

# Think Global, Act Local

It's 2030. Look outside, what do you see?



In 2030 Barnet is a low emissions borough with cleaner air; protected and well maintained green spaces that are accessible to all and affordable and efficient public transport.

Walking and cycling is safe and easy and for many is the preferred way of going to local shops, keeping fit and getting to work. Participation in cycling clubs, walking and running groups is at its highest.

Local high streets are home to a mix of independent and chain shops, community spaces and workplaces for the many residents who are self-employed. Zero waste shops, repair hubs and cycling shops are commonplace. Regular car-free Sundays are held throughout the year providing a focus for community events and community building.

Last mile deliveries made on foot or e-bike from local distribution hubs and lower speed limits combine to improve air quality and drastically reduce the number of vehicles on the road.

Homes are healthy and warm due to improved insulation and energy efficiency leading to healthier residents, less pressure on the NHS and lower energy bills. Planning approvals for home improvements, house sales and rental agreements require homes to achieve actual energy and water efficiency levels.

Household waste has been drastically reduced as a much higher proportion is composted and recycled leading to black bins only needing to be collected every two or three weeks.

Every block of flats has at least one composter and management companies and agents have responsibility for reducing the environmental impact of the buildings.

Community food growing has helped reduce food waste and helped change attitudes to food. Diets have changed with more people eating locally sourced, seasonal food and cutting down on meat and this, combined with more exercise has helped reduce the previously high levels of obesity in Barnet.



Bio-diversity in the borough is flourishing - streams are clean and healthy, there are more hedgerows and trees and parks are maintained by the council and community working together. People wake up to bird song rather than the screech of tyres and roar of engines.

Fly tipping is no longer a problem as regulation of waste collection has been tightened to ensure only responsible waste collectors are licensed.

Looking forward to 2040 there is still work to be done.

Decarbonising housing has had mixed results. While the majority of power generation is now from renewable sources it has proved to be more difficult to replace gas for home central heating, water heating and cooking due to a lack of consistency in Government policy, lobbying by the gas industry, cost to homeowners and difficulty in overcoming practical issues such as replacing combi-boilers with heat pumps and hot water tanks.

The shift to electric cars has helped reduce carbon emissions but has not solved air quality issues caused by other car based emissions. There is still competition between drivers and cyclists for road space and so more is needed to be done to reduce traffic accidents.

## **How did we get here?**

Success can be traced back to the Barnet Sustainability Strategy 2022 which was ambitious; involved residents, community groups and businesses across the borough; and built on the experiences and recommendations of others including councils, local government authorities and central Government.

The launch in January 2022 of the government's new cycling and walking body, Active Travel England (ATE) and the appointment of Olympic cyclist Chris Boardman as national commissioner helped stimulate interest and provide funding for active travel. Also in January 2022 a report for the Greater London Authority set out pathways for net-zero London 2030.

During development of the strategy, the council set out the opportunities of sustainability and net-zero rather than focusing on what individuals needed to give up. This helped raise awareness of what could be done and achieve buy-in, which in turn helped drive individual choices and behavioural change.



The strategy consultation and engagement led to greater collaboration and information sharing between community environment groups and with other stakeholders. These groups helped the council engage across a wide and diverse number of residents and also provided the council with evidence of the importance to voters and rate payers of the need for an ambitious, leading strategy.

Establishing a network of youth sustainability ambassadors (16-20 year olds) helped families make simple changes and also prepared the ambassadors for a workplace which increasingly valued employees with sustainability knowledge and values.

Recognition of the need to take deeper and faster action on household and transport emissions led the council to develop new partnerships with businesses and stakeholders involved in home improvements (retrofitting).

Involvement of banks and building societies helped create new funding solutions, career advisors and local business worked together to expand apprenticeships to develop the skills needed and businesses worked together to build a local network of suppliers.

Inspiration comes from initiatives outside the borough such as the 3-30-300 rule (3 trees can be seen from every home, 30 percent tree canopy cover in every neighbourhood, all homes are within 300 metres of the nearest public park or green space); mobility as a service (MaaS); 15 minute neighbourhoods ( providing residents access to most, if not all, of their needs within a short walk or bike ride from their home); and the Queens Green Canopy tree planting initiative.

The strategy highlighted how the local plan and planning guidelines could be improved; areas of the Transport strategy that should be accelerated and expanded; the potential to significantly expand composting of waste by residents.

The focus on sustainability highlighted the need for the council to have greater focus on natural and social capital in all its decision-making and clarify that sustainability is not just about financial stability.

The strategy also sparked greater and, more coordinated, pressure on central government to provide local authorities with the funding, powers and certainty needed to lead change.



## Signals of Change

It is easy to get disheartened at the thought of a climate crisis and overlook the many things that are already happening around the UK to achieve net zero.

If you want to find out more about some of the features of Barnet in 2030 click on the links below:

[Analysis of a Net Zero 2030 Target for Greater London](#)

[Communicating Leading and Engaging](#)

[Consumer awareness](#)

[Energy Efficient homes](#)

[The Future of Home Heating](#)

[Healthy Homes](#)

[Heat Pumps](#)

[Heat Pumps \(2\)](#)

[Mobility as a Service](#)

[20 minute neighbourhoods Urban transport](#)

[Last mile delivery:](#)

[Zero waste shops](#)

[Fly tipping](#)

[3-30-300 rule](#)

[Tiny Forests](#)

[Biodiversity natural and social capital](#)

[The Queens Green Canopy](#)

[Incredible Edible](#)

[Active Travel](#)

[Youth and Environment Ambassadors](#)

Local Authorities:

[Local government and net zero](#)

[Power Shift](#)

[Delivering local net zero](#)

