

Living Harrow:

The London Borough of Harrow's Climate and Nature Strategy **2023-2030**

Executive Summary of the 4 core themes

Together we can make our borough cleaner,
greener and safer

The restored Bluebell Heath,
Stanmore Common



LONDON BOROUGH OF
HARROW

The Vision

This strategy establishes a framework of key action areas around which the Council and our communities can significantly reduce our combined greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, whilst also enabling the recovery of the natural world upon which we depend.

By doing so, we will play our part to leave Harrow a better place for future generations: stabilising our climate, promoting climate resilience, and allowing the regeneration of ecosystems that support us all.

This will be a just transition that Restores Pride in Harrow by realising the opportunities of new jobs and investment, improved health, wellbeing and education, and a thriving environment for local people.

Key Action Areas

We will deliver our vision through a determined focus on:

- **Clean Energy used Efficiently**
how we power and heat homes and buildings
- **Green Mobility**
how we get around
- **A Waste-free Economy**
the things we buy, use and dispose of
- **Healthy places for us and Nature**
a healthy, resilient local environment



1

Clean Energy Used Efficiently

The Council's largest solar installation to date at its HUB building at Forward Drive.

The clean energy transition involves moving electricity and heat production away from fossil fuels to those that release little to no greenhouse gases, e.g., hydropower, wind and solar, while reducing demand for energy through more efficient buildings.

Objectives

- To transition our borough to renewable and low carbon energy solutions
- To maximise energy efficiency and conservation measures across the borough's new and existing buildings
- To ensure long-term access to secure and affordable energy supplies, through a significant increase in local renewable energy generation

The recent comprehensive retrofit of Grange Primary School includes new Air Source Heat Pumps

What have we done so far?

- In 2022, the council installed its first large scale heat pumps at four schools and corporate sites.
- In November 2023, the Council introduced the [Harrow Energy Advice line](#) for residents to help with the cost of living and save energy.
- 70% of existing street lighting columns in Harrow have been upgraded to highly energy efficient LEDs.
- In 2022 we began the installation of ground source heat pump systems at two sheltered housing blocks.
- In 2021 and 2022 the council participated in Solar Together London, a group buying scheme which enables residents to access lower cost solar panels for their homes. More Harrow residents (285 people) than any other London borough opted to participate in the scheme.
- Leading by example: In 2023 the Council installed its largest solar PV array to date at its new Hub building - 311 solar panels generating 155kwp of renewable energy, enough to power the electricity demands of over 30 typical UK houses.

Benefits

- **Healthier planet** Moving to less carbon intensive forms of energy reduces extractive land use practices and pollution, such as those associated with coal, oil and gas extraction.
- **Local resilience** to fluctuations in the international energy markets through more efficient buildings and local energy generation.
- **Improved public health** due to warm and efficient homes.
- **New jobs and skills** in the clean energy sector and the low carbon economy
- **Economic growth** and innovation opportunities through large-scale implementation of renewable energy technologies including heat pumps and solar panels.
- **Lower energy costs** for residents and businesses.



What can you do?

Switch to a renewable energy provider Check out [Ofgem's guide to switching to green energy](#)

Improve insulation levels and reduce energy use in your home Check out the Energy Saving Trust's tips to [reduce heat loss](#) and [save energy](#)

Install renewable energy sources in your home by taking advantage of the [Boiler Upgrade Scheme](#)

Reduce energy use in your home Here are some [top tips to save you money](#)

Get help with the [cost of living](#)



Newly installed solar panels
at the Harrow Arts Centre



2 Green Mobility

The Council's new electric sweeper at work in Harrow Town Centre

Green Mobility explores how we can significantly reduce fossil fuel transport emissions by enabling low-carbon, sustainable travel within Harrow. This involves a shift towards increased walking, cycling, public transport use, car-sharing and electric vehicle usage.

Our focus is on creating safe and pleasant pedestrian and cycling environments, and expanding the publicly accessible electric vehicle charging infrastructure

Objectives

- To decarbonise all council operated vehicles and to support significant decarbonisation of public and private transport in Harrow.
- To maximise the use of active and public transport options.
- To significantly improve air quality in the borough.



Decarbonising our fleet

What have we done so far?

- 64 publicly accessible electric vehicle charging points delivered, or in delivery so far, with over 200 additional points planned for 24/25.
- Our first 3 school streets were made permanent in 2022 — reducing congestion around schools during drop off/pick up times.
- The council has a range of policies to encourage active travel and sustainable transport choices. In 2023 it adopted a new Electric Vehicle Strategy and in 2024 is consulting on a long-term Transport Strategy.
- Leading by example: The council has a number of modern and efficient electric vehicles. Our depot at Forward Drive has 31 dedicated EV bays with another floor wired for expansion in the future.

Benefits

- **Reduction in noise pollution and improvements to air quality** there were an estimated [3600 – 4100 deaths in London attributable to air pollution in 2019](#).
- **Better health** through more physical activity. Increased road safety through less road congestion and implementation of School Streets.
- **Increased road safety** through less road congestion and implementation of School Streets.
- **Improvement to biodiversity and local ecosystems** through significantly better air quality and green infrastructure.



What can you do?

- Consider cycling, walking or taking public transport instead of using cars Find out more about the [health benefits of swapping short car journeys](#) with cycling or walking.
- Choose to fly less often
- Use car sharing arrangements [Car sharing – a useful guide to help you save money | RAC Drive](#)
- Think about switching to an electric or hybrid vehicle



The Northwick Park Wanderers walking group out in Harrow. Find out more at <https://www.harrow.gov.uk/wellbeingwalks>




3

A Waste-Free Economy

Moving to a waste free economy is about reducing the adverse environmental impacts of the things we use and consume. This means a shift to a reduce-reuse-recycle culture that keeps materials in circulation in a sustainable loop.

Objectives

- To minimise waste and enable goods to be reused and recycled as part of a circular economy approach
- To build a thriving green economy with new skills and jobs
- To enable greater access to healthy and affordable sustainably produced food
- To minimise single use plastics



The TRAIID facility where Harrow donated clothes are processed. Find out more at [Donate clothes - TRAIID](#)



Harrow's dry mixed recycling being separated at Crayford MRF Limited centre run by N+P Group. Harrow's monthly tonnage for February 2024 - 1052.56 tonnes

What have we done so far?

- Harrow has led a multi-borough collaboration on the production of a low carbon procurement policy, charter and toolkit for implementation by eight West London boroughs and the West London Waste Authority.
- Harrow has recruited a new Recycling Team and tailored communications take place focused on recycling under #RecycleforHarrow.
- The council has supported the expansion of the Restart Electrical Repair Directory to Harrow, to help residents find local repair services for their electrical goods.
- We supported the West London Green Skills Hub with Green Skills Curriculum development across West London colleges.
- Harrow Arts Centre delivered repair workshops with partners [TRAID](#) and [WRAP](#) and hosted a production of Plastic Ocean, a children's theatre show exploring the effect plastic has on our ocean ecosystem.

Benefits

- **Reducing pressure on scarce natural resources** including lower land use, water use and pollution, helping vital ecosystems to recover and adapt to climate change.
- **Cleaner local environment** due to less waste and pollution in our borough (e.g., single use plastic litter, microplastics).
- **New jobs and skills** from promoting business and innovation growth.
- **Local resilience** to national and international disruptions, including climate change, due to stronger local chains.
- **Improved public health** through adopting healthier, climate-friendly diets.



What can you do?

- Eat more plant-based food, and less meat and dairy Find out how you can save money, eat better and help the planet at [Eat like a Londoner](#)
- Grow some of [your own food](#)
- Choose items with less packaging, and avoid single-use plastic as much as possible
- Reduce, reuse, recycle Shop second-hand where you can, check [local recycling guidelines](#) and make sure to recycle properly
- [Buy locally grown and seasonal food](#)
- Choose lower carbon and sustainable products The [Mindful Shopper | Your Guide to Living with Less Waste](#)
- Take faulty items such as clothes and electrical goods to be repaired, instead of purchasing new ones Take a look at [West London's Electrical Repair Service Directory](#) or book a [free home collection for unwanted clothes](#) for reuse/ recycling





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Healthy Places for Us and Nature

Volunteers clearing holly
at Stanmore Common



Nature is our most valuable asset. This part of the strategy focuses on preserving and enriching green spaces, increasing biodiversity, improving residents' health and wellbeing and protecting people and places from climate change impacts.

Objectives

- To ensure land and other natural resource use in our borough better balances the needs of people and nature
- To ensure the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems in our borough
- To provide public access to high quality and ecologically diverse green spaces
- To optimise tree / hedge planting and other natural carbon sequestration measures in our borough
- To improve the health and wellbeing of residents through greater connection with the local natural environment
- To enable local adaptation to climate

What have we done so far?

- New grassland management approaches have been introduced in some parks and open spaces to improve habitats and biodiversity. The Council has successfully secured grant funding to carry out improvements to 100 000sqm of public space through to 2025 to help nature's recovery.
- Trials of reduced mowing to improve habitat and biodiversity were carried out in the summer of 2022. An enhanced programme will be delivered in 2023.
- The Stop and Grow Project is a public health led initiative which encourages Harrow residents to volunteer in maintaining green spaces and greenhouses, growing produce from seed to harvest.
- Residents are encouraged to sponsor tree planting via our Trees for Streets partnership.
- In 2022 a major planting initiative was undertaken by Pinner Park School students, with the creation of a new micro forest of 600 trees.
- We have completed major flood resilience and biodiversity improvement works as part of the Headstone Manor Park Project.
- With Barnet Council, we secured a £6m grant bid to reduce river and surface water flooding in the Silk Stream catchment - [Read more](#).
- Held Harrow's first [Youth Eco Summit](#) attended by 12 primary schools from across the country.

Benefits

- **Restoring pride in Harrow** through higher quality, more ecologically diverse and beautiful parks, gardens and open spaces.
- **Eco-literate communities** through opportunities to explore, understand and value the natural world.
- **Better physical and mental health** through greater connection to nature, better air quality and reduced local pollution.
- **Climate resilience** Supporting our places and communities to better adapt to the impacts of climate change such as flooding, heat waves or other extreme weather events.



What can you do?

- Plant bee and wildlife friendly flowers and plants in your garden or balcony. The RHS and Wildlife Trusts have lots of good information as part of their [Wild About Gardens project](#)
- Buy peat-free compost [Learn more from Hubbub](#)
- Go wild in your garden Find ways to [create habitats for wildlife at home](#)
- Volunteer to help look after [local parks](#) or [Nature Reserves](#)



Pioneering community initiative to create London's first woodmeadow at Pinner Recreation Ground



For more information, please visit :
www.harrow.gov.uk/environment-parks/climate-change



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