



# Ealing Green Party

20<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Ealing Council Climate Action Team,

## **Ealing Green Party Response to Ealing Council Draft Climate And Ecological Emergency Strategy**

We applaud the Council for the ongoing work on identifying how to use its direct control and influence to deliver a carbon neutral borough by 2030. We encourage the Council to be bold on leading on climate change targets. Meaningful change requires inspired leadership, as well as individual action from residents.

Identifying and selecting 5 key areas to address carbon emissions and biodiversity loss allows focus on the most significant opportunities to mitigate emissions and to strategise how the changes needed will be implemented. We recognise that work on the topic of 'food' is ongoing and we look forward to seeing the pending draft for this important topic.

Education, communication and engagement underpin all efforts to address the challenges we face as communities across Ealing, London and worldwide. Citizen's assemblies are a proven method to ensure democratic values are upheld, by ensuring all voices are heard. We trust that the council will make full use of these. We suggest holding separate assemblies for each of the identified key areas.

In the following we highlight some important points we encourage the council to take on board in order to deliver an effective mitigation and adaptation strategy.

### **Energy**

The strategy is heavily centred around the need for upgrading our existing housing infrastructure; commercial and residential, as well as the demand for energy efficient design for new builds. The detail of the implementation of this will be crucial.

To ensure harmonised reporting to allow comparability over time and with other London boroughs, we strongly recommend using established standards such as GRI 305\*, which addresses emissions into air, including greenhouse gas (GHG), ozone-depleting substances (ODS), and nitrogen oxides (NOX) and sulphur oxides (SOX), among other significant air emissions.

We further encourage strengthening the strategy and action points on consumption based emissions, through e.g., education and communication, to help our communities draw links between personal action and climate effects.

### **Food systems**

The strategy has not yet been released by Ealing Council, which raises serious concern. Concrete programmes and actions on how to avoid, reduce, and handle food and food waste related GHG emissions are a cornerstone to each effective climate strategy. These programs must be supplemented by incentives to transitioning to plant-based diets, and encouraging local food production.

### **Transport**

The scope of control and influence of Ealing Council, and the separate or joint responsibilities of the Council and Transport for London (TfL) are not clearly presented. Increasing transparency over boundaries will help the public understand how to engage in a constructive manner.

Whilst the Council's endeavour to increase electric vehicle (EV) charging points throughout the borough is commendable, we lack the centrepiece of the strategy, which is the creation of incentives for car owners to change from fossil fuel powered vehicles to EVs. Incentives may include, for example, no or low congestion charges, Council Tax breaks or reliefs, or reduced pay for parking permits.

More importantly than EV strategy, this strategy must focus on immediately improving provision for active and public transport. This will both harness the benefits of reducing emissions and increased public health.

## **Waste**

The presented programs and planned actions are essential for a comprehensive and effective strategy to achieve circularity, in which waste disposal is ideally phased out, and as such we applaud the Council for stating its commitment towards these actions. It is noted though that the targets are not nearly ambitious enough, and therefore will not place Ealing Council in the range of leading or spearheading this movement towards circularity.

The strategy needs to draw clearer links between municipal waste and direct GHG emissions, i.e., the direct emissions from the organic fraction. Reference needs to be made to general food waste, garden waste, and other decomposable waste materials from commerce, households, and public services and set targets for reducing GHG emissions from this, to achieve any success in mitigating GHG emissions under the control and/or influence of the Council.

## **Green spaces and green infrastructure**

There is conflation here over reasons for change, between reducing carbon emissions, and promoting biodiversity, which needs to be clarified in order to set SMART\*\* targets. More protection in planning law for green spaces is clearly needed. Setting out where the council can and cannot act would assist in campaigning for change at other levels of Government.

Management practices must include measures to reduce and stop use of industrial pesticides in the management of green spaces.

**As Green Party members, we understand that to deliver on this crucially important strategy, having elected Green representatives matters. We will continue to strive for Green councillors for Ealing, and to work for change as active members of our local communities. We are committed to supporting and being part of ongoing engagement with the strategy development.**

Yours,

Adam Floater, Chair of Ealing Green Party

Dr Kate Crossland, local and national election candidate, Ealing Transitions member, W3

Ina Ballik, MSc.Eng.,FRSA Sustainability and Climate Change Consultant, Ealing Transition member, W5

Darren Moore MSc, local and national election candidate, CEO OnePointFiveDegrees, W5

on behalf of Ealing Green Party

\*GRI305 <https://www.globalreporting.org/standards/gri-standards-download-center/gri-305-emissions-2016/>

\*\*SMART targets [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SMART\\_criteria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SMART_criteria)