

## SUGGESTED ACTIONS IDENTIFIED THROUGH THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY CONSULTATION

Last updated: 14-02-2020

### About this document

Since the Council declared a Climate Emergency<sup>1</sup>, and committed to working towards becoming a carbon neutral borough by 2050, and a carbon neutral council by 2030, we have been working in partnership with individuals, organisations and communities to form a Climate Action Plan.

This document contains a full list of suggested actions that have emerged from a public consultation, an evidence review, voluntary groups such as the Climate Emergency Working Group<sup>2</sup> and Merton Partnership<sup>3</sup>, and Council staff.

This document is not the climate action plan. Nor is it a commitment to carry out these actions. It is an attempt to capture all of the suggestions received of what we could do as a borough and who might deliver them. It may include actions that are contradictory, are already being done or are not possible for the Council to deliver.

This document will be used to help individuals and organisations to work with the Council to identify the most important actions for inclusion in the action plan. The action plan, once drafted will be submitted to Cabinet for approval.

### Content

The report is set out in the following two sections, based on the format of the climate survey:

#### Section 1: Suggested actions relating to the 2050 borough target:

- Buildings and Energy
- Transport
- Products and Waste
- Green spaces
- Finance
- Behaviour change and engagement
- Potential cross-cutting actions that have not been covered in the sections above

#### Section 2: Suggested actions relating to 2030 Council target

- Buildings and Energy
- Transport
- Procured services
- Responsible investments
- Creating a green and healthy workplace

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/sustainability-and-climate-change/climate-emergency>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/sustainability-and-climate-change/climate-emergency-working-group>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.mertonpartnership.org.uk/>

## SECTION 1: SUGGESTED ACTIONS TO DELIVER THE 2050 BOROUGH TARGET

### SUGGESTED ACTIONS TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM BUILDINGS AND ENERGY

To help and encourage property owners to invest in low carbon measures and reduce energy consumption:

1. Organisations and Council to **raise awareness of existing tools and provide additional guidance to help property owners make low carbon choices:**
  - a. to install low carbon and energy efficiency measures;
  - b. to buy low carbon appliances or smart technology;
  - c. to change behaviour and reduce bills; and/or
  - d. to take up opportunities to use low carbon heat networks.

Through:

- a. an information hub for high quality/ independent information<sup>4</sup>;
  - b. highlighting evidence/ case studies/ lessons learned;
  - c. schemes which assist property owners<sup>5</sup>;
  - d. green “open house” days<sup>6</sup>;
  - e. an energy design guide for existing properties;
  - f. community energy hub to showcase and educate the public.
  - g. energy cafes<sup>7</sup>/ training/ school activities/ working with older residents; and/or
  - h. Greater London Authority Heat map<sup>8</sup>.
2. Individuals, organisations and Council to **encourage action to accelerate the reduction in energy use and switching to green alternatives** through:
    - a. citizen/ business pledges/ champions;
    - b. awards/ competitions;
    - c. publicising good practice (e.g. energy ratings on buildings, etc.); and/or
    - d. creating an energy performance comparison tool.
  3. Individuals and organisations to **consider the case for community energy** and work with the Council to raise funds and deliver, including for schools.
  4. Organisations and the Council to **facilitate local training programmes to address the skills gap** for low carbon technologies.
  5. Council to **increase oversight and monitoring of borough building stock’s environmental performance** to inform decarbonisation programmes.

To help those in rented accommodation to reduce energy consumption and adopt green energy

6. Individuals, organisations and Council to **work with landlords and housing providers to reduce emissions from energy use in their buildings** by:
  - a. setting energy efficiency targets;

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<sup>4</sup> For example see: <https://kagoo.co.uk/washing-machines/save-electricity>

<sup>5</sup> For example see: <https://retrofitworks.co.uk/>

<sup>6</sup> For example see: <https://www.bristolgreendoors.org/events>

<sup>7</sup> For example see: <http://www.crewenergy.london/locations.html>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/energy/london-heat-map>

- b. investing in renewable energy and energy storage; and/or
- c. providing advice to tenants on reducing bills.

Action could include:

- a. tenant action/ with support from organisations or the Council;
  - b. the Council enforcing a minimum energy efficiency standard for landlords;
  - c. getting the rent to include the bills to incentivise owners to reduce energy use/ or split between tenant and landlord to continue to incentivise tenants to limit energy use;
  - d. finding new ways to work with multi-tenanted spaces;
  - e. encouraging energy audits/ landlord forums/ education; and
  - f. enforcing Housing Health and Safety Rating System<sup>9</sup>.
7. Council to consider strategy to **decarbonise buildings rented out by the Council** by:
- a. identifying opportunities to influence (vacant lets, contract variation, engagement); and/or
  - b. planning a schedule of work/ supporting actions.

#### To help overcome the high costs of low carbon measures

8. Council and Organisations to **raise awareness of existing schemes or funding** that make it cheaper to decarbonise buildings, including:
- a. incentives/share schemes such as London Power<sup>10</sup>, Solar Together<sup>11</sup>, Smart Energy Guarantee<sup>12</sup>, Renewable Heat Incentive<sup>13</sup>;
  - b. installation of technology such as smart meters<sup>14</sup>; and
  - c. commercial opportunities such as finance<sup>15</sup>, green mortgages<sup>16</sup>, tax relief<sup>17</sup>.
9. Council to **consider schemes to subsidise the cost of installing low carbon measures** to accelerate the decarbonisation of buildings in Merton. Subsidies may support:
- a. energy efficiency measures (e.g. insulation, double glazing, doors, draft exclusion);
  - b. low carbon heating (e.g., heat pumps);
  - c. on-site renewables (e.g. solar PV); or
  - d. fuel switching to “green” electricity or gas supply.

Potential types of scheme include:

- e. grants/ scrappage schemes;
- f. discounts through bulk purchasing;
- g. loans;
- h. reduced business rates/ council tax;
- i. energy service company; and/or
- j. retrofit services;

Scheme could be targeted towards;

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/housing-health-and-safety-rating-system-guidance-for-landlords-and-property-related-professionals>

<sup>10</sup> <https://mylondonpower.com/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.solartogether.co.uk/landing>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-programmes/smart-export-guarantee-seg/about-smart-export-guarantee-seg>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-programmes/domestic-rhi>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/smart-meters-how-they-work>

<sup>15</sup> For example: <https://www.ecotricity.co.uk/about-ecotricity/our-partners/triodos-bank>

<sup>16</sup> For example: <https://www.barclays.co.uk/mortgages/green-home-mortgage/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/green-taxes-and-reliefs>

- a. all;
  - b. communities/ schools;
  - c. least able to pay (e.g. fuel poor); and/or
  - d. businesses/ organisations.
10. Individuals, organisations and Council to **lobby GLA and National Government to provide a policy framework and appropriate funding/ incentives to accelerate the retrofit of the existing building stock**. Ideas include:
- a. incentive schemes;
  - b. reviewing building regulations and BREEAM;
  - c. rescinding permitted development;
  - d. integrating the cost of carbon in fuel prices; removing VAT;
  - e. providing more funding for innovation;
  - f. Providing greater support for training; and
  - g. using energy assessments as part of social prescribing.

To ensure that all new builds are zero carbon onsite or future-proofed

11. Council to **review planning policies**<sup>18</sup> to ensure that the Local Plan<sup>19</sup> is consistent with the decarbonisation targets. Potential policies include:
- a. requiring net zero carbon on site for all buildings (e.g. equivalent to the LETI<sup>20</sup> standard);
  - b. requiring higher thermal insulation (passivhaus<sup>21</sup>/ future homes standard<sup>22</sup>/ EPC<sup>23</sup> A rated only);
  - c. requiring "green energy positive" buildings (e.g. mandatory PV, maximising on site generation and storage, and mandatory green tariff);
  - d. not allowing any new builds with gas/ pushing for more low carbon communal heating;
  - e. relaxing rules in conservation/ heritage areas (for PV and heat pumps), whilst ensuring it does not undermine heritage objectives (e.g. Mitcham Cricket Green Charter<sup>24</sup>);
  - f. requiring minimum technology standards;
  - g. introducing targets on embodied carbon for building materials;
  - h. encouraging refurbishment instead of demolition;
  - i. limiting the number of tall buildings/ overshadowing/ single aspect dwellings;
  - j. replacing BREEAM<sup>25</sup> requirements with a stricter alternative;
  - k. introducing building performance/ monitoring requirements; or

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<sup>18</sup> Current London and Merton policies go beyond building regulations and require all major developments to be carbon neutral with a minimum 10-15% improvement in energy efficiency over current building regulations.

<sup>19</sup> The Local Plan (<https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/planning/local-plan/newlocalplan>) sets out Merton's policies in relation to planning, including how it conforms to the current national and London policies. It is currently in consultation and is expected to be published later this year.

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.leti.london/cedg>

<sup>21</sup> [https://www.passivhaustrust.org.uk/what\\_is\\_passivhaus.php](https://www.passivhaustrust.org.uk/what_is_passivhaus.php)

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-future-homes-standard-changes-to-part-l-and-part-f-of-the-building-regulations-for-new-dwellings>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.evergreenenergy.co.uk/sustainable-home/what-is-an-epc-rating/>

<sup>24</sup> <https://mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk/2019/11/27/cricket-green-charter-launched/>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.breeam.com/discover/how-breeam-certification-works/>

- I. producing a ground-breaking policy such as the “Merton Rule”<sup>26</sup>.
12. Council to **have a higher level of planning enforcement including post construction monitoring requirements** to verify that correct works have been carried out and that the building performs as anticipated.
13. Council to **review the rate and use of carbon offset**<sup>27</sup> to fund low carbon works in the borough.

To enable appropriate energy infrastructure to support the transition to low carbon energy

14. Council to **work with regional and national government, energy supply companies, UK power network and gas delivery network** to ensure that the borough can accommodate the increase in electricity demand/ reduction in gas demand or switching to a green gas supply to accommodate the predicted growth of electric vehicles and electric heating, and make best use of flexible renewable energy generated and stored in the borough.
15. Council to **continue to explore cost effective opportunities for low carbon district heating**, including as part of the Morden Regeneration scheme<sup>28</sup>.

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<sup>26</sup> [https://www.bre.co.uk/filelibrary/pdf/casestudies/Case\\_study\\_-\\_Merton\\_Rule\\_FINAL\\_110809.pdf](https://www.bre.co.uk/filelibrary/pdf/casestudies/Case_study_-_Merton_Rule_FINAL_110809.pdf)

<sup>27</sup> Carbon offset is gained through section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy through the planning process. The carbon offset fund is paid by developers who cannot comply with current standards for zero carbon buildings (see GLA London Plan Policies).

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/regeneration-projects/make-more-of-morden>

## **SUGGESTED ACTIONS TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IN TRANSPORT**

### To promote the use of active and sustainable travel

1. Individuals, organisations and Council to **develop new and signpost existing tools and information that promote active travel:**
  - a. active travel and fitness apps<sup>29</sup>;
  - b. apps to find efficient, safe, pleasant public transport routes<sup>30</sup>, cycle routes<sup>31</sup> and walking routes<sup>32</sup>; and/or
  - c. information on the impact of fossil fuel transport on greenhouse gas emissions/ air quality.
2. Organisations and Council to **engage in actions to encourage safe active and sustainable travel**, by:
  - a. running media campaigns<sup>33</sup> targeting all individuals/ businesses;
  - b. advertising local amenities and features such as wildlife habitats;
  - c. running training<sup>34</sup>, and providing proficiency badges;
  - d. running league tables, competitions, name and shame;
  - e. implementing behaviour “nudges”;
  - f. providing free safety equipment/ bike health checks;
  - g. reducing business rates / council tax for car free individuals/ organisations;
  - h. running events; and/or
  - i. involving of sports stars in engagement.
3. Commercial establishments and organisations to **promote sustainable travel** amongst staff, consumers and supply chain by:
  - a. prioritising customers using active travel;
  - b. signing up to an active travel commitment;
  - c. improving in house facilities for cyclists; and/or
  - d. providing sponsorship.
4. Individuals, organisations and Council to **lobby Transport for London/ National Government to improve UK public transport service** by:
  - a. accelerating policies for sustainable travel and air quality;
  - b. accelerating innovative alternatives;
  - c. reducing fares for all/ for the most vulnerable;
  - d. retaining/ expanding freedom pass to groups such as the less able;
  - e. making rail cheaper than short flights;
  - f. improving air quality of underground;
  - g. improving frequency, reliability, security, cleanliness and accessibility of public transport services for passengers with needs;
  - h. stopping train strikes;
  - i. nationalising the rail service; and/or

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<sup>29</sup> For example: <https://www.betterpoints.ltd/>

<sup>30</sup> For example: <https://citymapper.com/?lang=en>

<sup>31</sup> For example: <https://www.bikemap.net/>

<sup>32</sup> For example:

<https://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&oe=UTF8&msa=0&msid=115654471215957910704.00000112677f4e8c7f9a9>

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.merton.gov.uk/healthy-living/sport-and-healthy-living/walk-4life>

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.merton.gov.uk/streets-parking-transport/road-safety/adult-cycle-training>

- j. providing more funding for sustainable travel infrastructure.
5. TfL and Council to **consider options to improve public transport service in Merton** including:
- a. Increasing the frequency of services;
  - b. expanding and prioritising public transport over other road users;
  - c. increasing the number of bus routes;
  - d. improving connectivity between different forms of transport;
  - e. making public transport, stations and bus stops accessible to the less able (wheelchair users, buggies);
  - f. improving signage;
  - g. progressing with plans for a tram link to Sutton; and
  - h. extending the London underground and Thameslink services to Morden South and Mitcham.

To create an environment that favours sustainable travel over individual car use

6. Council to **invest in improving the cycling network** by:
- a. segregating cycle paths/ quiet-ways;
  - b. extending the cycle network;
  - c. increasing continuity and connectivity inside and outside the borough; and/or
  - d. improving the condition, markings, signage and lighting.
7. Organisations and Council to **provide secure and covered cycle-parking** monitored with CCTV and located at points of major connection.
8. Council to **encourage more vehicle share schemes**, including bike, electric bike, electric scooter and car clubs, taxi pick up points, dial-a-ride and driverless vehicles.
9. Council to **improve the pedestrian network** and to make town centres and public spaces more pedestrian and disability friendly by:
- a. providing more accessible pavements to those less mobile by making them wider, providing short-cuts and space for transitions (e.g. on foot to wheelchair accessible vehicles) in private and public spaces away from through traffic and avoiding pedestrian subways or bridges;
  - b. providing Council support services for disability/accessibility alerts, complaints, issues
  - c. removing street clutter;
  - d. improving surfaces and gradients;
  - e. providing more benches, shelters;
  - f. providing more time to cross at pedestrian crossings;
  - g. developing a strategy for safer streets<sup>35</sup>, including camera-linked panic points and better lighting;
  - h. ensuring that pavements are clean, gritted, clear of leaves and in better repair, and providing quicker responses to faults;
  - i. making streets more attractive with more local amenities and trees;
  - j. replacing play equipment in parks;
  - k. introducing temporary and permanent pedestrianised and car-free streets and shopping centres;
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- l. providing clearer segregation between “fast” and “slow pedestrians (e.g. cycle paths vs walking);
  - m. enforcing pavement violations;
  - n. publishing minimum standards for footpaths and pavements; and/or
  - o. sourcing more funding for footpath improvements (separate from roadside pavements).
10. Individuals, organisations and Council to **empower communities to become more pedestrian-friendly in residential areas** for example by:
- a. setting-up green and ‘play’ streets<sup>36</sup>/ low traffic areas;
  - b. sourcing seed funding for neighbourhoods to care for locality;
  - c. providing tools, and skilled and unskilled help for neighbourhoods; and/or
  - d. introducing Neighbourhood Watch for street quality.
11. Schools and Council to **work to reduce barriers to cycling and walking to school**, by:
- a. developing travel plans for all schools, which are monitored and enforced;
  - b. working with young residents to identify what these barriers are and to come up with solutions;
  - c. introducing a drop-off ban around all schools; and/or
  - d. identifying and informing students of good routes to get to school (e.g. good air quality and safe).

To ensure new developments are equipped for the transition to sustainable travel

12. Organisations and Council to **create and implement a long-term integrated cycle plan** for Merton to resolve “on street” conflicts between cyclists, pedestrians and road-users.
13. Council to review Local Plan<sup>37</sup> policies to **accelerate a reduction in car use in new developments and offer sustainable alternatives**. Ideas include:
- a. increasing requirements for cycle parking;
  - b. reducing car parking except for parking for disabled, car clubs and spaces for electric vehicle charge points; and/or
  - c. promoting car free residential, commercial and community developments.

To reduce the number of car journeys

14. Council to **introduce further measures to calm traffic, improve safety and reduce congestion**. Ideas include:
- a. introducing a congestion charge;
  - b. expanding and enforcing 20mph zones;
  - c. increasing traffic calming measures such as speed restrictions;
  - d. improving junctions and better segregating road users;
  - e. introducing smarter traffic lights/ pedestrian and cycle crossings;
  - f. improving the enforcement of traffic violations/ more CCTV;
  - g. planning in a “hub and spoke” model for low carbon distribution of goods and services into town centres, more package pick-up points, cart hire, dial a ride; and
  - h. improving efficiencies of road works carried out in the borough.

<sup>36</sup> [https://www.londonplay.org.uk/content/30290/our\\_work/recent\\_work/play\\_streets/play\\_streets](https://www.londonplay.org.uk/content/30290/our_work/recent_work/play_streets/play_streets)

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/planning/local-plan/newlocalplan>



15. Residents and businesses to **identify where community supports increased measures to reduce traffic, reduce parking and support more sustainable travel;**
16. Council to **achieve a net reduction in the number of parking spaces and review parking charges** to discourage the use of private vehicles. This could include:
  - a. replacing parking spaces with electric charge points, disabled spaces, bike parks, parklets<sup>38</sup>, or cycle lanes;
  - b. removing car parking from cycle lanes and on pavements;
  - c. removing car parks in town centres;
  - d. providing free car club membership to individuals who give up their parking permit; adapting car parks to cater for electric vehicles and bikes;
  - e. banning all on-street parking;
  - f. making all of Merton a controlled parking zone;
  - g. increasing parking charges for all/ more polluting cars;
  - h. introducing new parking charges such as a workplace levy and for parking in front gardens;
  - i. considering the impact of paving over front gardens for parking;
  - j. providing free parking for electric vehicles; and/or
  - k. using income generated from parking charges for climate projects.
17. Individuals, organisations and Council to **support and accelerate Merton’s current policies for transport planning and air quality**<sup>39</sup>. Council to:
  - a. **update Local Implementation Plan (LIP 3**<sup>40</sup>**) to deliver new climate objectives;**
  - b. carry out more action on anti-idling;
  - c. provide roadside scrubbing devices/ “moss trees”/ tree planting for pollution hot spots;
  - d. extend/ create an ultra-low emission zone in Merton;
  - e. provide filter masks for cyclists;
  - f. ban HGVs in pollution hotspots; and/or
  - g. monitor air pollution around schools and the wider borough.

To transition away for petrol and diesel vehicles to electrified transport

18. Council to **offer grants to subsidise the additional cost of electric vehicles and charge points**<sup>41</sup>.
19. Individuals, organisations and Council to **lobby National Government for help to buy electric vehicles scheme and to speed up manufacture of other low carbon alternatives for HGVs** (hydrogen fuel cell).
20. Individuals, organisation and Council to **lobby TFL to provide electric buses**<sup>42</sup> **in the borough**, prioritising pollution hot spots/ schools.
21. Organisations and Council to **introduce measures to encourage electric car clubs**<sup>43</sup>, **taxis, business vehicle fleets, bike hire**, but not to block up charge points.

<sup>38</sup> <https://londonlivingstreets.com/parklets-campaign/>

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.merton.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/pollution/air-quality-and-air-pollution/local-air-quality-management>

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.merton.gov.uk/streets-parking-transport/lip3>

<sup>41</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-grants-for-low-emission-vehicles>

<sup>42</sup> <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/buses/improving-buses>

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.merton.gov.uk/streets-parking-transport/parking/car-clubs>

22. Council to **draw up a strategy for electric vehicle charging** in consultation with the public<sup>44</sup> which includes:
- a. setting a target for the installation of electric charge points;
  - b. partnering with Virgin Media to install electric vehicle charging in residential areas with broadband installation;
  - c. identifying suitable locations and offering a range of public and residential points with a range of charging speeds;
  - d. creating a depot with electric charge points for “last mile” deliveries; and/or
  - e. providing charge points for a range of vehicles including mobility scooters and bikes.
23. Organisations to **install electric vehicle charge points which are accessible to the public**:
- a. at petrol stations;
  - b. in public and private car parks;
  - c. at council buildings and community spaces;
  - d. at businesses; and/or
  - e. charging hubs near town centres.
24. Electric vehicle charge point service providers to **improve charging service**:
- a. making it cheaper for those without off-street parking;
  - b. making it cheaper at off peak times, using smart tariffs; and/or
  - c. implementing a roaming solution to help customers be able to access charging wherever they go without needing multiple accounts and apps.

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<sup>44</sup> <https://www.merton.gov.uk/streets-parking-transport/electric-vehicle-charging-points>

## **SUGGESTED ACTIONS TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM PRODUCTS AND WASTE**

### To help raise awareness on sustainable consumption

1. Council to **develop a targeted communication and engagement strategy with residents and businesses to promote sustainable purchasing.**
2. Council and organisations to **engage in activities which raise awareness on and promote sustainable consumption**, such as:
  - a. developing a sustainable accreditation scheme/ sustainability charter for local businesses;
  - b. promoting and advertising sustainable options (e.g. local, seasonal, meat/dairy-free products);
  - c. offering free or cheaper advertising for sustainable products/ businesses (e.g. zero waste shops);
  - d. running staff awareness campaigns;
  - e. providing clearer labelling on the sustainability of products (e.g. carbon footprint or traffic light system); and/or
  - f. updating their advertising policies to promote sustainable consumption (e.g. only advertising sustainable options near schools).
3. Council, organisations and individuals to **lobby National Government to require clearer labelling on products to facilitate sustainable consumption** such as:
  - a. information on the carbon footprint of products; and/or
  - b. information on recyclable plastics.
4. Council to **develop an engagement strategy around sustainable diets** with local organisations and individuals. This could involve:
  - a. raising awareness/ providing guidance on the carbon footprint of different diets;
  - b. running a campaign on healthy packed lunch boxes;
  - c. organising local cooking classes on 'sustainable eating' (e.g. at South Thames Catering College);
  - d. arranging vegan evenings in local restaurants;
  - e. encouraging Primary Schools to grow and cook some of their own food;
  - f. getting famous sports people/ chefs to promote sustainable diets;
  - g. developing a website/ guide on how to eat sustainably with young residents;
  - h. providing guidance on how to grow your own food;
  - i. highlighting the co-benefits for public health;
  - j. providing information on meat and dairy-free alternatives; and/or
  - k. highlighting success stories (e.g. veganuary).

### To increase the availability of sustainable options in Merton

5. Organisations to **work with their supply chain to provide more sustainable options** by:
  - a. reducing single-use plastic;
  - b. providing more local, seasonal and organic products;
  - c. providing more re-fillable options;
  - d. providing more plant-based and generally more sustainable meal options;
  - e. providing low carbon delivery services; and/or
  - f. investigating the carbon footprint of their products.

6. Individuals and organisations to **set-up more local markets and zero waste shops** across the borough at competitive prices. This could include a local mobile electric fruit and vegetable shop.
7. Council to **promote sustainable meal options through its catering contracts** by:
  - a. working with catering providers in schools, the Civic Centre, day centres, supported living centres and residential centres to develop more sustainable meal plans and improve the variety of plant-based options;
  - b. providing training to catering staff to deliver good quality plant-based meals;
  - c. requiring all public sector catering providers to offer at least one plant-based option a day, available to everyone without special request;
  - d. requiring service providers to report on the carbon emissions associated with their meals; and/or
  - e. labelling menu choices to highlight environmentally friendly options (e.g. accompanied by a positive image / symbol to encourage behaviour change).
8. Council, organisations and individuals to **promote local food growing** by supporting and introducing more:
  - a. allotments;
  - b. community gardens;
  - c. orchards; and/or
  - d. growing spaces in parks
9. Council to **amend planning policies which allow fast food outlets near schools** to encourage students to eat sustainable options provided by the schools;
10. Council and organisations to **improve access to charity shops for individuals with mobility issues**.

#### To reduce the cost of sustainable options

11. Council, organisations and individuals to **lobby National Government to reduce the cost of more sustainable options** by:
  - a. incentivising/ subsidising sustainable products (e.g. local and seasonal products); and/or
  - b. taxing unsustainable/ non-recyclable products (e.g. plastic/ carbon/ beef tax).
12. Council to **incentivise sustainable options in Merton** by:
  - a. reducing business rates for sustainable shops and eateries; and
  - b. subsidising meat-free options provided through the Council's catering contracts.
13. Organisations to **subsidise sustainable options for their staff and customers**.

#### To raise awareness on waste generation and disposal

14. Individuals and organisations to **make waste reduction pledges**.
15. Council to **develop a targeted communications strategy with residents and businesses to raise awareness on waste reduction and recycling**, this could include information on:
  - a. what happens to waste once it has been collected;
  - b. why and how people should collect food waste;
  - c. how to dispose of difficult waste such as batteries, electronics and bulk;
  - d. what can and can't be recycled and how it needs to be processed/ washed;

- e. guidance on recycling old electrical equipment and upgrading to new models; and
  - f. the benefits of waste reduction.
- Outputs could include:
- a. better labelling;
  - b. advertising;
  - c. online guidance;
  - d. guidance in My Merton;
  - e. guidance on bins;
  - f. workshops; and/or
  - g. video series.
16. Council to **develop a campaign with residents and businesses to highlight plastic pollution and reduce single-use plastics in the borough**, including plastic-free periods, and avoiding bottled water, plastic cups and fast food packaging for example.
17. Council and organisations to **use behaviour triggers to encourage consumers to reduce waste production** such as:
- a. labels on plastic bags saying do you need me; and/or
  - b. footprints to recycling bins.

#### To promote a circular economy

18. Council and individuals to **lobby National Government to promote the circular economy through national legislation**.
19. Council to **develop an engagement strategy for promoting a circular economy in Merton**.
20. Council, organisations and individuals to **signpost existing tools and initiatives which promote the circular economy in Merton** such as:
- a. circular economy projects;
  - b. existing re-use/ swap shops and projects;
  - c. existing repair shops;
  - d. the Real Nappies campaign for London; or
  - e. success stories from other cities/ countries.
21. Council to **integrate circular economy principles in major projects** such as the Morden town centre regeneration.
22. Council, organisations and individuals to **engage in actions that promote the circular economy**, such as:
- a. setting-up new repair stations/ shops across the borough;
  - b. setting-up new re-use/ swap shops at waste collection sites, libraries and community centres;
  - c. competitions between organisations (e.g. schools) to reduce waste production (e.g. plastic free school lunches);
  - d. running clothes swap events;
  - e. setting up nappy libraries; and/or
  - f. incentivising and promoting reusable sanitary products.

#### To reduce single-use products

23. Local businesses (e.g. supermarkets, shops and caterers) to **reduce single-use plastic** by:
- a. providing fruit and vegetables loose;

- b. introducing more plastic take-back schemes;
- c. introducing more bottle return schemes;
- d. providing more refillable products;
- e. using recyclable/ biodegradable products;
- f. setting-up and advertising more terracycle stations;
- g. providing more comprehensive information on recycling;
- h. publicising a list of in-store recycling programmes;
- i. introducing higher charges on plastic bags;
- j. reducing the amount of mail-out advertising; and/or
- k. replacing plastic bags with paper or cloth bags.

Actions could include:

- a. pressure from consumers;
  - b. incentives/ penalties from Council;
  - c. a single-use plastic ban in Merton;
  - d. incentives/ penalties from National Government.
24. Council and organisations to **install and advertise more water fountains across the borough** (e.g. publish a map of refilling points).

#### To reduce food waste

25. Council, organisations and individuals to **promote food sharing in Merton by:**
- a. linking up food waste from supermarkets with food banks, community centres and groups, libraries, businesses, hostels, young care leavers, youth clubs, etc. (consider using carbon neutral transport);
  - b. working alongside Sustainable Merton's Food Poverty Action Plan; and/or
  - c. setting up more schemes like Abundance Wimbledon<sup>45</sup> (e.g. Abundance Morden) to share seasonal fruit and vegetables for free.
26. Council, organisations and individuals to **encourage food waste collection** to produce green energy and raise awareness (e.g. food waste collection schemes in schools with anaerobic digesters).
27. Supermarkets to **sell wonky fruit and vegetables, and food past its sell-by date at reduced prices.**

#### To reduce waste generated through the Council's services

28. Council to **improve its waste collection and street cleaning services and waste infrastructure** to encourage residents and businesses to reduce waste by:
- a. providing more flexible waste collection solutions offered by Veolia;
  - b. including messaging on bin lorries to promote behaviour change;
  - c. enforcing any breaches in waste collection rules;
  - d. carrying out face-to-face engagement with households/ businesses that produce a lot of waste to help them overcome any obstacles;
  - e. use corn-starch biodegradable bin-bags;
  - f. providing recycling and food waste collection/ infrastructure at all residences (including flats above commercial units);
  - g. adding segregated bins into street collection bins;
  - h. providing closed (fox-proof) recycling bins to prevent loose litter on streets;

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<sup>45</sup> <http://www.abundancewimbledon.com/>

- i. providing weekly recycling collection;
  - j. making green waste collection free to encourage tree planting;
  - k. using behaviour triggers to encourage people to recycle (e.g. footprints to recycling bins);
  - l. providing food waste bags for free;
  - m. having a single bin for recycling;
  - n. expanding the range of materials that can be recycled in Merton;
  - o. developing a 100% recycling scheme;
  - p. providing more regular street cleaning;
  - q. extending tip opening hours (e.g. one late night/ week); and/or
  - r. helping residents and businesses dispose of difficult waste (e.g. bulk, electronics, batteries, etc.)
29. Council to **consider pricing mechanisms to incentivise waste reduction and recycling** such as:
- a. taxing people for household waste collections;
  - b. incentivising reductions in household waste through reduced council tax;
  - c. reducing the cost of recycling, food waste and green waste collections.
30. Council to **develop a technical understanding of the types of waste which are not being recycled** in order to develop a targeted waste reduction strategy.

## **SUGGESTED ACTIONS TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS THROUGH THE IMPROVEMENT AND EXPANSION OF GREEN SPACES**

### To increase the number of trees in the borough

1. Organisations and Council to **make a firm commitment to plant more trees and increase green infrastructure by a targeted percentage (including green walls/ roofs)**:
  - a. in line with the Mayor of London's tree planting target<sup>46</sup>;
  - b. with a public commitment from a Councillor;
  - c. through the formation of a tree strategy to be incorporated into the open space strategy<sup>47</sup> for the Draft Local Plan<sup>48</sup>. This should involve surveying the current stock, identifying locations to replace and expand tree cover with appropriate species to increase tree cover for the benefit of air quality, climate resilience and public amenity without undermining other uses, and coordinating with the green spaces team, tree wardens and Future Merton;
  - d. by maximising green spaces through the open space strategy;
  - e. by adopting TDAG's<sup>49</sup> 12 principles for trees in the townscape;
  - f. through a biodiversity action plan;
  - g. by considering the role of local tree planting for carbon offset; and/or
  - h. by adding a tree on the Council logo to demonstrate commitment.
2. Council to **prevent the loss of trees on public land and council-managed green spaces** by:
  - a. replacing damaged/ diseased/ dead trees in parks and streets with trees of the equivalent "CAVAT"<sup>50</sup> value or equivalent "tree years";
  - b. improving the specification of tree pit preparation/ less pollarding;
  - c. planting and maintaining new trees to develop resilient longer lived tree stock;
  - d. sourcing more funding and/ or hiring more staff including tree officers/ grants officer/ biodiversity officer and bringing the maintenance of green spaces in house;
  - e. consolidating tree databases;
  - f. ensuring greater enforcement of Tree Protection Orders<sup>51</sup> (TPOs) and tree damage;
  - g. implementing Tree Protection Orders by default;
  - h. introducing an embargo on felling all mature trees ;
  - i. ensuring that event organisers pay for park clean-up/ restoration costs;
  - j. ensuring public access is not restricted/ trees don't cause a hazard;
  - k. highlighting the impact and cost of tree vandalism;
  - l. providing a free service to plant on private land;
  - m. providing incentives for sustainable drainage on private property; and/or
  - n. rerouting statutory underground services to allow tree pits of generous size to be installed.

### To empower and enable individuals, organisations and communities to green the borough

3. Individuals, organisations and Council to **empower communities to green the borough** by:

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<sup>46</sup> <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/parks-green-spaces-and-biodiversity/trees-and-woodlands>, estimated to be between 750- 800 new trees per year in Merton.

<sup>47</sup> not yet published

<sup>48</sup> <https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/planning/local-plan>

<sup>49</sup> <http://www.tdag.org.uk/guides--resources.html>

<sup>50</sup> <https://www.ltoa.org.uk/documents-1/capital-asset-value-for-amenity-trees-cavat>

<sup>51</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tree-preservation-orders-and-trees-in-conservation-areas>



- a. council identifying suitable sites for community planting;
  - b. providing financial support for community planting;
  - c. working with existing organisations such as environmental groups/ allotment associations/ tree wardens;
  - d. providing advice on the types of species to plant and aftercare;
  - e. communicating available planting opportunities;
  - f. providing free saplings/ seeds;
  - g. providing information on the benefits of planting;
  - h. identifying areas that can be left to re-wild;
  - i. focusing on multi-functional spaces to provide links e.g.: pocket parks, rain gardens, SuDS features, green/living walls and roofs, green corridors;
  - j. developing a business community planting and stewardship scheme;
  - k. appointing tree champions/facilitators in schools, businesses and residents organisations;
  - l. adding a pond on Figgs Marsh;
  - m. allowing residents to cut down diseased trees; and/or
  - n. banning barbecues.
4. Individuals, organisations and Council to **increase space for trees/ green cover** by:
- a. preventing unlawful paving over of front gardens;
  - b. refusing permission to put in a drop curve if it results in lower tree cover;
  - c. identifying areas where structures (verges/ bus stop roofs/ bollards/ parking spaces/ derelict places) can be replaced with green infrastructure; and/or
  - d. creating pocket parks, community gardens, edible gardens, allotments, wildlife gardens, orchards.
5. Organisations and Council to **encourage individuals to plant on private land**, by:
- a. running a public campaign;
  - b. providing access to free seeds<sup>52</sup>;
  - c. organising visits to orchards;
  - d. opening an ecology centre at Mitcham Common;
  - e. running workshops; and/or
  - f. Preventing people from paving over their front gardens and promoting the use of porous surfaces to make drainage more sustainable.
6. Individuals, organisations and Council to **provide more information and engagement regarding green space; this could include** about:
- a. the benefits of increasing vegetation;
  - b. where and how to plant to encourage more wildlife ;
  - c. how to grow your own food; and
  - d. labelling trees to explain the impact of locking in carbon/ positive messaging about the way trees make us feel.
7. Individuals, organisations and Council to lobby National Government to **abolish VAT on trees for parks and put warnings on pesticides**.

To ensure greenery is maximised in new developments

8. Council to review planning policies to **ensure that new developments protect existing and maximise new green cover**. Ideas include:

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<sup>52</sup> For example from : <https://www.growwilduk.com/>

- a. retaining and protecting existing trees from future planning applications;
- b. replacing trees in “tree years<sup>53</sup>”;
- c. requiring a minimum percentage of green cover;
- d. favouring native species;
- e. requiring all developers to plant trees in the borough;
- f. requiring outdoor taps for future tree maintenance;
- g. requiring more green/ blue installations (e.g. green roofs/ rainwater harvesting);
- h. promoting green roofs and PV in combination;
- i. applying an urban greening factor;
- j. requiring sustainable drainage; and/or
- k. making best use of section 106<sup>54</sup>/ Community Infrastructure Levy funds<sup>55</sup>.

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<sup>53</sup> For example, if a tree is 100 years old it should be replaced with 10 trees which are 10 years old.

<sup>54</sup> <https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/planning/section-106-agreements-and-other-planning-obligations>

<sup>55</sup> <https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/planning/community-infrastructure-levy>

## SUGGESTED ACTIONS TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS THROUGH INVESTMENT, BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL PRODUCTS

### To provide clear information on green performance

1. Businesses and financial institutions to **report clearly on their sustainability credentials** including:
  - a. businesses;
  - b. finance companies; and
  - c. fund managers.

To provide accurate, easy to understand and regular information on:

- a. environmental performance;
- b. greenhouse gas emissions;
- c. salaries for top earners; and/or
- d. good projects they are working on.

through green certification/ assurance schemes for example.

2. Individuals, organisations and Council to **signpost independent or impartial green finance advice** including:
  - a. general information and advice on green finance;
  - b. existing certification schemes such as the stock exchange “green mark”<sup>56</sup> or “B-corps”<sup>57</sup>, “carbon disclosure project”<sup>58</sup>; and/or
  - c. comparison sites/tools which compare green financial products.
3. Individuals, organisations and Council to **lobby National Government and organisations (e.g. CHAS<sup>59</sup>) to introduce a new accreditation scheme or to standardise reporting** to easily identify green companies or products.

### To improve the green finance offering

4. Individuals, organisations and Council to **lobby companies to adopt more sustainable practices and to offer green financial products that are on a par or better than a non-green alternative**. This could involve highlighting good practice, and/or naming and shaming bad practice.
5. Organisations and Council to **consider and address the skills gap in the low carbon economy**.
6. Individuals, organisations and Council to **lobby National Government for policies which enable green companies to compete on a level playing field with competitors** by:
  - a. introducing and enforcing tighter rules to make companies more sustainable;
  - b. providing incentives to invest sustainably; and/or
  - c. giving local authorities more power to incentivise good environmental practices and discourage bad ones e.g. increasing business rates for high polluters.

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<sup>56</sup> <https://www.lseg.com/sustainable>

<sup>57</sup> <https://bcorporation.net/about-b-corps>

<sup>58</sup> <https://www.cdp.net/en>

<sup>59</sup> <https://www.chas.co.uk/>

To encourage green business practices within Merton

7. Council to **incentivise good performance** by:
  - a. offering low cost sustainable loans;
  - b. offering ESG<sup>60</sup>-linked interest rates on loans made to small businesses;
  - c. raising capital finance to invest in green investment opportunities in borough;
  - d. facilitating purchase of green alternatives for local businesses and residents through bulk-purchase;
  - e. developing a list of sustainable businesses in the area;
  - f. creating a Merton Environmental Business Champion award; and/or
  - g. introducing a council tax rebate.
8. Organisations and Council to **work with the Merton Chamber of Commerce/ Merton Business Network for Climate Action to help businesses to develop low carbon business models and spread good practice.**
9. Individuals, organisations and Council to **lobby National Government to provide investment into the low carbon economy and addressing the skills gap.**
10. Businesses in Merton to **work with the Community on low carbon activities which benefit the local area.**

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<sup>60</sup> Environmental Social and Governance: <https://www.msci.com/what-is-esg>

## **SUGGESTED ACTIONS TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS ACROSS ALL SECTORS BY ACCELERATING BEHAVIOUR CHANGE**

### To raise awareness on climate change in the borough

1. Council to **develop a targeted climate engagement strategy for residents and organisations**. This should:
  - a. raise awareness on climate change;
  - b. provide guidance on what individuals and businesses can do to reduce their carbon footprint;
  - c. promote existing schemes/ initiatives which demonstrate good practice;
  - d. include behaviour change nudges/ gamification to encourage more sustainable behaviour;
  - e. provide information on low carbon technologies and products;
  - f. signpost the Council's activities and services; and/or
  - g. highlight the co-benefits of climate action.Through:
  - a. the Community Plan;
  - b. multiple comms mediums beyond social media; and/or
  - c. regular updates/ features in My Merton.Engagement activities could include:
  - a. free sustainability workshops/ classes in community centres and libraries;
  - b. 'environment shops' in the different town centres where people can come and engage/ ask questions about climate change and sustainable lifestyles.;
  - c. a sustainability fair where people can come and learn about sustainability in a fun setting;
  - d. a walk-about around the town centres in Merton with young residents and Council staff to feedback on obstacles preventing them from engaging with the public realm more sustainably;
  - e. activities with young residents, young care leavers, through schools and youth clubs; and/or
  - f. a time-banking scheme in Merton for people to share their time and skills for intergenerational learning around climate change and sustainable lifestyles.
2. Council to **engage in activities which raise the profile of climate change and encourage sustainable activities**, such as:
  - a. integrating sustainability in its advertising policies. This could include banning "greenwash"/ anti-green advertising.;
  - b. clearly and transparently reporting progress against the decarbonisation targets with independent monitoring;
  - c. engaging with health care professionals and institutions to identify opportunities to maximise on synergies between the health and climate agendas;
  - d. appointing a Councillor from each party to influence policies and act as an ambassador for climate change; and/or
  - e. requiring every Councillor to lead a ward-level meeting on the Climate Emergency.
3. Council and organisations to **develop a sustainability charter / Low Carbon Merton Coalition and guidance** with the Chamber of Commerce and Business Improvement Districts, which local organisations can sign up to help raise awareness and commitment to work towards decarbonising the borough by 2050.

4. Council, organisations and individuals to **promote the development of community/ neighbourhood projects** through local groups to encourage more uptake and co-ownership of sustainable solutions on a local level such as:
  - a. community energy projects;
  - b. community tree planting schemes; and/or
  - c. community events.
5. Council and schools to **raise awareness and take action on climate change in schools**, ideas include:
  - a. identifying a climate contact for every school (governor/ teacher/ head teacher);
  - b. organising inspiring talks/ workshops/ assemblies on climate change and what we can do about it;
  - c. helping recruit student volunteers to participate in local projects on climate change (e.g. tree planting, allotment, food waste collection, etc.);
  - d. planning for climate anxiety;
  - e. integrating climate change in the local curriculum;
  - f. undertaking a green audit of their school and developing an action plan to decarbonise their operations;
  - g. promoting a circular economy in schools (e.g. clothes/ books swaps);
  - h. educating students on the reasons behind climate initiatives like meat-free Mondays;
  - i. introducing a climate change representative on the school council for all schools;
  - j. incorporating climate change and sustainability in SNAP projects; and/or
  - k. organising more SNAP projects in the borough with more of a focus on sustainability.
6. Council to **involve young residents in decision-making around climate change**, through :
  - a. youth-led local climate change projects (e.g. book/website on eating sustainably, turning a public toilet into sustainability café/ circular economy hub);
  - b. more regular engagement with young residents and Council staff;
  - c. developing climate actions around schools with young residents through SNAP for example; and/or
  - d. arranging a walk-about around schools/ town centres to understand the opportunities/ barriers to sustainable living from a young person's perspective.

**SUGGESTED ACTIONS TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS ACROSS ALL SECTORS  
WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN COVERED ABOVE**

1. Council to **work with partners to trial innovative technology** where it can be delivered without impacting on Council core services and continues to protect the public.
2. Council to **work with key service delivery partners** not in the Council's direct control (e.g. police, fire, public health, Transport for London) **to maximise benefits of climate action.**
3. Council to **have high ambition on ensuring that major regeneration projects are future-proofed to become carbon neutral**, such as Morden town centre.
4. Council to **ensure that events which take place in the borough are low carbon.**
5. Council to **require councillors to identify whether proposals help or hinder climate, air quality and biodiversity plans.**
6. Council to **undertake a climate change impact assessment of Council policies and activities**, including a **review of local plan policies to make sustainability a stronger feature.** Consider the inclusion of more ambitious targets in the Local Plan and **produce supplementary planning guidance.**
7. Individuals, organisations and Council to **lobby National Government to accelerate actions to mitigate climate change.**
8. Individuals, organisations and Council to **identify funding opportunities for low carbon projects** and innovation.
9. Council to **bring forward the borough target to 2030.**
10. Council to **find new ways to ensure that all of Merton's communities are represented in Council decision-making in this area and are held to account** after the Climate Emergency Working Group is dissolved. Possible approaches include Citizen Assemblies/Citizen's Juries, and participatory mapping and budgeting.

## SECTION 2:

### 2030 TARGET TO ACHIEVE NET ZERO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S BUILDINGS AND SERVICES

To decarbonise the Council's operational buildings and infrastructure such as offices, libraries, community centres and street lighting

1. Council to **invest in decarbonising all operational buildings** by 2030 by:
  - a. reviewing all operational buildings for the potential to decarbonise;
  - b. identifying opportunities to maximise energy efficiency as well as renewable energy generation and storage;
  - c. reviewing the cost-benefit of redevelopment/ retrofit/ demolition/ sale of Council assets;
  - d. forming a schedule of works that meets the 2030 target;
  - e. identifying appropriate sources of funding (e.g. MEEF<sup>61</sup>); and
  - f. switching to 100% green energy tariff.
2. Council to **consider trialling innovative low carbon energy measures** in Council buildings and use as exemplars for public access. Ideas include:
  - a. deep retrofits to near zero carbon;
  - b. battery, PV & storage combinations;
  - c. sophisticated building management systems;
  - d. heat pumps and hybrid heat pumps; and
  - e. other new tech e.g. Hydromx / solar collectors.
3. Council to **consider the case for an energy service company** to enable the Council to facilitate delivery and provide flexible energy services to the grid.
4. Council to **consider offering community energy options for Council-owned operational buildings** that serve the public.
5. Council to **consider initiatives to decarbonise schools** where the Council invests in up-front capital for low carbon works paid back through bill savings.
6. Council to **publish energy monitoring and bill information**, or case studies to raise awareness on the benefits of energy efficiency/ low carbon measures (e.g. emissions saved from solar PV).
7. Council to **ensure all unnecessary lights are switched off across the Council's estate**.
8. Council to **train Council staff on climate change and sustainable solutions**.
9. Council to **accelerate programme to replace street lights to LED<sup>62</sup> and/or reassess street lighting** and remove unnecessary street lights.

To decarbonise transport owned by the Council or used as part of Council services by 2030

10. Council to **convert fleet of council-owned vehicles<sup>63</sup> to electric** by 2030 by:
  - a. reviewing options and costs of replacement of vehicles and charging, including reducing service where appropriate;
  - b. forming a phased replacement that is in keeping with the target; and

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<sup>61</sup> <https://www.amberinfrastructure.com/our-funds/the-mayor-of-londons-energy-efficiency-fund/>

<sup>62</sup> Merton Council has already delivered a 55% energy saving through its street lighting replacement; the 4<sup>th</sup> best in London.

<sup>63</sup> Around half of these are Council owned and operated vehicles and around half are leased to others (such as refuse vehicles)



- c. identifying appropriate sources of funding to cover any increased costs.
- 11. Council to **develop and implement a staff travel plan** to ensure that staff are encouraged and supported to use more active and sustainable travel options. Ideas include:
  - a. providing a fleet of bikes/ electric bikes for Council staff;
  - b. providing free parking for zero emission vehicles;
  - c. reducing essential user parking permits where possible;
  - d. offering a season ticket loan; and
  - e. educating staff on the benefits of sustainable and active travel and avoiding using a car-to commute to work.
- 12. Council to **carry out improvements to Council-owned sites to encourage active and electrified travel**. Ideas include:
  - a. expanding or improving bike stores;
  - b. providing showers and changing facilities for all buildings;
  - c. providing electric vehicle charge points to service electric vehicle fleet, staff and members of the public; and
  - d. working with partners to install bike and electric vehicle charging infrastructure into nearby car parks used by Council staff.

To decarbonise all procured services by 2030

- 13. Council to **work with existing service providers on the opportunities to reduce carbon emissions**. Ideas include:
  - a. identifying direct emissions from current contracts (e.g. energy use and transport) to incorporate in the Council's greenhouse gas reporting; and
  - b. engaging with current contracts to identify and progress opportunities to minimise direct greenhouse gas emissions associated with the procured services.
- 14. Council to **review business case procedures** to ensure that the impact of greenhouse gas emissions is properly taken into account. This may include:
  - a. undertaking a climate risk assessment and calculating the carbon cost of all Council decisions to form part of the governance process;
  - b. taking a "whole cost" approach to business cases (e.g. assessing the cost of carbon and air pollution emissions); and/or
  - c. providing training for Council staff to assess the climate risk in proposed policies and programmes.
- 15. Council to **review procurement policies** to ensure the highest standards of low carbon and sustainable services and products are considered. This may include:
  - a. requiring contracted companies to have a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target;
  - b. requiring contracted companies to disclose greenhouse gas emissions associated with the procured service/or the company as a whole and/ or supply chain emissions from products supplied;
  - c. requiring all contracted companies to demonstrate how their service is in keeping with the Council's 2030 target;
  - d. requiring all service provision to be low/ zero carbon;
  - e. ensuring that companies can demonstrate sustainable business practices and supply chains;
  - f. asking contractors how they can help deliver carbon reductions in the borough;
  - g. updating the Council's procurement toolkit to cover environmental issues in more detail, as is currently the case for social value; and/or
  - h. making specific requirements for major contracts such as requiring all journeys to be electric/ requiring all contractors to drive at 20mph/ requiring deliveries to the

Council to be by electric vehicles or bike/ ensuring machinery for the contract enables a transition to electric and meets high environmental standards.

To make responsible investments (including pensions)

16. Council to **ensure that financial investments are made responsibly** and avoid investing in companies with a high impact on greenhouse gas emissions. Ideas include:
  - a. investing only in sustainable companies;
  - b. publishing annual reports on sustainable portfolios that the Council is investing in; and
  - c. actively investing in low carbon projects (e.g. renewable energy) to enable carbon offset.
17. Council to **raise money for major low carbon projects** through:
  - a. UK Municipal Bonds Agency for low carbon infrastructure<sup>64</sup>;
  - b. Mayor's Energy Efficiency Fund<sup>65</sup>; and/or
  - c. Renewable energy incentives.

To foster a low carbon and healthy workplace

18. Council to **set up a green and healthy guardian's group** to identify potential changes to the way the Council operates to promote a low carbon and healthy workplace. The group will report into the senior leadership team to promote change.
19. Council to **review internal purchasing rules to minimise waste generation across the Council's estate** such as:
  - a. food waste and single-use plastics through the Council's catering contracts;
  - b. stationary;
  - c. supply chains across the Council's estate.
20. Council to **ensure that food waste from public catering services and council buildings is collected separately** and does not go to landfill.
21. Council to **provide climate change training for Council staff and Councillors** to promote more sustainable behaviours within the Council.

To ensure that actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are monitored, and progress is tracked

22. Council to **publish a greenhouse gas inventory showing progress against actions and targets** on a regular basis (annually).

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<sup>64</sup> <https://www.ukmba.org/>

<sup>65</sup> <https://www.amberinfrastructure.com/our-funds/the-mayor-of-londons-energy-efficiency-fund/>