
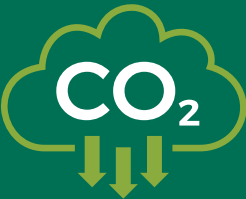

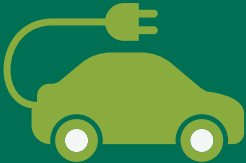








# Climate Action



Report on Programme Delivery

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## Foreword

# Councillor Ian Manders

## Portfolio Holder for Climate Action and Sustainable Transport



**Councillor Ian Manders**

Here is Kingston Council's first annual report, on progress made on the council's Climate Action Plan adopted in March 2022. During the year past, the harmful and devastating effects of climate change have been seen world-wide, including rampaging wildfires and warming oceans. Locally, we are not immune, for example record temperatures were also recorded in the borough in the hot Summer of 2022.

Kingston, in its own way, is working towards reducing harmful greenhouse gases and work is being done to set the foundations to achieve carbon neutrality in council operations by 2030, whilst supporting the wider community to make progress on the borough 2038 net zero target.

We have deepened our understanding of our own council emissions, gathering a wealth of data from different sources to help us target action to have the most beneficial impact for our borough and our residents.

As a council we are not only tackling a climate crisis, but also a cost of living crisis, which has impacted families and communities across the country.

One of the biggest challenges we face is how to fund essential climate action without impacting or reducing essential services at a time when they are needed the most. So, we are applying for external funding to finance projects which not only help to tackle climate change, but also improve the lives of our residents.

For example, Kingston has gained almost £600,000 from the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero to insulate and better heat social housing. Not only will this help to reduce emissions, but it will also result in cheaper energy bills and cosier, safer homes.

We recognise that we cannot tackle climate change on our own and that everyone has a role to play. Which is why the council is launching a new grant scheme, which will provide money to community organisations, to deliver projects which will benefit not only the planet, but also the borough's residents and our environment.

The council is already working with many nature-focused community groups on preserving our local parks and green spaces. I'd like to thank all of our residents who are working to tackle climate change in their own way - together we really can make a greener future for all.

You can read about some of our projects from the last year on the following pages, as well as taking a look at our full report which can be found on our website: [www.kingston.gov.uk/climate](http://www.kingston.gov.uk/climate)





# Carbon emissions in Kingston

## Borough emissions

In the council's first Climate Action Plan, approved in March 2022, the council pledged to support the whole borough to work toward Net Zero by 2038. Progress towards this can be tracked by using national data for the borough's "territorial" greenhouse gas emissions<sup>1</sup>.

Figure 1 shows emissions from all activities inside Kingston's borough boundary from 2005 to 2020. Transport, Domestic and Commercial are the biggest categories of use, and therefore need to be a focus of council efforts across the borough.

All uses have reduced their carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions during this time - mostly due to national changes in how electricity is produced, with more renewable energy being made.

The council will continue to work with businesses, residents and visitors to help continue this trend and achieve the 12.8%<sup>2</sup> reduction each year to greenhouse gas emissions required for the path to net zero by 2038.

One example of this support has been the Warmer Homes, Better Health project jointly funded by Carbon Offset funds and Public Health. The most recent evaluation showed 666 assessments completed during 2022/2023. There are confirmed lifetime carbon savings of 1693 tonnes from the small measures that have been installed. Additionally, support has been provided to residents for large measure grant applications - if these are successful there are potential savings of 6445 tonnes over the 15 year lifetime of the installed measures.



Kingston upon Thames Local Authority territorial greenhouse gas emissions

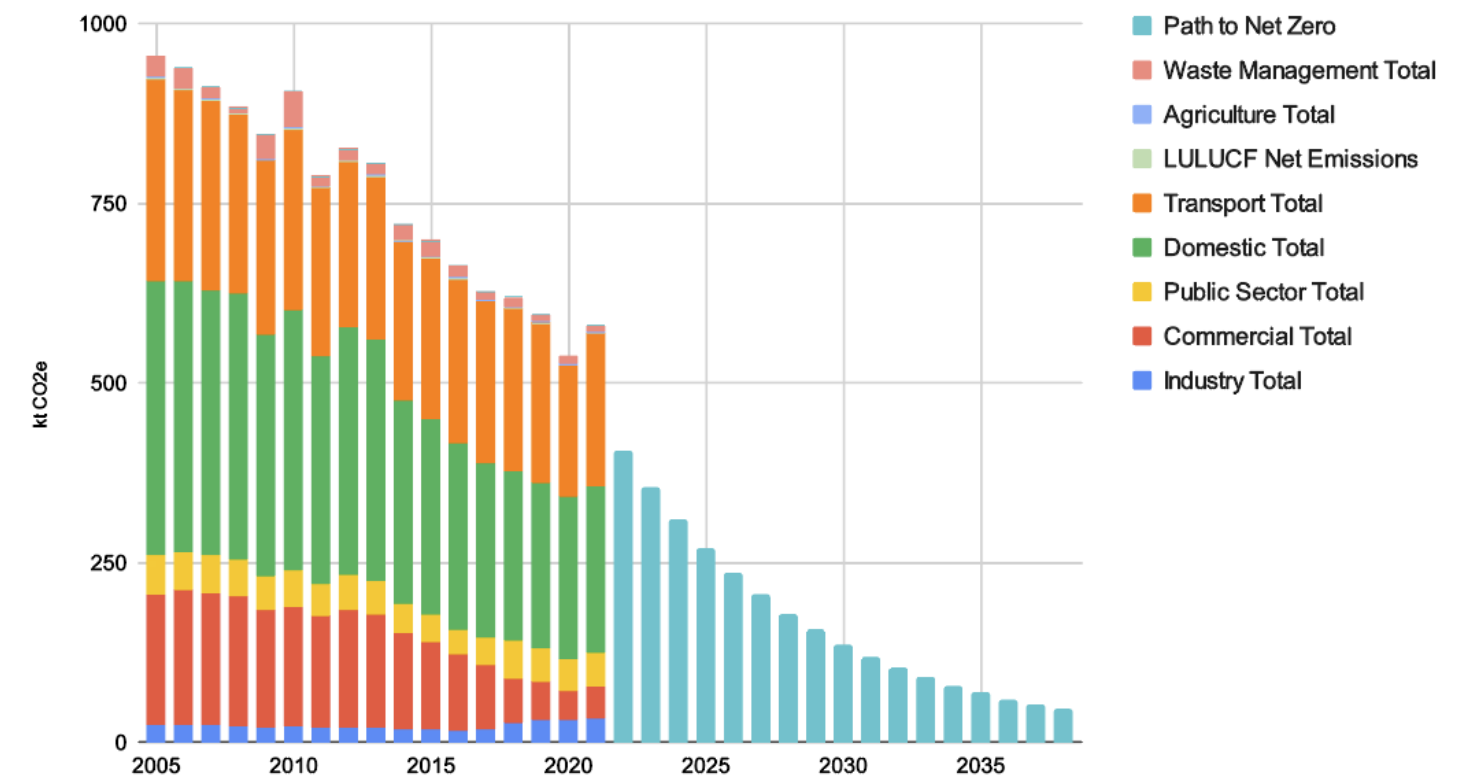


Figure 1 Graph showing actual Kingston upon Thames Local Authority territorial greenhouse gas emissions in kilotonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents (ktCO2e) from 2005 to 2021 split by Transport, Domestic use, Public Sector use, Commercial use, Industry, Waste Management, Agriculture and Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF). The predicted path to net zero by 2038 is also shown and is based on a 12.8% annual reduction as suggested by Tyndall Centre Research<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> From BEIS UK Greenhouse gas emissions summary by Borough [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1086980/UK-local-authority-ghg-emissions-2020.xlsx](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1086980/UK-local-authority-ghg-emissions-2020.xlsx)

<sup>2</sup> 12.8% is the ideal annual reduction needed to meet Kingston's part of the Paris Agreement of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's pledge to keep global temperature increases lower than 1.5°C.

<sup>3</sup> From Tyndall Centre Carbon Budgets for Local Authorities <https://carbonbudget.manchester.ac.uk/reports/E09000021/>



# Carbon emissions in Kingston

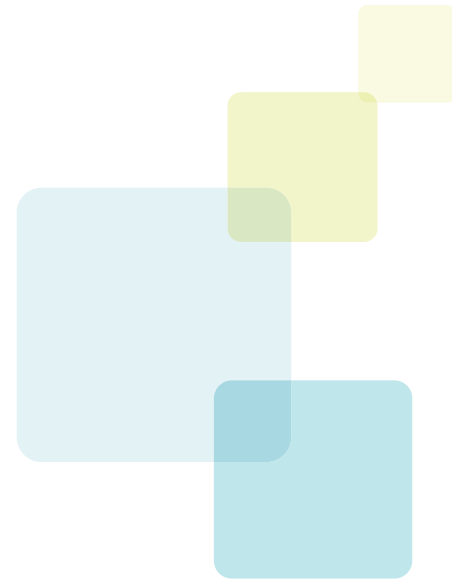
## Council emissions

Of the total emissions for the borough shown in the previous section, the council's direct emissions are estimated to be around 2%.

Kingston Council remains committed to leading the way in reducing direct emissions from council activities and meeting the ambitious target for net zero by 2030. This target includes the energy, water, and refrigerants (for air conditioning) used in buildings the council owns or pays for, the street lighting in the borough, all vehicles owned or leased and all staff business travel.

Similar to the borough wide emissions amounts, the council has also seen a reduction in direct emissions due to more renewable energy in the national grid.

The ongoing review of council building assets to allow needed services to be provided in the best and most efficient way, has also meant that some buildings have been closed either temporarily (such as during COVID lockdowns or to allow upgrades to buildings) or permanently where building use is no longer required.



All of these factors, combined with efforts to improve the energy efficiency of council buildings, lighting, fleet and travel have already led to a 27% reduction in emissions since the baseline year of 2017/18.

Alongside these efforts to reduce emissions from sources already known and measured, the council has been working to improve understanding and measurement of emissions from other assets that are directly paid for and/or owned.

Figure 2 shows the council updated breakdown of emissions under the 2030 target. The scope of this 2030 target will continue to expand as better data is gathered and becomes available e.g. staff business travel mileage by train and bus.

Beyond measuring current council emissions, Kingston Council is also working to predict what reductions will

be required each year in order to meet the net zero aim by 2030. Figure 3 shows an example of this with council emissions broken down into categories by the service offered e.g. Libraries & Culture, Car parking & CCTV operations. A reduction of 35% each year for each category would still leave a small amount of emissions that would need to be offset to reach net zero in 2030. Large emission reductions in the next few years are expected from purchasing renewable energy through an upcoming new energy supply contract, switching to LED street lighting, increased onsite renewable energy generation, replacing existing gas boilers with low carbon alternatives, and further energy efficiency improvements to council buildings. This carbon budget and supporting feasibility work will inform a proposal to the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2024-2028.

Council's Greenhouse Gas emissions 2022/23 (tCO2e)

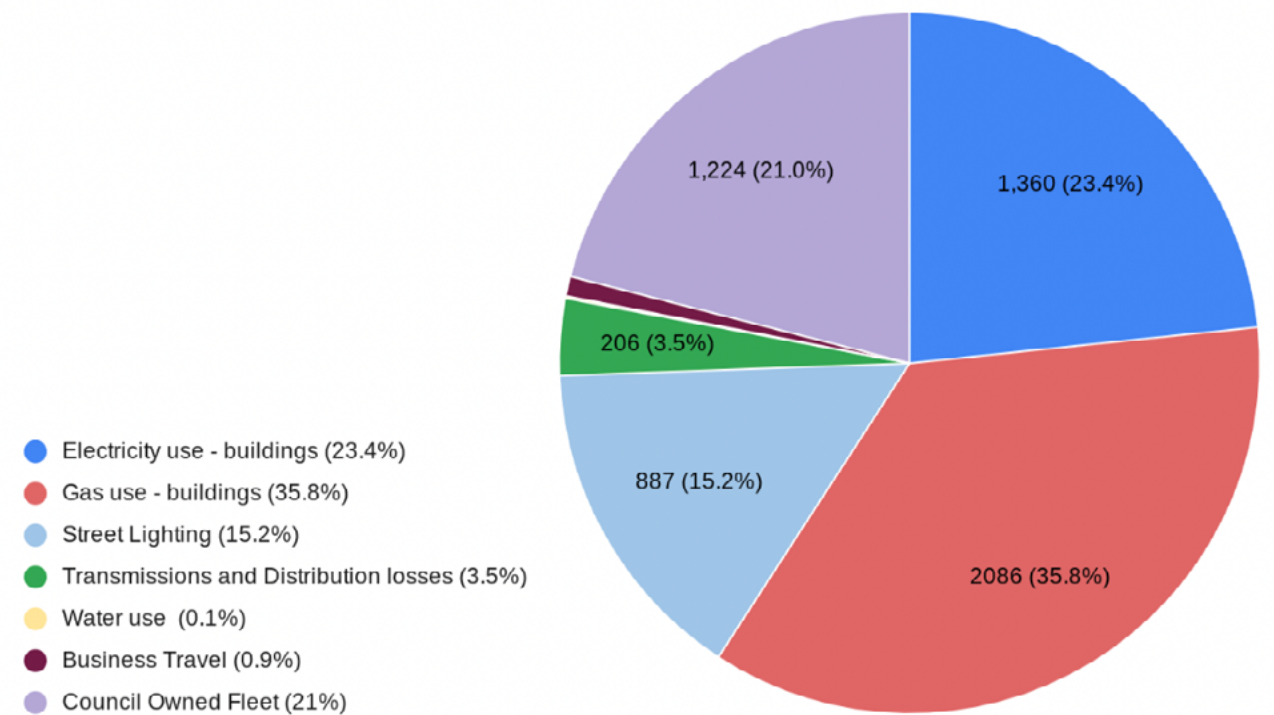
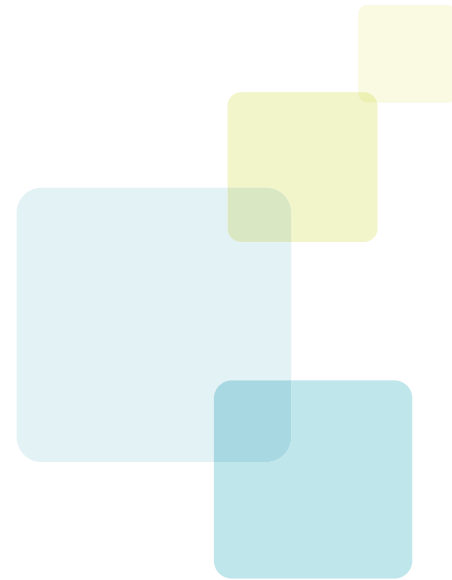


Figure 2 Royal Borough of Kingston greenhouse gas emissions within the 2030 target scope shown as tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents broken down by source type such as Electricity Use, Gas use, Street Lighting, Transmission and Distribution losses of electricity passing through the national grid, Water supplied to buildings and parks, Staff Business Travel by approved car, Emissions from Council owned and leased vehicles.

# Carbon emissions in Kingston

## Council emissions



Draft carbon budget for 2030: annual carbon reduction target by category

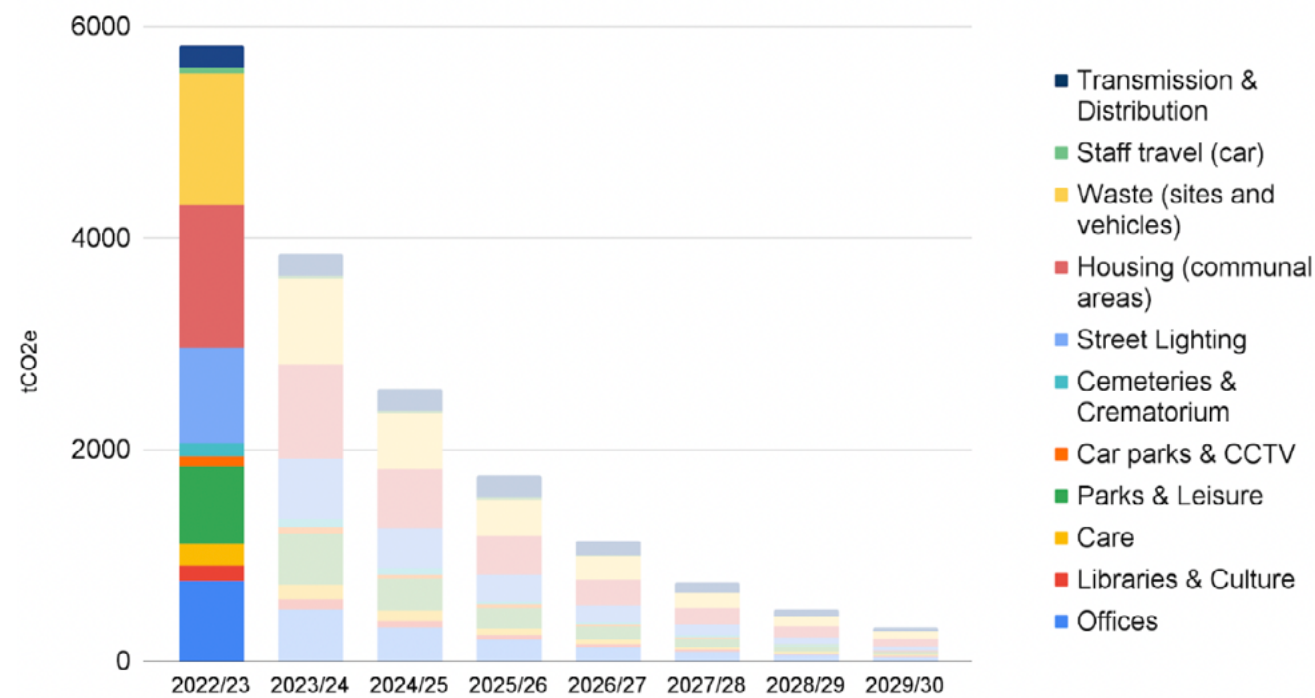


Figure 3 Projected required emissions reductions by use category to take the Council's carbon emissions to net zero by 2030. Annual reductions pictured are a 35% reduction each year to 2029/30.

## Emissions in council influence

As well as supporting reductions of emissions from Kingston borough's territorial boundary, and those emissions within direct control of the council, Kingston Council also remains dedicated to quantifying and working to reduce emissions within its immediate influence to net zero by 2038.

This part of the council's work includes schools, services like waste processing, construction materials used on sites in the borough, and all other contractors whose supply chains impact emissions both in Kingston and beyond.

There are several key large upcoming contracts and projects that will substantially affect both the council and wider borough emissions so will be key in reaching carbon emissions reductions targets. They are: the council waste services contracts; the Kingston District Heat Network; the new leisure centre on the Kingfisher site; the redesign of the

Guildhall campus; and degasification of existing buildings.

A recent piece of research by the South London Waste Partnership has provided a detailed breakdown of emissions from this waste service at different stages from collection to reuse, recycling or disposal.

Many council suppliers are already working to be net zero by 2050 in line with national government requirements but Kingston Council will challenge them to make this happen sooner.





# Theme 1: Efficient Homes and Buildings



Energy use in homes across Kingston account for roughly 40% of greenhouse gas emissions across the borough, which is why it's so important that steps are taken to improve their energy efficiency where possible, as quickly as possible.

Home improvements like loft insulation and double glazing not only help reduce carbon emissions, but they also help to lower energy bills and create cosier, healthier homes by preventing cold, damp and mould. However, some of these improvements can be costly and unaffordable for some residents, without financial assistance.

This means that when funding opportunities arise to help eligible residents improve their homes, the council needs to make the most of them. The council has been working with the Mayor of London's Warmer Homes scheme, which provided grants of between £5,000 to £25,000 to eligible households.

The council wrote to eligible households to make

them aware of the grants and made sure to share the information with those receiving support for the Cost of Living crisis and promoted the scheme widely.

Funding applications are sometimes complicated, so the council's Climate Action Team proposed an idea to the Greater London Authority (GLA) for a service to help residents through the application process. The GLA was supportive of the idea and provided additional resources, allowing the appointment of Thinking Works to provide this much needed support to not only help lower emissions, but to also make homes healthier and safer.

The council also connected Thinking Works with Kingston's Community Champions who volunteered to increase awareness of the Warmer Homes scheme at Kingston's Warm Hubs and libraries. The volunteers referred eligible residents to Thinking Works to receive further support throughout the application process and the council would like to thank them for their time and commitment.

Over 90 eligible applications were received from Kingston residents, with 59 properties already having completed the works. Many residents had their work completed during the winter and immediately felt the positive impact the Warmer Home grant had on their lives. One resident said:



*'The place is so cosy! Last year, our energy bill was around £200 a month. Prices have gone up, but I am convinced we will be saving money. We are over the moon, we really are.'*

*'My granddaughter came round the other day and it was so warm, she thought the radiators were on, but they weren't.'*



The council also successfully bid for £600,000 of funding from the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero, which in combination with council funds, will allow the installation of energy efficiency measures including improved ventilation, insulation, solar panels and battery storage in 66 council homes. This will make them warmer and reduce energy needs, potentially saving each household around £600 a year while reducing their carbon emissions.

Kingston's first ever Efficient Homes Show took place in May and was created in partnership between the council, Kingston Green Business Community, community groups and Hollyfield School. Over 400 people signed up to attend and find out about products and technology that could help improve their homes while reducing their energy bills and carbon emissions.





# Theme 1: Efficient Homes and Buildings



## Key areas of progress 22/23



**01**

In the last year the council helped 666 households keep warm and save money on energy bills through the Warm Homes Better Health service.



**04**

Where possible, landlords not meeting the minimum energy efficiency standards were contacted and encouraged to improve the energy efficiency of their properties.



**02**

Funding was secured from the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) to help improve the energy efficiency of 66 council homes, saving each household up to £600 a year.



**05**

Energy saving information was promoted as part of our work to support residents through the cost of living crisis.



**03**

59 homes were connected with the Mayor of London's Warmer Homes Scheme, which provides grants of up to £25,000 for measures like insulation and low-carbon heating.



**06**

Kingston's first ever Efficient Homes Show was run in collaboration with businesses, community groups and partner organisations. Over 400 people signed up to meet installers of energy efficient technology and find out how to reduce their energy use and costs.

## Key Priorities for 23/24



**01**

Developing an energy strategy and practical projects for increasing the generation of renewable energy in the borough and in the corporate estate.



**04**

Commissioning a service to scrutinise the energy efficiency of planning proposals in greater detail.



**02**

Working with the South London Partnership, the London Office of Technology and Innovation and London Councils to develop a Retrofit Advisory Tool to help residents through the journey of retrofitting their home.



**05**

Conducting energy assessments of all social housing in the borough to help prioritise the retrofit programme.



**03**

Retrofit the 66 council homes that received funding from DESNZ, with measures including installing insulation, windows and solar panels.



# Theme 2: How we travel



Transport accounts for 38% of greenhouse gas emissions in Kingston and in order to meet net zero goals, improve air quality and health, a shift in how people get around the borough, with far less reliance on petrol and diesel vehicles will be needed.

Kingston Council is leading the way on sustainable transport as one of two boroughs leading on the 'London Councils Low Carbon Transport Programme', supporting action across the capital. Alongside the City of Westminster, the council commissioned a study to understand what specific action is required in the boroughs to meet net zero goals.

This study will inform decision making going forwards and help to evidence the need for change and additional action to meet the borough's climate targets while improving air quality and improving health outcomes.

Did you know that Kingston has over 13km of two-way cycle paths?

To make cycling even more convenient across Kingston borough, work has been ongoing to get more people cycling by delivering cycle training, installing cycle hangers and by working with Human Forest to introduce a trial dockless e-bike service. Since their introduction on Car Free Day in September 2022, users have made over 19,000 journeys and travelled over 44,000 miles.

Kingston is part of the world-wide School Streets initiative to help keep children and their families safe by limiting motor vehicle access around the school gates at school start and finish times. This reduces air pollution and supports active travel by allowing children to walk, cycle or scoot to school safely.



In 2022, two new permanent school streets were established for Christ Church CofE School and St John's Primary School and a new trial extension for Lovelace Primary School commenced this Spring. They join the existing five School Streets in the borough that have been making journeys to school safer.

While walking, cycling and public transport are the lowest impact ways to travel, and have significant health benefits, the council is also supporting the move away from fossil fuel based vehicles and an improvement in air quality by encouraging the installation of electric vehicle charging points across the borough.



**There are now over 250 electric vehicle charging points installed in lamp posts, and 30 fast charging points. The current delivery of lamp column charging points has been funded through the Office of Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) On Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme (ORCS).**





# Theme 2: How we travel



## Key areas of progress 22/23



**01**

Leading the way on sustainable transport as co-chair of the London Councils' Low Carbon Transport Programme, leading action across the capital.



**02**

Commissioned a study to understand what action is needed to meet net zero goals. This study will inform decision making and help evidence the need for change and how to prioritise.



**03**

Delivered cycling infrastructure including a review of two key cycle routes and cycling training for children and adults.



**04**

Established two new permanent and, one trial, School Streets. They join five existing School Streets in the borough, reducing air pollution and supporting active travel by allowing children to walk, cycle or scoot to school safely.



**05**

Worked with Human Forest to introduce a trial dockless e-bike service. Users have made over 19,000 journeys and travelled over 44,000 miles since September 2022.



**06**

Installed 100 extra electric vehicle lamp column chargers.

## Key Priorities for 23/24



**01**

Continue to monitor the expansion of the ULEZ area and lobby for a solution that encourages sustainable transport in a fair and equitable manner.



**02**

Continue to improve the walking and cycling network to make it as easy as possible to get around the borough without needing a car.



**03**

Continue to deliver cycle training and install cycle hangers across the borough.



**04**

Extend an existing Schools Street and develop proposals for further School Streets across the borough.



**05**

Continue to work with the community to create more healthy streets and complete the roll out of a 20 mph speed limit across the borough.



**06**

Seek funding to further expand the borough's electric vehicle charging network.





# Theme 3: Natural Environment



Kingston is lucky to be surrounded by significant green space with Richmond Park, Wimbledon Common, Home Park, the greenbelt and the River Thames along our borders. This means that Kingston is geographically important to ensuring that wildlife populations can move through the borough to connect with other populations - and it is vitally important that there is protection for the natural infrastructure and populations contained within the borough to protect the natural environment from the wide range of threats that it currently faces, including climate change.

In February 2023 Kingston scaled up its protection of the natural environment with the approval of its first ever Biodiversity Action Plan. This plan compliments the activity in the Climate Action Plan by outlining how the council intends to take a leading role in enhancing the biodiversity and health of nature in Kingston. Kingston itself is 37% greenspace, with 272 open spaces covering an area of 1,369 hectares.



It also outlines ways in which ecosystems can help to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change; for example by capturing carbon, improving drainage, retaining water or cooling the surrounding environment.

In Kingston 2,062 species have been recorded, though this is probably an underestimate of the true number it provides an insight into the wealth of biodiversity that an urban environment can support. Kingston is home to true

marvels of the natural world; from peregrine falcons stooping at speeds in excess of 200 mph to enigmatic stag beetles battling on a warm summer's day.

It is vital that this plan recognises, communicates and protects the biodiversity that calls Kingston home. As such the plan includes Flagship Species Action Plans that are specifically tailored to Kingston's wildlife populations.

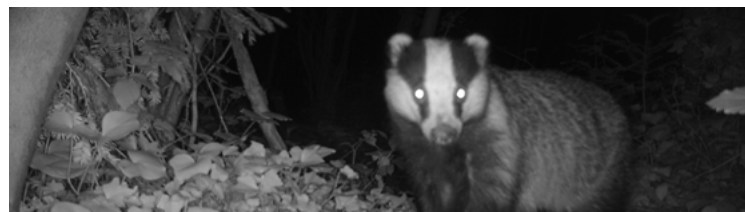
Complementing this plan, WildWay sites and RBS Pollinator Friendly Certified BioBeds have been established across the borough, helping to improve wildflower and pollinator numbers across Kingston. Regular nature walks and talks take place, engaging hundreds of people each year, and community partnership work, such as the London Zoological Society's London Hogwatch programme, and Field Studies Council Recorder Days connect residents with the borough's nature, highlighting the importance of protecting it from climate change.

The council looks after over 12,000 trees in Kingston's parks and green spaces and between November 2022 and March 2023 planted 500 more. Trees have huge value when it comes to climate change, capturing carbon, cleaning the air and providing shade and cool spaces. Thames Water committed £10,000 to support a small wetland creation scheme on Beeline Way to help mitigate loss of habitat.

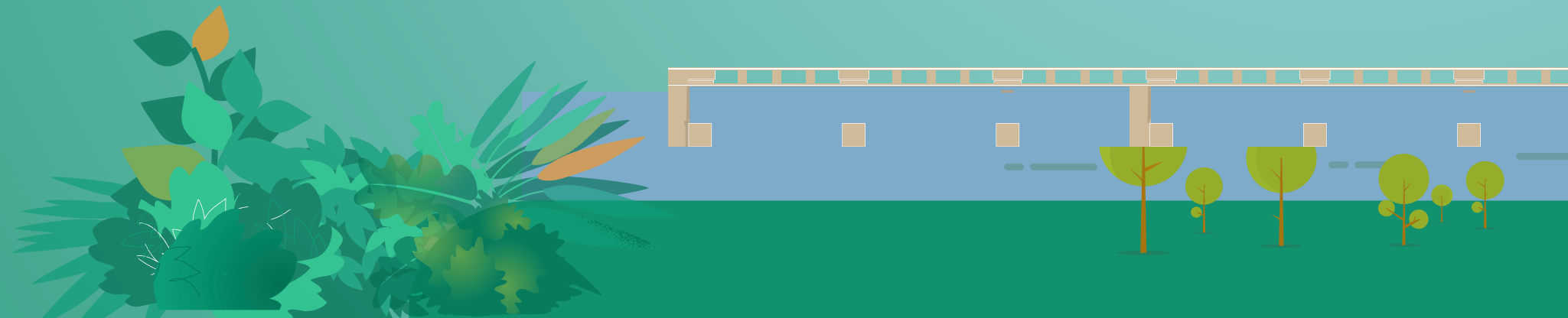
Making the most of our green spaces not only provides a haven for wildlife, protecting it from the impacts of climate change, but they can also capture carbon, provide cool spaces for residents and spaces for people to connect with nature, take exercise and benefit their health and wellbeing. Many of our local green spaces have 'friends of' groups, if you would like to get involved you can find out what is going on on our website: [kingston.gov.uk/parks-sports-leisure-1/get-involved-local-park](https://kingston.gov.uk/parks-sports-leisure-1/get-involved-local-park)



**The borough has a wealth of habitats including grasslands, woodlands, hedgerows, standing open water, rivers, streams and the Thames, all of which have designated habitat action plans included within the Biodiversity Action Plan.**



# Theme 3: Natural Environment



## Key areas of progress 22/23



01

Approval of Kingston's Biodiversity Action Plan. This outlines how the council intends to take a leading role in enhancing the biodiversity and health of nature in Kingston.



02

Planted 500 more trees in the borough to add to over 12,000 trees in Kingston's parks and green spaces that the council looks after.



03

Using £50k of funding from the GLA, and working closely with the community to shape the future of Tolworth Court Farm.



04

Secured £19,700 for sensors that will allow the council to work with the Institute of Zoology on wildlife camera surveys across the borough.



05

Secured £10,000 from the GLA Rewild funding for the Hogsmill Wood.



06

Adopted pollinator-friendly planting schemes in bio-beds and planters across the borough.



01

Continue to integrate biodiversity and protection for the natural environment as part of the development of Kingston's Local Plan.



02

Introduce Biodiversity Net Gain requirements, help deliver the Kingston Biodiversity Action Plan and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.



03

Launch Kingston's Biodiversity Action Plan and work with the Kingston Biodiversity Partnership to oversee delivery.



04

Kingston's Sustainable September 2023 event programme will have a biodiversity and natural environment theme with opportunities for volunteering, learning, walks and engagement with nature.



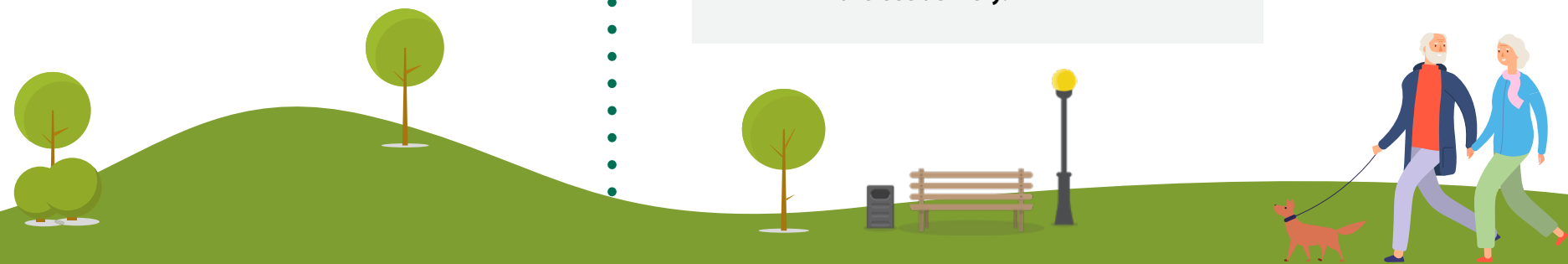
05

Restoration of Fishponds Ponds and restoration of Vine Close Community Garden.



06

Continue to support volunteer activities in our green spaces and submit finding bids to improve our green spaces.





# Theme 4: Waste Reduction



Since the publication of the Climate Action Plan the council has been working to increase the amount of reuse, repair and waste prevention in Kingston by sharing knowledge and supporting community groups across the borough.

Council officers, Councillors and community groups have been gathering every two months to discuss waste reduction, reuse and recycling at Recycling Minds meetings. Participants have been networking, sharing ideas and project updates to promote more sustainable waste practices in the borough.

The council helped launch a Zero Waste Map in August 2022, advising residents and visitors to South-West London as to where they can shop whilst supporting the local circular economy, which can be accessed via phone or computer. The map shows businesses, facilities and workshops that encourage the circular economy by eradicating waste packaging, encouraging reuse, upcycling and repair or offering facilities to recycle goods and materials once they have reached end of life.

A reusable nappy webpage was launched on Kingston's website in February 2023. This includes

advice on reusable nappies and links to neighbouring nappy libraries, where residents can trial different branded reusable nappies for their babies. For 2023/24, Kingston will be part of the Real Nappies for London voucher scheme, offering 30 vouchers to low-income families and three reusable nappy engagement and baby clothing swap events will be taking place.

## **In March 2023, Kingston joined the pan-London Eat Like a Londoner campaign led by ReLondon.**

Eat Like a Londoner is a platform built to engage and educate Londoners on how to reduce their food carbon footprint. The platform has links to lots of content on food waste reduction and planet friendly diets. The campaign will consist of three bursts of London wide advertising as well as more localised communications to residents.



In November 2022, the council coordinated with Sunray Recycles to set up a one hour a week volunteering opportunity at Kingston Cemetery. This involved the separation of wreaths from their casings to ensure the flowers were composted and the plastic casings reused or repurposed.

A space was provided at Kingston Library for Transition Town Kingston's Repair Cafe, which opened in February 2023. The Repair Cafe takes place on the first Saturday of every month where volunteer fixers support the community

with fixing broken items and stopping items from being needlessly thrown away.

Over the past year there has been a focus on intelligence gathering through public consultation, a "waste composition analysis", carbon modelling, design options for the infrastructure at the Villiers Road Household Reuse and Recycling Centre and a plan to reduce the amount of contamination in the recycling collected that reduces the carbon benefit of those services.





# Theme 4: Waste Reduction



## Key areas of progress 22/23



01

Building works have been taking place to allow the charging of a new fleet of electric waste vehicles.



04

Developed guidance for event organisers to help them reduce waste, increase recycling and improve sustainability.



02

The South London Waste Partnership have been developing a carbon baseline for the council's recycling services - this will identify opportunities for reducing emissions.



05

Took Part in the Eat Like a Londoner campaign which helps people eat well, save money, reduce food waste and lower emissions.



03

Worked with local businesses to pilot a project that will help the hospitality sector minimise food waste and save money.



06

Ran a consultation to understand what residents do and don't like about their current waste and recycling services, and how it could be made easier to recycle more.



07

Conducted an analysis of the rubbish that ends up in black bins to help target waste prevention activities.

## Key Priorities for 23/24



01

Deliver an eco-refill programme for schools to make it easy for children and their parents to minimise packaging waste.



04

Deploy a new electric waste fleet, which will eventually remove 10,660 tons of CO2 between 2023-2030, which is the same as removing 689 cars off the road every year.



02

Take part in the Real Nappies for London Voucher scheme and run 'nappy know-how' sessions and baby clothes swap events.



05

Review how waste is processed, with a carbon reduction as a priority. This includes applying for funding to improve the recycling site and waste transfer station at Chapel Mill Road, to allow for better access and support recycling and reuse activities, e.g. improving the quality of the recycling processed.



03

Continue to review waste and recycling service with a view to making it as sustainable and easy-to-use as possible. Purchase a new contract arrangement for collecting waste and recycling from homes that will help residents to recycle, reuse and compost a greater proportion of their waste.



06

Run campaigns to boost participation in the food waste collection service, encourage more recycling of textiles and batteries and reduce plastic waste.



# Theme 5: Sustainable Council



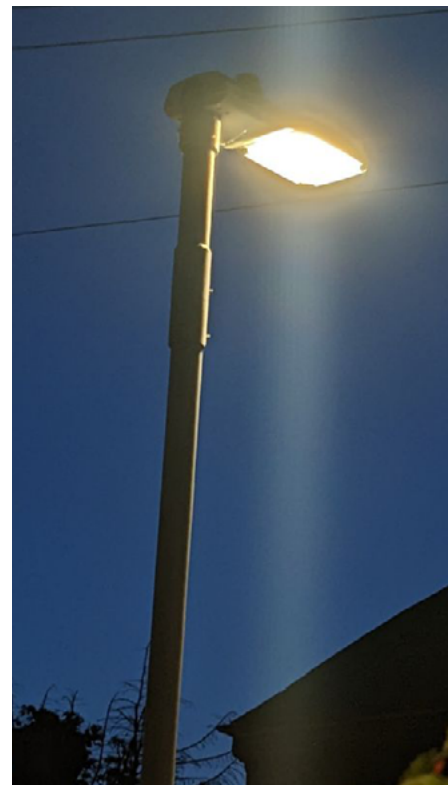
The Sustainable Council theme covers the key actions to be taken within the operation of the council to ensure that climate is considered across all activities and that progress is made towards the 2030 target of reducing emissions from the council's core operations. In the first year, supported by a new Climate Action Team that was recruited by September 2022, the council has been taking action, building skills and understanding its impacts and emissions in more detail.

One of the first steps has been ensuring that all staff are equipped with the knowledge of the severity of climate change, an understanding of what a council can be delivering to reduce its impact, and the tools they need to prepare for the impacts of climate change. Over 90 officers have undertaken an accredited course of Carbon Literacy training to give them this knowledge. This includes both senior managers across the organisation and officers that are working in the most relevant areas, such as Commissioning, Finance, Planning and Highways.

The council has been considering the environmental impact of its estate and how it uses its space for work, with a view to reduce our needs and impact. It has been working to better understand the emissions from its estate and operations. In particular, it is taking a much closer look at emissions from its buildings and delivering a Greater London Authority scheme to develop a roadmap for energy efficiency and renewable energy generation across the corporate estate. These include its care homes, leisure centres and offices, which are its biggest emitters.

The council has also been reviewing options for increasing the proportion of renewable energy that it buys in a way that guarantees an increase in renewable supply to the national grid and the soon-to-arrive electric fleet of waste collection lorries.

39% of the council's electricity energy usage is related to street lighting, and work has started to convert this with modern



LED technology that will use half the electricity than the lights they are replacing, reducing the associated carbon emissions and being cheaper to run for the council. Roughly 6600 bulbs have been installed so far. The way in which the council buys goods and services has been reviewed to ensure that more detailed consideration is given to environmental factors. This includes looking for social value in major contracts and providing the officers making purchasing decisions the knowledge and skills to make them effectively.

**The council has also been reviewing its fleet to understand the impacts of ULEZ and how we can transition to electric vehicles. It currently has 15 electric vehicles that are used by a variety of council teams including Estates Services and the Community Library. Six new electric vans are also being used by the council's parks contractor, Glendale. Work is underway at the Villiers Road Household Reuse and Recycle Centre to prepare for the arrival of the borough's electric waste fleet. Based on the National Grid in 2023 the cleaner, greener and quieter electric vehicles will remove 554 tonnes of CO2 per year, which is equivalent to taking 270 cars off the road.**

The council is also working to mitigate the impacts from climate change, including for instance the increased risk of flooding. Government predictions are that the peak rainfall of extreme storms will increase by up to 40% in London by 2050. The council is working on designs for three flood alleviation schemes within the borough, targeting critical drainage areas to store flood water and release it slowly. The council requires new developments to be designed to remain safe during extreme storms including a 40% allowance for climate change, and new developments to not increase the risk of flooding elsewhere.



# Theme 5: Sustainable Council



## Key areas of progress 22/23



01

A new Climate Action Team was recruited to coordinate the delivery of the Climate Action Plan and to deliver projects that will directly impact progress towards the council's carbon targets.



02

Over 60 officers have undertaken an accredited course of Carbon Literacy training to improve their climate knowledge to help with decision making.



03

Six new electric vans have replaced the old diesel fleet that services green spaces.



07

Refining commissioning processes to integrate climate into our purchasing decisions.



04

Commenced a Greater London Authority scheme to develop a roadmap for energy efficiency and renewable energy generation council care homes, leisure centres and offices.



05

Took a closer look at council emissions data from the corporate estate to understand emissions in more detail so that they can be used to develop a carbon budget.



06

Upgrading the borough's street lighting with modern LEDs which are just as bright but use half the energy to run.

## Key Priorities for 23/24



01

Drive forward energy efficiency in council buildings and review how the council sources its energy with the aim of delivering new renewable energy sources.



02

Develop and implement a strategy to increase renewable energy generation in the borough and corporate estate.



03

Deepen the understanding of emissions generated by contracted services and continue to integrate climate considerations into the commissioning process.



04

Develop an approach to a carbon budget which will help the council work towards practically meeting its emissions targets.



05

Continue to deliver climate change training to staff.



06

Relocate computer servers to a location off site with better energy efficiency while monitoring the impact this has on emissions.



07

Further develop an approach to protecting the borough and residents from the impacts of climate change, linked to the work of London Councils, London Resilience forum and partners across the borough.



08

Develop a Climate Decision Tool to illustrate the environmental impacts of council decision making.



# Theme 6: Green Economy



Activities related to business and industry account for 15% of carbon emissions in the borough. The council has been working closely with Kingston Chamber of Commerce, local organisations and businesses to help the transition to a thriving low carbon economy.



1. Reducing negative impact on the environment
2. Supporting eco-innovation and securing green business opportunities
3. Developing the green skills required to achieve the two other objectives.

## At the heart of the council's work are three objectives:

The council developed two initiatives - RAISE (Recovery, Adaptation, Innovation Support for Enterprise) and the Green Business Challenge and provided around £370,000 of funding to support 27 local micro and small businesses to reduce the negative impact of their activities on the environment while developing further or new environmentally friendly products and services.

A series of Think Green Roundtable Discussions and training sessions for businesses have been organised on a range of topics including; energy crisis management, decarbonising websites, environmental sustainability, understanding climate change, decarbonising business fleets, environmental reviews and marketing of environmental achievements.

The council has also worked with South Thames College Group, South London Green Skills Academy and Kingston Adult Education to create a variety of qualifications to help get

more people into green sectors and retrain existing workforces, which will be incredibly important in the coming years. Examples of the courses include introductions to: Solar Technology, Electrification of Cars, Waste Management, Sustainable Fashion, Environmental Awareness and Retrofit.

Toward the end of 2022 the council created the Kingston Green Business Community which is an open forum for businesses and organisations committed to reducing their environmental impact, promoting sustainability, eco-innovating and thriving. It's free for all businesses to join and enjoy benefits like networking, knowledge sharing and problem solving.

The community has over 60 active members, including small and large businesses, as well as local anchor institutions, such as Kingston Chamber of Commerce, Kingston University and South Thames Colleges Group. Third sector organisations, such as Community Brain and Transition Town Kingston have also joined the community. The community has an instrumental role in developing and shaping the borough's journey to becoming a thriving, diverse low carbon economy. It is a hive of innovative and practical solutions. It meets regularly, to discuss and collaborate on ideas and projects which not only help them as businesses, but also help local communities and the environment.

For example, two members, JNDC and Lime Track Limited, in collaboration with Kingston Council and funding from GLA's South London Internet of Things (IoT) programme, are piloting a project in Surbiton to help hospitality sector businesses tackle food waste, which has a significant environmental impact, and at the same time reduce their operational costs and comply with legislation.

The project will enable businesses to easily measure, track and reduce their avoidable food waste while providing a dedicated collection service. Any food waste collected will be processed to generate renewable energy and organic fertiliser. As an example, six used tea bags could provide enough energy to boil the water



for your next cup of tea if processed at a special facility called an anaerobic digestion plant. If the same six teabags went to landfill, the emissions produced would be equivalent to driving over 1 km in a small car.

Not only will large financial savings for the businesses be made, but the project will also help to tackle climate change by ensuring commercial food waste doesn't end up in landfill where it decomposes and releases a powerful greenhouse gas called methane.

# Theme 6: Green Economy



## Key areas of progress 22/23



**01**

Created the Kingston Green Business Community, which already has over 60 active member organisations.



**04**

Worked with South Thames College Group, South London Green Skills Academy and Kingston Adult Education to create a variety of courses and qualifications to help get people into green jobs.



**07**

Created the Transition to Green Economy Working Group with membership from the council, partner organisations and businesses.



**10**

Worked with South London Partnership (SLP), neighbouring Boroughs, businesses and other stakeholders to identify business challenges and develop solutions (Business, Innovation & Growth Programme).



**02**

Awarded £370,000 to 27 micro and small businesses to reduce their impact on the environment and develop sustainable products and services.



**05**

Ran Green Mark certification for local businesses and funded business activities aiming to reduce their negative impact on the environment.



**08**

Working with local businesses to pilot a project to reduce food waste and save the hospitality sector money.



**03**

Delivered a series of THINK GREEN roundtable discussions to help businesses decarbonise, in partnership with Kingston Chamber of Commerce.



**06**

Ran an environmental review pilot project for businesses in collaboration with Kingston University.



**09**

Ran three workshops in partnership with Better Futures+ to help businesses decarbonise their business fleet and their websites. Ran an energy crisis management workshop in partnership with Better Futures+ and CREW.



# Theme 6: Green Economy



## Key Priorities for 23/24



**01**

Continue to grow the Kingston Green Business Community, organise networking and knowledge sharing activities, facilitate collaboration to implement new project ideas and promote good practice examples.



**04**

Continue to organise and curate Think Green Roundtable discussions in collaboration with Kingston Chamber of Commerce.



**06**

Continue utilising the Business, Innovation & Growth in South London Programme to:

1. Stimulate innovation in green economy
2. Attract funding and investment in the green sectors
3. Promote green businesses
4. Organise the South London Innovation Summit with a focus on transition to a green economy - Nov 2023.



**07**

Access funding and/or identify donors and facilitate the development of a standalone website for Kingston Green Business Community.



**02**

Continue to support the businesses in the hospitality sector across the Borough to segregate food waste from general waste and save resources and costs.



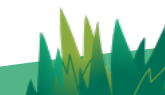
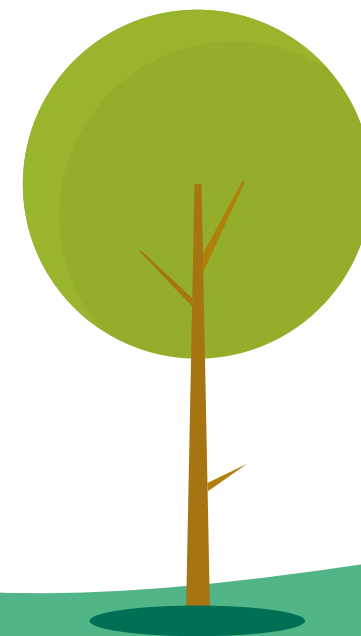
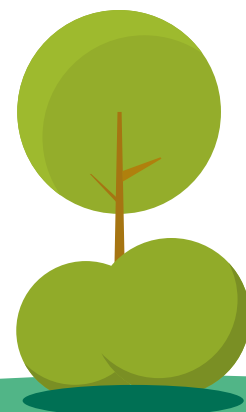
**05**

Continue working with South Thames Colleges Group, South London Partnership, Kingston Adult Education, local schools and other educational institutions to develop and promote green skills and employability, support projects for our residents and businesses.



**03**

Continue the collaboration with Kingston University and facilitate research and knowledge exchange activities between students and Kingston Green Business Community members.





# Theme 7: Everyone Together



Kingston is very fortunate to have a large number of green-minded groups and individuals that are committed to protecting and improving the environment for current and future generations.

With their help the council created Sustainable September in 2022, which was a month of activity hosted, supported and promoted by the council, community groups and businesses to get people talking about climate change and inspiring them to take action.

Over 40 activities took place across the borough including; bat walks and nature walks, bike maintenance sessions, eco-home open days, energy saving workshops, events at Tolworth Court Farm, tidy-ups at local nature spots and a variety of webinars on different topics.

The month came to a close with GreenZone at the Ancient Market Place which brought groups together from across the borough for a day of activity and public engagement.



**Examples include a new food growing area and healthy cooking club at Dickerage Community Centre, an Eco Fair run by St Mark's and St Andrew's Youth Group, rewilding projects at Tiffin Girls' School and Richard Challoner School and the creation of VegePods at Kingston Academy to grow food for school meals.**

The council also worked with Kingston Hive to find and provide a temporary space for their Climate Emergency Centre, in the heart of Kingston Town, as well as a space for Transition Town Kingston's monthly Repair Cafe, giving old and often loved items a new lease of life.



**September also saw the reformation of the Kingston Environment Forum (KEF) with support from the council's Climate Action Team. KEF is an umbrella network for local environmental groups, and acts as a 'critical friend' to the council on climate action. The members of KEF play an important role in delivering environmental community action across the borough.**

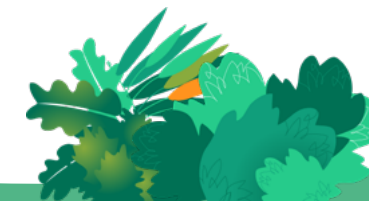


The council has strengthened its working relationships with groups across the borough throughout the last year. In 2022 and early 2023, it worked with the Kingston and Richmond Youth Parliament on their Climate Youth Fund which provides the borough's younger residents with funding to bring their environmental ideas to life.



Connecting individuals, communities and businesses with information to help them tackle climate change is integral to helping the borough reach its climate targets - a bespoke section on the council's website, providing a variety of information to help everyone take steps to reduce their climate impact has been created. This has been supplemented by the regular sharing of events, media campaigns and funding opportunities across all of the council's promotional channels.

The council would like to take this opportunity to thank all of Kingston's green-minded groups for the important role they play in tackling the climate and ecological emergencies at a local level, as well as helping to improve the borough and protect it.



# Theme 7: Everyone Together



## Key areas of progress 22/23



**01**

Ran Kingston's first ever Sustainable September with over 40 events and activities.



**04**

Helped to coordinate GreenZone with Kingston's green-minded community groups.



**07**

Regularly shared funding opportunities with groups like Kingston Voluntary Action and supported local groups with funding applications.



**09**

Promoted funding opportunities for retrofit and energy efficiency measures



**02**

Helped to reestablish the Kingston Environment Forum to bring together green groups and the council.



**05**

Provided £10,000 in funding to Kingston's Youth Council to deliver sustainability projects.



**08**

Took Part in Kingston University's first ever Climate Conference.



**10**

Attended Recycling Minds meetings with local residents to collaboratively tackle waste and recycling issues in the borough.



**03**

Created a dedicated set of climate web pages with information to help individuals tackle climate change.



**06**

Provided space for Kingston Hive's Climate Emergency Centre in Kingston Town and provided a space for Transition Town Kingston's Repair Cafe.





# Theme 7: Everyone Together



## Key Priorities for 23/24



**01**

Continue working with communities to deliver activities and events throughout Sustainable September, and to expand the number of groups and communities that the council works with.



**04**

Include a chapter on climate Change in Kingston's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment which will help to inform decision making on the future health, care and wellbeing needs of the local community.



**06**

Introduce Green Grants to the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector to help empower collective climate action.



**07**

Continue to work with Kingston University students to support Masters dissertation topics into key local environmental questions.



**02**

Focus on what everyone can do to protect the natural environment and how green space and natural resources can be a tool for reducing the impacts of climate change in Kingston's streets, green spaces and homes.



**05**

Deliver a second Kingston Efficient Home Show, based on feedback from the first which took place in May 2023. This will connect residents, businesses and organisations to help improve homes, reduce energy bills and protect the planet.



**03**

Continue to build relationships with community organisations across the borough and support positive environmental action.



# Looking to the future

Thank you for your interest in the work Kingston Council has done since it adopted the Climate Action Plan in March 2022.

While the focus is on reducing greenhouse gas emissions generated in the borough, the council is also looking at how the borough can adapt to the unavoidable changes caused by a changing climate. While much progress has been made, there is much more to do!



*We Are the Voice Children's Environmental Choir*

**Globally, extreme weather events like flooding and heat waves are becoming more common, and while the news media focuses on issues faced by places far away from Kingston, the borough is already seeing the impacts, with record breaking temperatures.**



The council is already preparing the borough's infrastructure for these impacts by:

- Improving flood infrastructure in the borough with additional flood defences and improved drainage.
- Planting more trees and developing cool spaces to provide shelter from the heat.
- Considering the best ways to protect our most vulnerable residents by adapting council services.
- Considering Future proofing buildings through planning policy and retrofit, to keep buildings warm in winter and cool in the summer.

The council is already working with local residents and community groups on preserving and encouraging nature in our urban environment. More will need to be done to minimise the impacts of climate change to protect the health of residents and the infrastructure on which the borough depends, so the council is taking an evidence-led approach to identify the most effective measures.

You'll be able to read about these and the council's other plans to tackle climate change online at [kingston.gov.uk/climate](https://kingston.gov.uk/climate)





**If you have difficulty reading this document or would like it in a different format, please call our helpline on 020 8547 5000 or ask someone to call on your behalf.**

**Climate Action -  
Report on Programme Delivery**

**The Royal Borough of Kingston upon  
Thames**

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