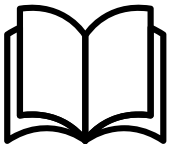


Brent Climate & Ecological Emergency Strategy

2021-2030



Easy read



Brent

London Borough of Brent

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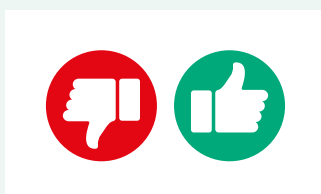
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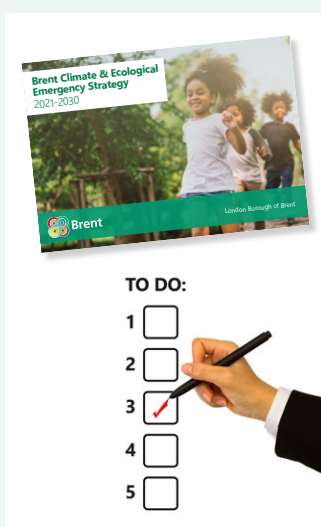
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Introduction



Climate change causes the world to get hotter and means that our weather will become more unpredictable and extreme in the future.



This means it could be much hotter outside for longer, not just in summer.



This might affect our health and cause plants and animals to suffer.

It could also mean that there is less food and water to go around.



The weather could change suddenly, meaning there could also be more storms, rain and flooding outside.

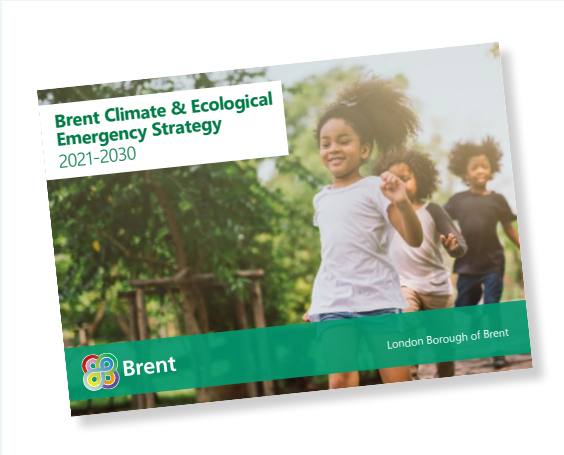


Climate change could also make the sea rise and mean that people have to move homes, or countries, in some parts of the world.



Brent Council wants to make sure that we can avoid this situation in future.

Lots of other places and countries have also agreed that we need to stop climate change.



Our **Climate and Ecological Strategy** explains how your local council plans to work with local people to tackle climate change between now and 2030.



By working together, we can tackle climate change and protect our environment.



This could make our world even better than it is now, making everywhere cleaner, safer and greener for everyone to enjoy.

What causes climate change?



Human activity is the main cause of climate change.

Many of our daily activities can cause pollution, which affects the environment and makes the planet hotter.



In Brent, this warming is mainly caused by the energy we use to heat our homes and local buildings (schools, shops, hotels etc).



It is caused by the dirty fuel we use when we travel in cars and on some buses.



It is also caused by:

- pollution which arises from the products we buy,



- the types of food we eat,



- and other forms of travel outside Brent – like flying abroad!

We have problems to solve... but we can do it!



Problem:

Tackling climate change is expensive.

Solution:

The council and local areas will need to work together to raise and access money to protect our environment!



Problem:

Coronavirus has had a big effect on all of us, this makes planning for the future difficult.

Solution:

However, it also gives us the chance to repair our society by tackling climate change at the same time as rebuilding after coronavirus!





Problem:

Many people do not understand climate change or how some of their daily activities are bad for the environment.



Solution:

The council and its communities will need to work together to spread learning, and encourage people to adopt simple changes to lifestyles that can make a big difference!



Problem:

Getting everyone to agree to change their lives can be hard.

Solution:

It does not need to be hard. Some people are already protecting the environment through their actions every day. We need to encourage everyone to get involved and follow the example of people who are already protecting the environment!



The Key Themes



Our strategy sets out the five areas we need to address to help us tackle climate change. We call these our Key Themes.



We developed these themes by speaking to local residents and young people to get their thoughts.



Brent is a London Borough, so we have also listened to experts in London whilst developing our plans.

Theme 1

Consumption, Resources and Waste



What is the issue?

When we make new products, like clothes and toys, we use the earth's natural resources like trees, water, metal and coal.



These are precious natural resources, which may one day run out.



When we throw away products and food, the waste causes pollution and we need to use even more resources to create new products in their place.



What is the solution in Brent?

Everyone in Brent needs to consume less of the products that use up the earth's natural resources.



We want to support local people to inspire this behaviour change across all of Brent.



Recycling is when people do something useful with their waste. We need to convert more of our rubbish into things we can use.



We need to support local businesses which are already consuming less natural resources, and wasting less.



We must encourage more local businesses to do the same and create more jobs which help to tackle climate change.



All of this must happen by 2030.

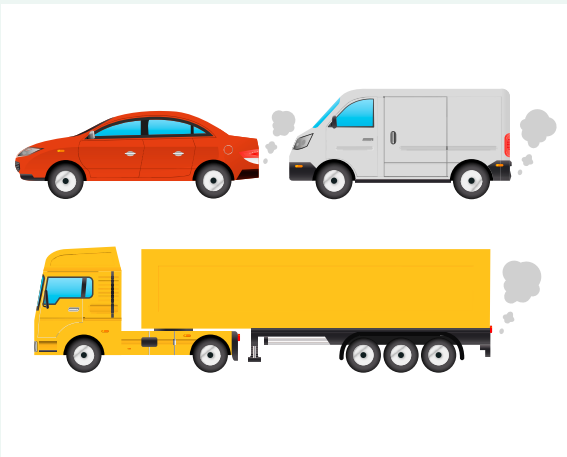
Theme 2

Transport



What is the issue?

The air in London is polluted.
This is affecting the environment
and people's health.



Air pollution is largely caused by
cars, vans, and lorries.



Pollution from vehicles causes
climate change, and can also
particularly effect children, leading
to long term health problems.



What is the solution in Brent?

We want people to stop driving cars powered by dirty fuels (petrol or diesel) which are bad for the environment.



We want more people to walk and cycle to places, helping both their health and the climate.



We also want more people to take the tube, and to travel on buses, instead of in petrol or diesel cars.

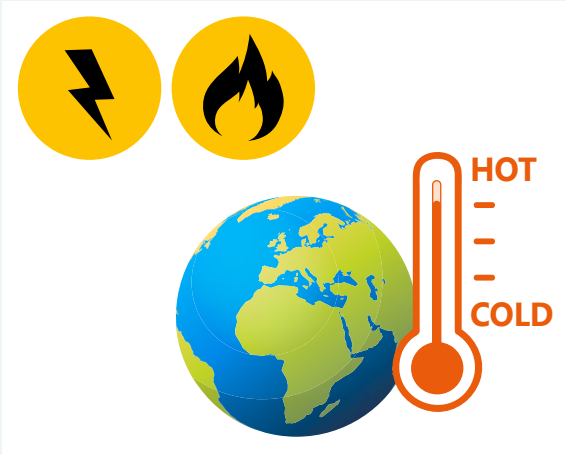


We want to work with other organisations to ensure we can use clean electricity to run our cars and other transport in the future.



All of this must happen by 2030.

Theme 3 Homes, Buildings and the Built Environment



What is the issue?

When we use gas and electricity in our homes and buildings every day, we are using energy that contributes to making the planet warmer.



We use lots of gas and electricity to:

- keep our homes warm when it is cold,



- and heat water for our showers.

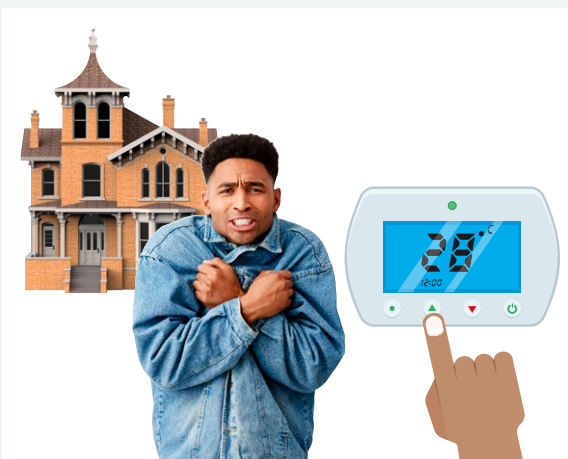


We also use lots of gas and electricity to:

- cook our meals,



- and charge up our mobile phones.



When our homes and buildings are old or poorly built, we can sometimes use more energy than we should need to each day.

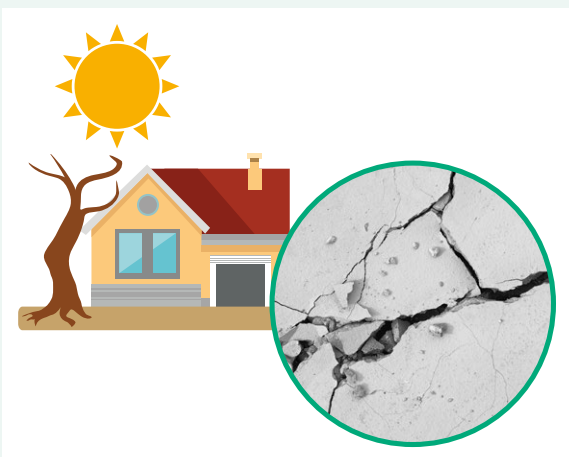


Our homes and buildings may also be damaged by extreme weather in future caused by climate change, such as:

- flooding,



- drought,



- or heatwaves.



What is the solution in Brent?

We need to fix as many of our homes as possible so that they no longer waste energy.



We want to make our council homes warmer so they need less gas or electricity to heat them.



We will encourage landlords to put insulation into the homes of poorer people, so they can save money and stay warm.



We need to use natural energy from the sun and wind to make electricity to power our homes.



We also need to adapt parts of our homes and buildings to protect us from extreme weather in the future.



All of this must happen by 2030.

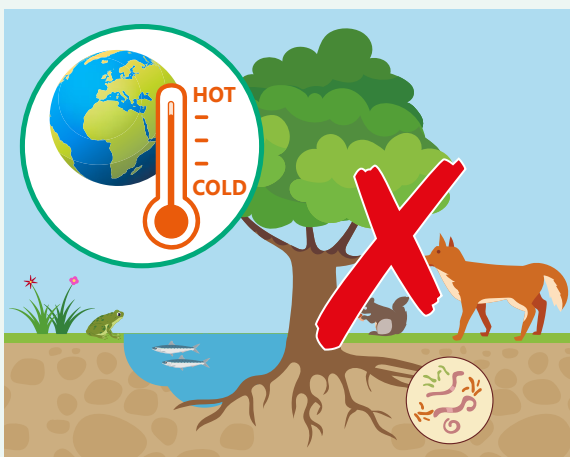
Theme 4

Nature and Green Space



What is the issue?

Having many different types of plants and animals in an area is a sign of a healthy climate and environment.



Climate change will have a terrible effect on plants and animals.



Trees, parks and green spaces are also important for people's physical health and their mental health.

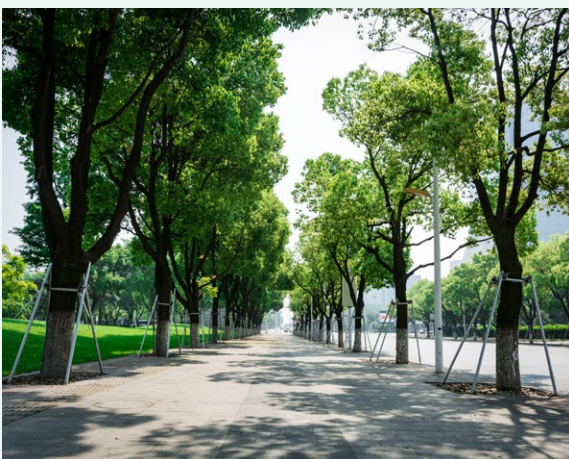


Some people do not live near enough to a green space in order to enjoy it.



What is the solution in Brent?

We want to make Brent one of the greenest areas in London, to be enjoyed by humans and all natural life.



We want to plant more trees. Trees will provide shade and 'cool spots' for people and wildlife to shelter in the summer heat.



We want to transform empty or disused spaces to make them greener and environmentally friendly.



We want to make small changes to our parks to make sure they can cope with flooding and hot weather in future.



All of this needs to happen by 2030.

Theme 5

Supporting Communities



What is the issue?

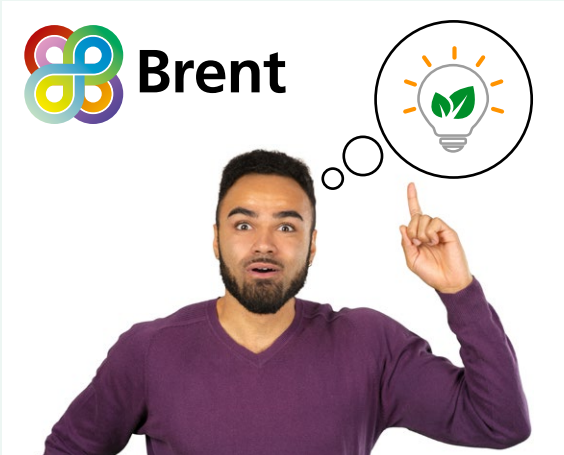
Tackling climate change needs everyone to help.



The council cannot make all of the changes above without local people and local communities.



This includes schools, businesses, charities, housing organisations, NHS, fire and police services.

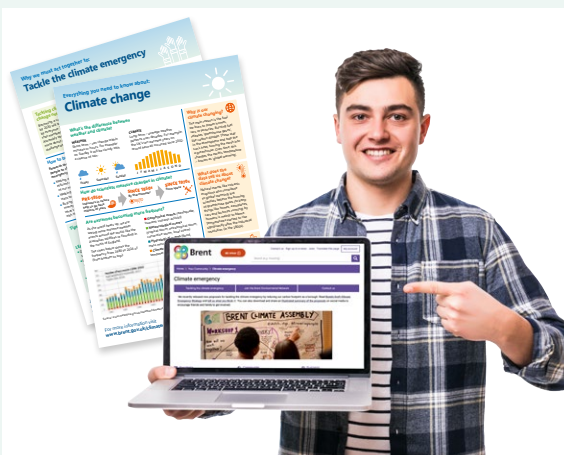


What is the solution in Brent?

We need to inspire everyone living, working or studying in Brent to take action to protect the environment and tackle climate change.



We will set up a large group where individuals and organisations can join and take part.



We will give people the tools and information to be able to inspire others, such as their friends and family.



We will provide some funding to local people and organisations to tackle climate change through local projects.

The route to 2030

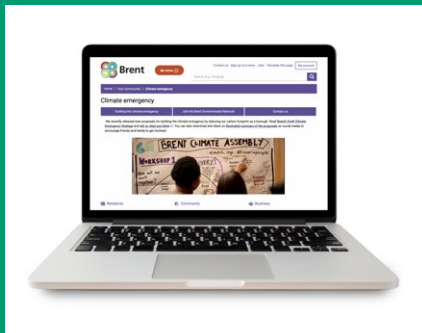


The council will create an action plan every year on each of these themes.

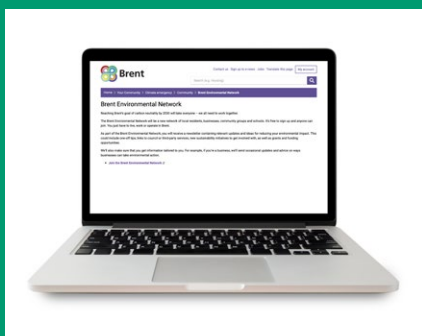


By doing this, we hope to tackle the climate emergency in Brent as soon as possible.

For more information



For more information please visit
our website:
www.brent.gov.uk/climateemergency



To join the Brent Environmental
Network please visit:
<https://bit.ly/2L4KIMc>



Or send an email to:
climateemergency@brent.gov.uk



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