Issues   | Key action  | Adaptation/<br>Mitigation | By when    |
|--|---|---------------------------|------------|
| The public need to be more aware of the dangers of climate change and what they can do to help | Hold climate change events and workshops for residents and community groups   | Mitigation / Adaptation   | 1-5 Years  |
|  | Work closely with the local and national newspapers to convey the climate change message  | Mitigation                | 1-5 Years  |
|  | Create and maintain a specific climate change section on the council's website ( <a href="http://www.merton.gov.uk/climatechange">www.merton.gov.uk/climatechange</a> ) | Mitigation                | 1-3 Years  |
|  | Engage with local groups to establish collaborative projects  | Mitigation / Adaptation   | 1-2 Years  |
| To be an effective leader, the council has to put its own house in order                       | Produce annual update report on climate change strategy actions and CO <sub>2</sub> reduction target  | Mitigation / Adaptation   | 1-5 Years  |
|  | Incorporate sustainability actions into departmental and planning processes   | Mitigation / Adaptation   | 1-2 Years  |
|  | Ensure that appropriate council staff have the ability to enforce sustainability measures across the organisation   | Mitigation / Adaptation   | 1-6 Months |
|  | Work on projects with partners in other boroughs and countries and try to create replicable ideas and projects  | Mitigation / Adaptation   | 1-5 Years  |
| How do we engage more effectively with children and inform their choices as they grow up       | Expand the Eco-School programme and other environmental education programmes  | Mitigation / Adaptation   | 1-2 Years  |

## What you can do

- Check if your school or your child's school:
  - Has a travel plan; and
  - Is part of or planning to take part in the Eco-Schools programme
  
- Check if your work place has a climate change strategy or action plan and if not suggest one.



# 9. Procurement, Fair-trade and food

“Buy local produce and support local shops.”



# Procurement, Fair-trade and food

## Issues

**9.1** Supermarkets transport millions of tonnes of produce around the country, creating CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the cold stores and lorries. As well as helping to sustain local industry and making Merton less dependent on external food supplies, sourcing more food and goods locally will help to reduce 'food miles', unnecessary cold storage and the resulting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

## What we do now

**9.2** The council already aspires to procure sustainably wherever possible and this has been acknowledged by the GLA which short-listed Merton for its efforts in good value and green purchasing as part of the Mayor of London's Green Procurement Code Awards. The council is also working with residents to increase the amount of local food sold in markets in its town centres.

## Case Study

### Highways sustainability

Reducing resource consumption is at the forefront of highways sustainability and targets have been included in contracts for the use of sustainable materials in highway works. The main focus is on reducing the use of virgin aggregates, primarily through increasing the use of recycled and secondary aggregates (RSA). This objective is to be achieved by specifying minimum RSA for applications and it is expected that minimum content will eventually be specified for all materials and products used. In 2005, Merton diverted 15,000 tonnes of waste from landfill through the use of recycled and secondary aggregate in highways and construction.

This commitment to sustainability has earned praise from London Remade, a leading advisor and consultant to London boroughs to improve recycling waste management. The contract has also been featured in a number of case studies produced by WRAP<sup>29</sup> and London Remade, and presentations on the contract have been given at five conferences. Most recently this has contributed to Merton's nomination for the Mayor's green procurement code awards.

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.wrap.org.uk/>

## Procurement, Fair-trade and Food Action Table

| Issues   | Key action  | Adaptation/<br>Mitigation | By when    |
|--|---|---------------------------|------------|
| We want to reduce the food miles of our groceries                                | Promote the use of local products and materials, and organic low-carbon food in Merton schools                  | Mitigation                | 1-2 Years  |
|  | Encourage the use of allotments for food production.  | Mitigation                | 1-2 Years  |
|  | Encourage the growing of food amongst the young. Investigate the setting up of an allotment for schools program | Mitigation                | 1-2 Years  |
| The council wants its contractors and suppliers to take sustainability seriously | Require sub-contractors and suppliers to adhere to key sustainable development principles                       | Mitigation                | 1-2 Years  |
| Food producers in third world countries deserve fair prices for their goods      | Support the Merton Fair-trade campaign  | Mitigation                | 1-6 Months |

### What you can do

- Buy local produce and support local shops.
- Where possible try to purchase fair-trade goods.
- Plan your shopping. Surplus food is often thrown away. Think whether you really need everything you buy.

# 10. City Knowledge

“To discover what the total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (from buildings) are across the borough, the council will continue to assess emissions from individual buildings.”

**THE BIG  
YELLOW  
SELF  
STORAGE COMPANY**

CITY  
to better

LOMBARD RD. L & W  
LEADING TO  
DEER PARK RD.

Welcome

### Solar Energy

A clean renewable future  
for Big Yellow

1508

3686

2101

# City Knowledge

## Issues

**10.1** To discover what the total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (from buildings) are across the borough, the council will continue to assess emissions from individual buildings. These are then plotted on the council's Geographical Information System (GIS) map to calculate what the overall carbon 'footprint' is and to measure our progress. The system that Merton is adopting for the sophisticated gathering and processing of information is called 'City Knowledge'.

| Issues  | Key action  | Adaptation/<br>Mitigation | By when   |
|---|---|---------------------------|-----------|
| We need to collect more data about our environmental footprint and do it more efficiently | Create an integrated data base of council activities and departments                  | Mitigation                | 1-3 Years |
|   | Map the energy usage of buildings in Merton   | Mitigation                | 1-2 Years |
|   | Conduct research into residents and businesses energy usage                           | Mitigation                | 1-5 Years |
|   | Create data base for monitoring renewable energy equipment and energy saving measures | Mitigation                | 1-2 Years |



# 11. The governance of climate change

“It is important that responsibility is established at all levels of governance and this section outlines how it could be done.”



# The Governance of Climate Change

**11.1** It is important to state the logistics of governing the delivery of this strategy from the outset. It is important that responsibility is established at all levels of governance and this section outlines how it could be done.

**11.2** Environment sub-group of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).  
The environment sub-group has the responsibility to monitor the delivery of the actions across the borough feeding them back to the LSP.

**11.3** Climate Change Champions (London Borough of Merton)

Climate change champions are being identified within teams across the council and given a day-to-day responsibility to promote sustainability in the areas in which they work. Commitment should include being a link to disseminate climate change initiatives, sharing best practice with other teams, attending a forum meeting every 6 months and importantly implement practical climate change initiatives such as encouraging people to switch off lights/computer monitors and ensuring recycling takes place.

**11.4** Climate change corporate group (London Borough of Merton)

A cross-council group with external partners should be established. This group will be chaired by The cabinet member for environment, and have the responsibility for delivering the actions set out in the strategy.

**11.5** Town Centre Partnerships

Town centre partnerships have a clear role in championing the climate change strategy. They will be able to act as a link between the council, local retailers and other organisations operating out of Merton's town centres. Key outcomes could be agreements amongst organisations to reduce packaging/waste at this level.

**11.6** Local organisations and community groups

Merton has an active local voluntary and community sector and it is important to recognise their role in fighting climate change. Groups such as Sustainable Merton, National Trust, Groundwork and the John Innes Society can work with residents to undertake practical actions and promote environmental issues throughout the borough and play an active role in helping us fight climate change.



British Rail

AJEH

020 8944 0942

www.gardenofeden.co.uk

SMITHS







## Request for document translation

### London Borough of Merton: Climate Change Strategy 2009-2012

If you need any part of this document explained in your language, please tick box and contact us either by writing or by phone using our contact details below.

- Albanian** Nëse ju nevojitet ndonjë pjesë e këtij dokumenti e shpjeguar në gjuhën amtare ju lutemi shenojeni kutinë dhe na kontaktoni duke na shkruar ose telefononi duke përdorur detajet e mëposhtme.
- Bengali** এই তথ্যের কোনো অংশ আপনার নিজ ভাষায় বুঝতে চাইলে, দয়া করে বাস্তবতে (বক্সে) টিক চিহ্ন দিন এবং চিঠি লিখে বা ফোন করে আমাদের সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন। নিচে যোগাযোগের বিবরণ দেওয়া হয়েছে।
- French** Si vous avez besoin que l'on vous explique une partie de ce document dans votre langue, cochez la case et contactez-nous par courrier ou par téléphone à nos coordonnées figurant ci-dessous.
- Korean** 만일 본 서류의 어떤 부분이라도 귀하의 모국어로 설명된 것이 필요하다면, 상자속에 표시를 하고 우리에게 전화나 서신으로 연락하십시오.
- Polish** Aby otrzymać część tego dokumentu w polskiej wersji językowej proszę zaznaczyć kwadrat i skontaktować się z nami drogą pisemną lub telefoniczną pod poniżej podanym adresem lub numerem telefonu.
- Portuguese** Caso você necessite qualquer parte deste documento explicada em seu idioma, favor assinalar a quadrícula respectiva e contatar-nos por escrito ou por telefone usando as informações para contato aqui fornecidas.
- Somali** Haddii aad u baahan tahay in qayb dukumeentigan ka mid ah laguugu sharxo luqaddaada, fadlan sax ku calaamadee sanduuqa oo nagula soo xiriiir warqad ama telefoon adigoo isticmaalaya macluumaadka halkan hoose ku yaalla.
- Spanish** Si desea que alguna parte de este documento se traduzca en su idioma, le rogamos marque la casilla correspondiente y que nos contacte bien por escrito o telefónicamente utilizando nuestra información de contacto que encontrará más abajo.
- Tamil** இந்தப் பத்திரத்தின் எந்தப் பகுதியும் உங்களின் மொழியில் விளக்கப்படுவது உங்களுக்கு வேண்டுமானால், தயவுசெய்து பெட்டியில் அடையாளமிட்டு, கீழுள்ள எங்களின் விபரங்களைப் பயன்படுத்தி எழுத்துமூலமாக அல்லது தொலைபேசி மூலமாக எங்களைத் தொடர்புகொள்ளவும்.
- Urdu** اگر آپ اس دستاویز کے کسی حصے کا ترجمہ اپنی زبان میں حاصل کرنا چاہتے ہیں تو دیئے گئے باکس میں صحیح کا نشان لگائیے اور ہمارے درج ذیل رابطے پر یا تو ٹیلیفون کے ذریعے یا پھر تحریری طور پر رابطہ کریں۔

Large print

Braille

Audiotape

Your contact:

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Telephone.....

Physical Regeneration  
13th Floor, Civic Centre  
London Road  
Morden SM4 5DX  
Telephone: 020 8545 3041