

4 December 2017

Future Saudi Cities Programme

Foundational Training Course: Climate-compatible, Sustainable and Resilient Cities

Climate Action Plan London

Managing risks and increasing resilience. The Mayor's climate change adaptation strategy, October 2011.



A strategic framework for enhancing quality of life in London and protecting the environment The Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is part of a series of strategies that together set out actions and policies to make London the best big city in the world.

The three 'pillars' and example programmes:

Retrofitting London

Retrofitting London's existing buildings is not only crucial to tackling London's CO2 emissions, it also reduces energy and water use, delivers new jobs and skills, as well as saving London businesses and homes money on energy bills. Almost 80 per cent of the 14,000 low carbon jobs that could be created per year from delivering the Mayor's CO2 target and two thirds of the £721 million of annual low carbon economic activity would come from retrofitting.

Our homes and workplaces are responsible for nearly 80 per cent of the city's emissions. Fundamentally 80 per cent of these buildings will still be in use by 2050. The RE:NEW programme which installs a range of energy and water efficiency measures in homes, enables Londoners to save money on their energy bills while making their homes more energy efficient. The RE:NEW demonstrations in 2010, have shown that households could save over £150 annually through retrofitting actions.

Greening London

The Victorians bestowed on us a city softened by trees and green spaces. Greening London builds on this legacy and aims to improve the look and feel of our city, making it more attractive whilst reducing the impact of noise and air pollution. Greening London also makes the city more resilient to flooding and extreme weather events, and can contribute to a healthy mind and body. The Mayor through his RE:LEAF programme and the London Green Grid has an ambition to increase tree cover by five per cent by 2025, therefore achieving one tree for every Londoner and creating a better network of interlinked, multi-functional and high quality open and green spaces.

Cleaner air for London

Air pollution is a serious health issue and the Mayor is determined to reduce its impact. Actions being taken to improve air quality include introducing the first ever age limit for black cabs, tougher standards for the Low Emission Zone, new cleaner hybrid and hydrogen buses and fitting older buses with equipment including filters to curb pollution. The new bus for London, which will be launched in 2012, will use the latest green technology making it 40 per cent more efficient than a conventional double decker.

The Mayor is working to introduce more electric vehicles onto London's streets. In May this year, he launched Source London, the UK's first citywide electric vehicle charging network and membership scheme and we are also now investing record amounts to deliver a cycling revolution in London. Additional steps are being taken to tackle pollution levels at some of the busiest roads in central London. This includes utilizing dust suppressant technology that prevents PM10 from recirculating, installing green infrastructure to trap pollutants and a no engine idling campaign to reduce engines running unnecessarily when stationary. Eco-marshalls are also being deployed to help both monitor and reduce the impact of taxis on air quality.

London continues to attract people and businesses and therefore continues to grow. The London Plan forecasts the city's population could increase from 7.6 to 8.8 million by 2031. These strategies show that making London a sustainable city and protecting the environment does not mean we all have to be eco-warriors or make sacrifices to our standard of living. We can work to lessen our impact on the city while at the same time improving the environment and our quality of life.

In a post-Olympic London, we can also grasp the opportunity to make the capital a digital leader, an intelligent city. By harnessing the power of data, we can run our city more efficiently, understand environmental trade-offs, and communicate better with Londoners, enabling them to make better informed and sustainable choices in how they live and work. This is already happening through the explosion of social media and digital applications that encourage behaviour change based on the choices an individual makes. Data visualisation is also allowing us to understand complex data sets, telling us the results of the millions of decisions we make, on us, on our neighbourhoods, on our city and beyond.

Transitioning our city to a sustainable low carbon economy will also bring economic opportunities for London in terms of jobs and investment. Despite the economic downturn, the value of London's low carbon and environment sector is now worth over £23 billion, growing by over four per cent a year. As London and the rest of the world continue to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions over the coming decades, the economic opportunities from that activity will be huge. London must make sure it grabs this opportunity and continues to be a world leader.

Key headline messages

- London is already vulnerable to extreme weather, in the form of floods, droughts, heatwaves and very cold weather. Without action, further climate change, London's population growth,

and other changes (eg changes to make-up of London's population and land cover) will increase the risk of severe impacts.

- London has already experienced some changes to its climate and we should expect warmer wetter winters and hotter, drier summers in the future. Extreme weather, such as heatwaves and very heavy rainfall is expected to become more frequent and intense. Very cold winters will still occur, though they will become less frequent. Sea levels will rise for centuries.
- Preparing for extreme weather and further climate change is about managing risks and increasing our resilience to them - it is therefore as much about the economy, quality of life and social equality, as about the environment.
- Early action today will not only manage current and future risks, but save Londoners money and create jobs.
- Many of our vulnerabilities to climate impacts stem from London's 'urbanisation'. Restoring greenspaces and building community capacity will increase our resilience and improve our quality of life.
- The Mayor does not have the power or the budgets to adapt London on his own.

However through this strategy he can provide a framework for collective action, identifying where he is uniquely placed to act and where other organisations, and even Londoners themselves, can lead or facilitate action.

