

Introduction

The actions taken this decade will determine how successful Barnet is in contributing to addressing the climate and biodiversity challenges we all face.

Barnet is fortunate to have a lot of green space but also has a relatively old housing stock and high car usage which combine to significantly contribute to borough emissions.

Our air quality is poor, we have a relatively low level of reused, recycled or composted waste and we have a high road accident rate.

Our asks

Barnet Friends of the Earth asks that Barnet council develops a sustainability strategy and action plan that:

Makes Barnet a healthier place for all current and future residents and delivers outcomes that help reduce climate change and improve nature.

Is ambitious, collaborative and trusted:

- Ambitious in what it intends to achieve
- Collaborative in how the plan is developed and delivered, engaging and involving all parts of the community, learning from and working with others outside the borough
- Trusted by the community with transparent and honest reporting of progress and outcomes

includes:

- A vision for 2030 and beyond
- Desired outcomes
- Clear action plans and SMART targets for 2026, 2030 and 2040
- How and when progress will be measured and reported on
- Governance, accountabilities, roles and responsibilities
- Funding sources

Barnet FoE have set out a vision for Barnet in 2030 and we would ask that the council develop a community owned vision for 2030 and beyond that sets the context for the strategy.

Below we set out 7 different areas and associated outcomes we would like the strategy to deliver. We then provide suggestions of specific actions that could help achieve the desired outcomes.



Desired Outcomes

Climate Change: Responsible Barnet

- Net Zero Council by 2030 and Net Zero Barnet by 2042 at latest
- Increased use of locally produced renewable energy
- Increased resilience to climate change

Nature: Healthy nature for healthy Barnet

- All green spaces are protected and enhanced
- Biodiversity improved above national targets
- Increased availability and use of green spaces and parks

Housing: Healthy homes

- Homes produce significantly less waste
- Homes do less harm to health
- Homes do less damage to the environment

Waste: There is no away

- Zero waste by 2030
- Zero single use plastic in Barnet
- Growth in circular economy

Transport: Active travel for a healthier, safer Barnet

- Significant increase in walking and cycling
- Significant reduction in motor vehicle usage, traffic speed and number of accidents
- Improved air quality

Community: Involved and thriving

- Significant community involvement in developing and delivering solutions
- Growth in Green Economy
- Climate Justice

Council: Delivering a sustainable Barnet

- Net Zero council operations, supply chain and investments by 2030
- Council (and councillors) has the resources skills and knowledge to deliver the strategy
- Transparent and honest reporting on progress with clear accountabilities



Detailed Asks

*The following includes FoE targets as set out on: [Near you | Climate Action](#)

Climate Change: Responsible Barnet

- Net Zero Council by 2030 and Net Zero Barnet by 2042 at latest
- Increased use of locally produced renewable energy
- Increased resilience to climate change

Supporting actions

- Declare a Climate Emergency
- Declare a Biodiversity Crisis
- Detailed action plan and targets for borough wide emissions reduction for 2026 and 2030
- Build, maintain and share a robust emissions and climate database
- 69 GWh of renewable energy should be generated in Barnet by 2030 if the official national target is to be met*
- 6,199 eco-heating systems should be installed per year in Barnet in order to have a fair share of installations*
- Withdraw support for North London Waste Authority new incinerator in Edmonton
- Work with stakeholders to develop nature based solutions for reducing emissions and increasing resilience through adaptation (for example beavers to fight flooding)
- Encourage residents to unpave front yards through communications and perhaps subsidy/ grants and prevent further paving for parking spaces
- Encourage property owners to insure against floods
- Increase amount of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs)

Nature: Healthy nature for healthy Barnet

- All green spaces are protected and enhanced
- Biodiversity improved above national targets
- Increased availability and use of green spaces and parks

Supporting actions

- Commit to protecting all green spaces and parks by 2030 (working with Fields in Trust and Barnet Green Spaces Network)
- Replace assessment of green spaces and parks used in open spaces and parks strategy with use of natural and social capital accounting to ensure nature is properly valued
- Commit to improving green spaces and preventing development for other use
- Update Barnet Tree Policy with more ambitious targets for tree planting, including on private land and streets
- Develop biodiversity and green infrastructure action plans as part of sustainability strategy



- Set ambitious specific biodiversity goals such as creating pollinator corridors, encouraging homes to include hedgehog highways, increasing the presence of endangered species by 50%
- Support biodiversity through rewilding, more hedges, trees, nectar-rich flowers, and building bug hotels in parks, public and private spaces
- Identify areas in Barnet that currently don't support biodiversity and transform them (251 hectares of land may be suitable for new woodlands in Barnet, of this new woodland opportunity area, 41.9% could be delivered through rewilding / natural generation)*
- Commit to stopping use of pesticides and chemicals in Barnet with immediate effect
- Work with community and water companies to protect and enhance our streams and rivers and prevent pollution
- Commit to delivery of additional parks and Tiny Forests by 2030
- Provide support to community volunteer groups (e.g. Friends of Parks)

Housing: Healthy homes

- Homes produce significantly less waste
- Homes do less harm to health
- Homes do less damage to the environment

Supporting actions

- Action plan for council, privately owned and rented homes
- Go beyond energy efficiency and focus on healthy homes
- Advocate for more effective measure of healthy homes to replace EPC ratings
- Set ambitious target for insulation upgrades for all property (8,798 homes a year need insulation upgrades to ensure all homes in Barnet are properly insulated by 2030*)
- Work with water companies to achieve lower levels of water consumption for homes and businesses
- Work with water and energy providers to give clear and consistent advice and support
- Provide independent energy and water helpline - to guide retrofitting, water saving, energy efficiency, grants for residents
- Help develop a local network of suppliers for healthy homes
- Ensure new homes are not only net zero but also a space that supports biodiversity and are resilient to climate change effects such as floods
- Encourage sustainable draining (SuDs) and water butts in new developments and existing housing stock



Waste: There is no away

- Zero waste Barnet by 2030
- Zero single use plastic in Barnet
- Growth in circular economy

Supporting actions

- Set a target for 100% of all waste in Barnet to be reused, recycled, or composted by 2030 (68% of waste in Barnet should be reused, recycled, or composted by 2030 according to the Climate Change Committee, which advises the government)*
- Barnet to meet existing London recycling targets
- Minimise emissions from waste management with target to achieve zero emissions
- Support community initiatives aimed at reducing waste and help spread best practice
- Reward, encourage and educate residents about home composting
- Reinstate food waste collection with a fox-resistant system to encourage participation
- Cut black bin collections to fortnightly or, alternatively, charge for weekly collection / reward residents who require a fortnightly service
- Restore free fortnightly garden waste collection, using resource freed up by changing to fortnightly black bin collection
- Offer attractive packages for collection of excess garden waste
- More stretching targets for responding to smoke pollution calls, re anti-social or illegal backyard burning, including a 24/7 response so offenders can't pick 'off-nights' plus targets for responding to dialled calls that discourage the phone line being engaged or long waits
- Work with police to ensure they may respond to backyard burning that is clearly illegal
- Multi-tasking of Civil Enforcement Officers and Community Safety Officers so they can also attend Environmental Health incidents
- Encourage businesses to reduce plastic waste, offer support and know-how
- Encourage businesses to join food waste reduction schemes
- Promote and encourage consumption reduction
- Provide businesses and community with education and support for growth in circular economy and adoption of circular economy action plans
- Develop circular economy action plan for council operations including suppliers and partners
- Help with the creation of community composting areas

Transport: Active travel for a healthier, safer Barnet

- Significant increase in walking and cycling
- Significant reduction in motor vehicle usage, speed of traffic and number of accidents
- Improved air quality

Supporting actions

- Set target for 2030 of 80% of commuter journeys made by public transport, cycling and walking*



- Make Barnet a safe place to cycle by 2025
- Consult as to what facilities cyclists most want
- Commit to cycling goals such as long segregated cycling routes, designed with cycling groups
- Roll out Healthy Streets: Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and School Streets
- Set ambition for Barnet to be a 15-minute borough and align Barnet Plan, Transport Strategy and other planning guidelines with this ambition
- Clear plans for reducing “last mile” deliveries
- Accelerate implementation of Transport Strategy
- Work with TFL and others to achieve 100% renewable energy buses, prioritising areas with high pollution (e.g. Golders Green)
- Set target of 1,219 electric vehicle charging devices available by 2030*
- Install more EV superchargers, rather than normal speed chargers
- Support extension of ultra-low emission zone (ULEZ) to all of Barnet
- Promote conformance with anti-idling regulations and other means of reducing air pollution from traffic, by joining London anti-idling initiative and promoting police adoption of Bethnal Green anti-idling initiative

Community: Involved and thriving

- Significant community involvement in developing and delivering solutions
- Growth in Green Economy
- Climate Justice

Supporting actions

- Step change in stakeholder engagement from consultation to involvement
- Increased council support and encouragement for community and business collaboration
- Increase education that encourages behaviour change to help achieve strategy outcomes
- Create younger generation sustainability champion, for example by making schools more sustainable - not only net zero but engage in sustainability activities and allow biodiversity to flourish, avoid food waste, get “eco school” accreditation, have at least one sustainability leader, report issues such as food waste, make standards clear and accountable
- Set targets for Green Economy: e.g. Friends of the Earth are calling for 1,470 green apprenticeships in Barnet by 2023 so young people can get the skills to work in the green economy (2,489 green jobs could be created in Barnet, by 2030, according to the Local Government Association*)
- Work with businesses to develop local green economy, skills development and apprenticeships
- Support local food growing
- Promote and encourage local shopping and local business
- Set targets for council procurement from local businesses
- Identify those who are most at risk from the impacts of climate change, and develop (with key stakeholders) an action plan to assist the most vulnerable
- Enable sharing of data about vulnerability between key stakeholders (e.g. charities, business and council)



Council: Delivering a sustainable Barnet

- Net Zero council operations, supply chain and investments by 2030
- Council (and councillors) has the resources skills and knowledge to deliver the strategy
- Transparent and honest reporting on progress with clear accountabilities

Supporting actions

- Review Transport Strategy and Tree Policy and report on progress made
- Include biodiversity action plan in sustainability strategy
- Embed water neutrality in local plan and development policies
- Review the Local Plan to ensure that climate, nature and biodiversity considerations are at the heart of decision making
- Accelerate action on sustainability of council supply chain
- Completely divest from fossil fuels by 2025 at the latest
- Link strategy implementation and delivery of outcomes to council and partner performance reviews
- Undertake audit of sustainability skills and resource availability and take necessary actions
- Embed natural and social capital into decision making
- Provide Climate Literacy training to all council employees and councillors
- Commit to six monthly reporting on progress of strategy and independent review
- Ensure clear roles and responsibilities for delivery of strategy
- Appoint a sustainability leader for each ward
- Explore all sources and ways of funding the strategy

