

MERTON COUNCIL

Merton's Climate Action Group Launch

January 2021



Agenda

Item 1: Introduction

Items 2 & 3 : Welcome from co-chairs

Item 4: Guest Speaker

Item 5: Overview of Climate Action Group

Item 6: Break-Out Sessions (25 minutes)

Item 7: Feedback to the Group (15 minutes)

Item 8: Meeting Close (5 minutes)

Welcome from Co-Chairs

Council Co-Chair

Cllr Martin Whelton, Cabinet member for
Regeneration, Housing and Climate Change

Community Co-Chair

Ramy Venkataraman

Guest Speaker

Climate Change Charity, Ashden

Emma Jones

City Region Network Coordinator

Overview of Climate Action Group

Dominique Hill,
Climate Change Projects Officer

Introduction to the Climate Action Group

One Aim:

To generate action that reduces carbon emissions in Merton



Climate Action Group Structure

Co-Chairs

Ramya Venkataraman: cag.engagement@gmail.com
Cllr Martin Whelton: Martin.Whelton@merton.gov.uk

Engagement and Funding

Ramya Venkataraman: cag.engagement@gmail.com

Green Economy

Diana Sterck
Carola Grillo
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Buildings and Energy

Katie Halter
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Transport

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Greening Merton

Kelly Gunnell
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Group Support

Dominique Hill: Dominique.Hill@merton.gov.uk
Katie Halter: Katie.Halter@merton.gov.uk

How the Climate Action Group will work

Want to take
action?
Have an idea?

Come to a
meeting

Build a carbon
reduction project

Zero
CO₂



Merton Climate Action Plan

19%
of borough
emissions

Transport

What you can do:

- Reduce car use in favour of walking and cycling
- Switch to ultra-low emission vehicles such as electric
- Schools and businesses adopt travel plans
- Avoid flying

What the Council will do:

- Support new cycle paths and wider pavements
- Work with TfL for faster transport decarbonisation and vehicle share schemes
- Consult on emission-based parking charges

81%
of borough
emissions

Buildings & Energy

What the Council will do: What you can do:

- Require new buildings to be low carbon and resilient to the impacts of climate change
- Lobby for tighter regulations and further funding for low carbon buildings

- Save energy by switching off appliances and turning down the heating
- Use green electricity
- Avoid gas by buying a low carbon heating system (e.g. a heat pump)
- Invest in insulation and renewable energy

-0.1%
of borough
emissions

Green spaces

What you can do:

- Grow vegetation around your home
- Remove paving from your front garden to plant trees
- Join or sponsor a community planting group

What the Council will do:

- Maintain existing green spaces and plant more trees

Major
contributor
of
emissions

Green Economy

What the Council will do:

- Encourage waste reduction
- Help build low carbon skills
- Encourage green businesses

What you can do:

- Buy green and local products
- Eat less meat, fish and dairy
- Reuse items and buy products with less packaging



What makes for success?

Does not duplicate existing activities



Is inclusive and welcoming

Leverages community-based funding



Causes a reduction in carbon emissions

Theme 1

Engagement and Funding

About the Theme

- Supports all other work streams
- Helps to identify funds for projects
- Aims to increase the reach of the Climate Action Group



Project ideas

- Support Climate Communications Plan/ pledges
- Targeted outreach to community groups and businesses
- Investigate available funding opportunities

Theme 2

Green Economy

About the Theme

- Responsible for the most carbon emissions
- Covers everything that is bought, sold and wasted (food, textiles, construction etc)
- Includes low carbon finance and investments
- Relies on behaviour change



Project ideas

- Encouraging people to reduce their individual carbon footprint
- Reducing emissions from businesses
- Prevention, recycling and reuse projects

Theme 3

Buildings and Energy

About the Theme

- Responsible for 81% of measurable emissions
- Requires all homes to be net-zero carbon through energy efficiency, low carbon heating (replacing gas boilers with heat pumps) and local renewable energy



Project ideas

- Community Energy Projects
- Helping relieve fuel poverty
- Promoting existing help-to-buy schemes such as Solar Together and the Green Homes Grant

Theme 4

Transport

About the Theme

- Responsible 19% of measurable emissions
- Requires a reduction in petrol and diesel cars in favour of cycling, walking and public transport.
- Includes electrification of vehicles



Project ideas

- Encouraging cycling (e.g. the use of cargo bikes)
- Support for School Streets and Low Traffic Neighbourhoods
- Replacing private parking spaces with bike storage, EV charge point or pop-up park.

Theme 5

Greening Merton

About the Theme

- Aims to increase tree cover (currently 28%) by 10%
- Supports community cohesion, wellbeing and helps wildlife to be resilient to the impacts of climate change



Project ideas

- Planting projects on private land
- Encouraging the removal of paved front gardens
- Community growing projects

Any Questions?

Break-out Sessions

- Don't do anything!
- In a moment you will enter the breakout group of your choice.
- You will automatically join the main meeting once the session is over.
- You will get a 60 second warning when the meeting ends

Questions to discuss:

- (1) What projects can this work stream help develop in 2021?
- (2) How can the Climate Action Group help reach residents and businesses who aren't yet engaged in the climate agenda?

Next Steps

Meeting dates

Wednesday 24th February – Green Economy

Wednesday 31st March – Greening Merton

Wednesday 28th April – Building & Energy

Wednesday 26th May – Transport

Wednesday 30th June – Progress Meeting

Keep in touch

- Check the Climate Action Group website or sign up for climate updates
- Contact a community lead or climate change officer

Meeting Close

Chris Lee

Director of Environment and Regeneration

End

