

# Just Transition Plan for the London Borough of Newham

3-6-5: a plan towards 2030

December, 2023



ARUP



# Mayor's foreword

Rokhsana Fiaz, OBE

The threat of climate change is greater in Newham than almost anywhere else in the UK. We have already witnessed the devastating effects of extreme heat waves, flooding and soaring living costs on our residents, and these are set to increase as climate change worsens. It is not just our environment on the line, but our livelihoods and our homes. We need to act now.

We are a proudly diverse borough and recognise that climate change impacts are felt disproportionately across our communities. Low income and disadvantaged groups contribute the least to climate change, yet disproportionately pay the highest costs for climate adaptation, and are most vulnerable to the impacts of inaction.

We cannot fall into the trap of looking at climate change as just an environmental issue; it impacts every aspect of Newham's society and economy. That's why we are reframing our approach to climate action and building on our previous strategy to call for a just transition in Newham, across London, and beyond.

Our Just Transition Plan not only accelerates decarbonisation, but also addresses the unequal impacts of climate change and creates better opportunities and health for our residents. Alongside this, the Plan sets out how we will build our capacity to adapt against both current and future climate change impacts that cannot be avoided.



People are at the heart of our Just Transition Plan, which will bring together our residents of all ages, our strong faith and voluntary sectors, educational and cultural institutions, and diverse businesses to build a fairer, healthier, and greener Newham. Our citizens assemblies have already demonstrated an appetite for greater action across our borough and this plan builds on that to create a call to action for all of us in Newham.

Our Just Transition Plan sets a new direction for the Council. It is an ambitious statement of intent for unified climate action across the whole borough. This is our moment to build a better Newham for all our residents.

# What is a Just Transition?

"It isn't just about cutting CO2 emissions: it's about creating a better city for Londoners. It means making homes efficient and warm, tackling fuel poverty and the cost-of-living crisis. It means making neighbourhoods more liveable and walkable, with vibrant local high streets and less traffic pollution, reducing health inequalities. It means good, green jobs with decent wages and conditions."

London Sustainable Development Commission, *London's Just Transition*; London City Hall

# Why do we need a Just Transition in Newham?

→ **We deserve a fairer Newham:** a Just Transition means increasing equality, improving health for our residents and providing opportunities for work and education.

→ **We are vulnerable:** Our residents and businesses have already suffered from extreme weather events, fuel poverty and soaring living costs.

→ **We need to be future ready:** Even small changes to the climate will lead to increased costs of living, migration pressures, and unpredictability and scarcity of supplies, such as food.

**We must act now to reach our climate targets and improve the lives of our residents.**

**This is why we've developed this Just Transition Plan.**

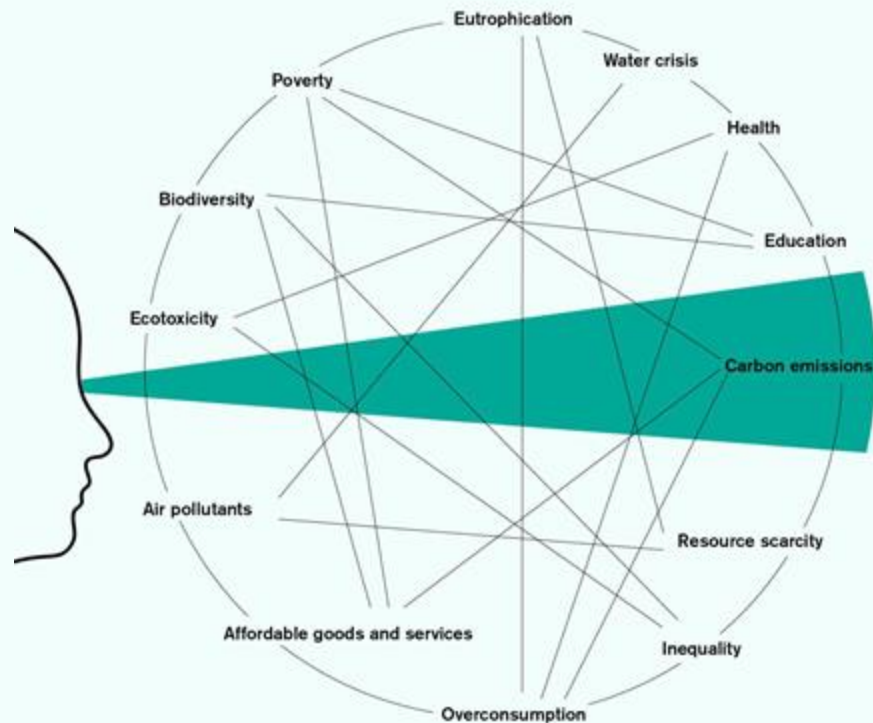




# Leading-edge climate action must look beyond 'carbon tunnel vision', to initiate a Just Transition.

The case for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and the means by which to do so, are familiar, albeit difficult. But the climate emergency comprises a range of factors that impact human and nonhuman life and environments across the globe. Meaningful climate action needs to look beyond 'carbon tunnel vision'.

In attempting to address the climate emergency holistically, Newham can initiate its Just Transition.



# Recent events show how climate stressors touch down in Newham.

## The climate emergency is here.

In July 2021, 22 areas of Newham had multi-day road closures, due to flooding.

Newham Hospital was left partially underwater and unable to accept A&E patients due to torrential rain.

“Our research ... shows that the poorest people and people of colour are disproportionately impacted by extreme weather in England.”

Prof. Sarah Lindley, University of Manchester School of Environment



# These impacts will grow increasingly tangible to the borough's residents in years to come.

Newham is the **second most at-risk area to extreme heat** in the UK.

**Deaths in London start to increase** when the two-day average maximum temperature exceeds **24.8°C**.

Source: Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health

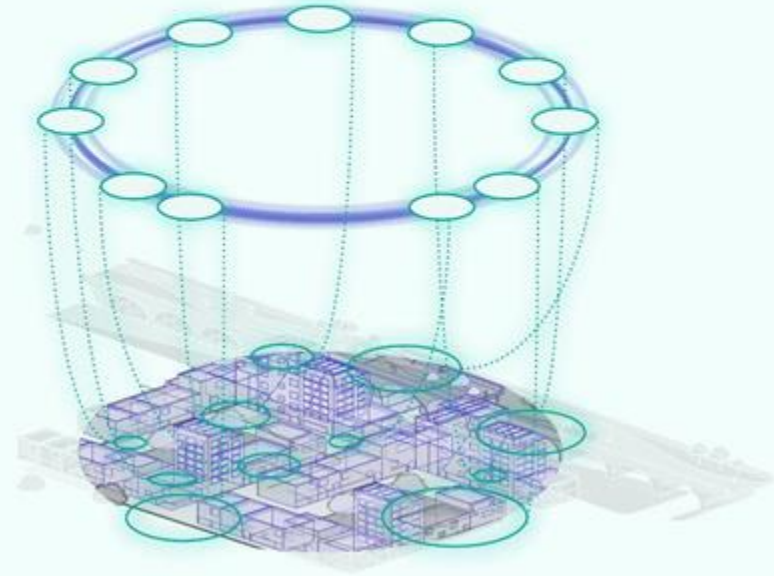
London could experience **multiple 45°C days** in the foreseeable future.

Source: Interim Climate Resilience Report for London 2023



Our blueprint for a just transition plan is structured around:

- 3 principles, which define
- 6 futures, supported by
- 5 enablers





# How does the Just Transition plan work?

## The plan:

### 3

Is guided by three principles, making sure that our focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions goes hand-in-hand with improving equity and helping us get ready for the impacts of climate change.



### 6

Creates desired futures of the kind of place that we want Newham to become. Based on the work of the resident-led climate assemblies and in engaging with many stakeholders, we have developed 6 positive 'Futures' which together make up our vision for a better Newham.



### 5

Will enable us to put in place better ways of working to build our own capacity, draw in resources and work effectively with citizens, businesses and institutions to build a collective effort. We've set out 5 enablers that will make this happen.



# How does the Just Transition plan work?

## 3 Principles



Increasing equity



Reducing emissions



Future-readiness

## 6 Futures



Our homes, workplaces and schools are comfortable, healthy and efficient



Our energy system is resilient, equitable and not dependent on fossil fuels



We prefer to walk, cycle or use public transport and goods are safely moved without polluting our streets



We increase sharing and reduce waste building a sharing and circular economy



We eat well and sustainably



Our neighbourhoods are resilient, connected and green

## 5 Enablers



Growing the Council's Climate Action capacity and effectiveness



Targeting and increasing investment



Partnering with Newham's Anchor Institutions



Enabling civic and place-based action



Working beyond Newham's borders

# This plan shifts our approach to climate action planning

Our Just Transition Plan builds on the foundation of our previous Climate Emergency Action Plan, which focuses on reducing emissions. The Just Transition Plan reflects several innovations that guide this next-generation document.

**FROM:****TO:**

Focusing on Council's own greenhouse gas emissions	→	Focused on creating a <b>liveable, resilient and just borough</b> operating within <b>planetary parameters</b>
Focus on internal activities	→	Council <b>leading, enabling and convening</b> partners and coalitions of businesses, anchor institutions, empowered citizens and voluntary sector organisations
Transport, waste, energy and housing treated as separate systems	→	<b>Integrated actions</b> including a neighbourhood-by-neighbourhood approach with deep civic participation
Incremental, grant-by-grant financing	→	Develop <b>longer-term rolling, blended and strategic investment</b>