CPRE London
Campaign to Protect Rural England

Green London eBulletin

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London Environmental Strategy,

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Can the GLA deliver a greener London?

The draft London Environmental Strategy is a bold portfolio of analysis, commentary and proposals. Not all announcements are new, especially those on air quality and climate change, but this is a significant call to environmental action. The strategy sees problems and solutions as interwoven. It warns that action to tackle one concern could worsen another. And the mayor is adamant that he cannot please everyone if London is to be one of the world's greenest cities.

There are obvious sources of policy tension. Ensuring new schools are located away from highly polluted areas could put pressure on green spaces. Biodiversity offsetting may move ecologically rich spaces away from the communities that value and care for them. Noise mitigation conflicts with the mayor's ambitions for a stronger night time economy. The strategy calls for more quiet spaces but accepts that there will be few opportunities to create large areas of new public open space or natural habitats based on traditional parks and nature reserves. To meet the mayor's target of making the capital 50% green by 2050 will require greening an area the size of the eight royal parks or 20 times the area of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

The strategy has its limitations. More than half of the decarbonisation required to achieve zero carbon city status by 2050 will rely on actions by central government and utilities G. Here, and elsewhere, the mayor wants new powers and funding, something the government may resist for fear of increased demands from other cities. Some ambitions, such as progressing to a circular economy and mitigating climate change, are national and global in their scope.

Many policies will be delivered through the revised London Plan. That will be subject to separate consultation. A wide range of actions will depend on the 33 London boroughs, many of which have been starved of resources under government cut backs. Some will have different local priorities to city hall.

This is a draft strategy. It is at its weakest on the economy in Chapter 10, where the limited proposals reflect the lack of progress in developing a new economic strategy for London. An aim of the London Environmental Strategy is that economic growth will not compromise the environment. The current text doesn't say enough about how this will be achieved.

Overall, though, this is an ambitious strategy that could guide London in the right direction for decades.

Summary

"Toxic air, noise pollution, the threat to our green spaces and the adverse effects of climate change, all pose major risks to the health and wellbeing of Londoners. In many ways, these issues are intertwined – and action to tackle one will invariably aid efforts to address another. But we must also recognise that these challenges are as complex as they are connected, and that there are no quick fixes available to us."

Sadiq Khan has published a draft environmental strategy for consultation, aiming to "boost London's fight against climate change and help safeguard the health and wellbeing of all Londoners" LON DON H P BBC. The consultation closes on 17 November LON DON. The draft sets out a vision for London in 2050. It promises holistic solutions that will provide bigger environmental improvements. These will be more cost-effective than looking at issues in isolation. The capital must prepare for the future. That means ensuring the city does not waste valuable resources, and that it is prepared for the future and safeguarded for future generations. The strategy aims to make the capital greener with the very best parks, trees and wildlife. Sadiq Khan also wants the city to be clean, attractive and healthy:

"Living in a big city does not mean accepting a dirty and polluted environment. Creating a greener city is good for everyone – it will improve people's health and quality of life, support the success of businesses and attract more visitors to London."

The strategy sets out eleven challenges, six aims, five principles, four strategic approaches, seven thematic aims, 20 objectives, 49 policies and 130 proposals. Its main text alone is more than 90,000 words.

Keynote Proposals

National Park City. London will become the world's first National Park City, with the aim of making more than 50% of the capital green by 2050.

A Green Spaces Commission to work with environmental experts to help boroughs attract investment, and transform and preserve parks and green spaces.

Greening factor. A new 'Urban Greening Factor' will ensure more green roofs and walls, rain gardens (SuDS) and habitats for wildlife are provided in new developments. The mayor will help boroughs invest in parks and fund thousands more trees, along with improvements to community green spaces.

Greener City Fund. A £9 million fund will create and improve green spaces and encourage tree planting. Over the next three years, £3 million will be available LON DON.

A Challenge Map will prioritise areas in need of green infrastructure as part of the push to meet the 50% green target. "Grey areas", dominated by high rise and a shortage of green space, will be targeted to green the public realm and encourage more walking and cycling.

Zero carbon city by 2050.

Zero waste city. The strategy does not set a specific date for achieving this goal.

1: London's Environment Today

Challenges. The strategy says eleven challenges face London's environment and population.

Air quality. The quality of London's air is dangerously and illegally poor.

Green space. Development is encroaching on open space and gardens are being paved over. Almost half of Londoners have poor access to parks. Councils have less money to maintain parks.

Biodiversity. As green space is lost and reduced in quality, biodiversity is decreased.

Greenhouse gas emissions are falling but the city remains over-reliant on fossil fuels. London is not yet on track to reduce its emissions quickly enough.

Energy use. Redevelopment will increase demand for energy and distribution infrastructure. One in ten households in the city lives in fuel poverty.

Waste. Only half of the 7m tonnes of waste is recycled. Landfill capacity will run out by 2026. Plastic litters the capital's streets and pollutes waterways and oceans.

Flood risk. The risk of flooding is exacerbated by loss of green space, expansion of impermeable surfaces, a Victorian drainage system and rising sea levels.

Heat risk. Increased heat risk is uncomfortable for all and dangerous for most vulnerable. Demand for cooling could stress power supply and increase emissions.

Water scarcity. By 2040, demand is expected to outstrip supply by 21%. Extraction damages the health of rivers and threatens future water supply.

River water quality. Only two of London's 47 river water bodies are classed as 'good'.

Ambient noise. Almost 2.4 million people in London are exposed to noise levels that exceed international guidelines.

2: Transforming London's Environment

"Realising the vision for environmentally good growth – growth that allows London to remain resilient to the changing climate and is green and healthy – will entail building environmental improvements into every aspect of London's development."

Principles. London will be the world's greenest global city, with more than half of capital green by 2050. Five principles will underpin the strategy's approach.

Improving lives and reducing inequalities.

Leading by example. The mayor and the wider GLA group, including TfL, should lead by example.

Avoiding negative impacts. A single focus on one policy concern shouldn't lead to a negative impact on another.

Learning from international best practice. To make London a global leader on the environment it must collaborate with leading climate change and environmental institutions and with other world cities.

Beyond business as usual. Rather than just minimising the worst impacts of future change, the strategy aims to protect and improve London's environment.

Aims. The strategy sets out six key aims:

Air. London to have the best air quality of any major world city by 2050, going beyond legal requirements.

Greening. By 2050, more than half of London's area to be green and tree canopy cover to increase by 10%.

Zero carbon. London to be zero carbon city by 2050.

Zero waste. No biodegradable or recyclable waste landfilled by 2026. By 2030, 65% of waste to be recycled.

Resilience. London and Londoners to be resilient to severe weather and longer-term climate change impacts, including flooding, heat risk and drought.

Tranquillity. Reduce the number of people affected by noise and promote additional quiet and tranquil spaces.

3: New Approaches

"We need to implement big, bold and sometimes difficult policies. These might not always be popular, but when the health of all Londoners is at stake we can't shirk these challenges or shy away from doing the right thing."

Approaches. The strategy identifies four strategic approaches that build on environmental opportunities and ensure a holistic approach to solutions.

Low carbon circular economy. There is an environmental and social cost for the prevailing economic approaches. The benefits of growth are unevenly distributed, exacerbating the environmental problems faced by people in fuel poverty, poor air quality and climate change. A continuously-evolving approach to economic development will help London thrive by adopting more sustainable and inclusive business models. These will value and reward low carbon initiatives and environmental sustainability, and create wider social benefits. A low carbon circular economy can be achieved by low carbon infrastructure and services, by manufacturing goods that are made to last, and by creating systems that allow existing goods to be reused and recycled.

Smart digital city. Smart technologies can help address environmental challenges, including smart energy meters, smart heat networks, smart lampposts and 5G mobile technology. A digital first approach can support the low carbon circular economy by keeping resources in full use for as long as possible. London's entrepreneurial talent should be able to use the data available to solve London's environmental challenges.

Green infrastructure and natural capital. The valuable benefits of green infrastructure are not widely understood. Green infrastructure is often accounted for as a liability; for example, as the cost of maintaining a park, rather than also considering the benefits the park provides to the local community and economy. This ignores the huge range of benefits green infrastructure can provide – from better physical and mental health and increased property prices, to reduced flood and heat risk. Natural capital accounting addresses this.

The Healthy Streets Approach. The Healthy Streets Approach provides a framework for putting human health and experience at the heart of planning the city. Good performance against each of the ten evidence-based Healthy Streets Indicators means that individual streets are fair, inclusive and sustainable environments.

4: Air Quality

"London will have the best air quality of any major world city by 2050, going beyond legal requirements to protect human health and minimise inequalities."

Ending toxic air. London is exceeding the legal limit for nitrogen dioxide emissions (NO_2). Particulate matter ($PM10$, $PM2.5$ and black carbon) is damaging health. Over 9,000 Londoners died prematurely from long-term exposure to air pollution in 2010. Over 800 educational sites are in areas exceeding safe legal pollution levels. London has failed to meet the emission reduction targets in the 2010 Air Quality Strategy. The aim of the strategy is to go beyond EU limits and meet tighter WHO guidelines.

Empowerment. OBJECTIVE 4.1 aims to "empower people to reduce their exposure to poor air quality", particularly those most vulnerable and in priority locations, such as schools and on journeys to school. Policies in the new London Plan will seek to reduce exposure to poor air quality through design or mitigation strategies and ensure developments are suitable in terms of exposure to pollution.

Compliance. OBJECTIVE 4.2 seeks legal compliance with UK and EU limits as soon as possible. It aims to reduce emissions from road transport by phasing out fossil fuelled vehicles, prioritising action on diesel, and enabling a switch to more sustainable transport. The ULEZ will be expanded. Sustainable travel, including walking, cycling and public transport, will be prioritised under the Healthy Streets Approach. Emissions from construction, freight, aviation, rail, power generation, homes and workplaces will be reduced. Policies in the new London Plan will reduce the impact of new industrial and waste sites on local air quality. There is also a need to reduce emissions from existing sites.

Targets. OBJECTIVE 4.3 intends to establish and achieve tighter air quality targets by transitioning to a zero emission London by 2050, and by meeting world health organisation health guidelines for air quality. Many of the measures proposed for this objective duplicate and expand on those in OBJECTIVE 4.2. Work with TfL, the boroughs and government to implement local zero emission zones in town centres, and a central London zero emission zone from 2025. Phase out the use of fossil fuels. Introduce new policies on heat and power provision. Consider policies for the London Plan to ensure all large-scale developments in London are Air Quality Positive (a policy outlined in A City for All Londoners). Maintain Air Quality Neutral requirements for all other developments.

Working with others. There are signs of strains between city hall and the boroughs, and also with government. The strategy says the GLA will force boroughs into action if needed:

"The mayor will... assist and require boroughs to exercise their statutory duties to improve air quality and will exercise statutory powers as required."

The government must do more and introduce 17 new measures, including a Clean Air Act and a national vehicle scrappage fund. London planning policy should take precedence over national planning policy.

5: Green Infrastructure

"London will be a National Park City where more than half of its area is green; where the natural environment is protected and the network of green infrastructure is managed to benefit all Londoners."


Figure 21: Losses and re-provision of protected open space
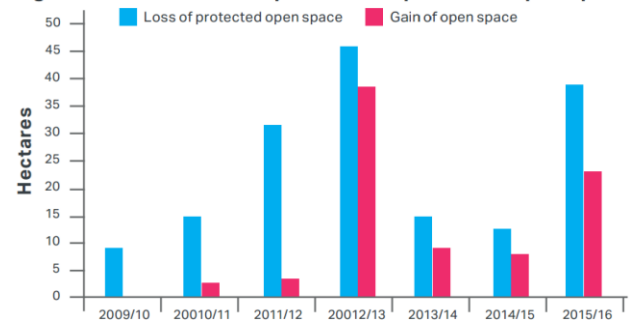
Green blue city. Urbanisation has made London's ecological health worse. About 47% of London is classified as green or blue open space (c. 74,000 hectares). Of the land area, 70% is green space – such as parks, woodland and farmland – and 30% domestic garden green space. This has changed little since 2002. Annual losses are around 10-15 hectares. Over eight million trees cover around 20% of the surface area, including 500,000 street trees. These provide at least £133m of benefits a year by removing pollution, storing carbon and reducing surface water flooding. Over 100 hectares of greens roofs have been installed. Almost 20% of the capital is designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). Other areas are protected at European and national level. Only 18% of London's land area is officially public open space. Nearly half of the capital is classified as an Area of Deficiency in Access in Public Open Space (47%), including extensive areas of the suburbs. Gardens take up 24% of land area but extensive areas of decking and paving reduce this to 14%. The area of garden vegetation declined by over 3,000 hectares between 1999 and 2007.

"Given the pressures on land in London, there will be few opportunities to create large areas of new public open space or natural habitats based on traditional parks and nature reserves. The city must become greener while it becomes denser and more compact."

Figure 22: Areas of Deficiency in Access to Public Open Space
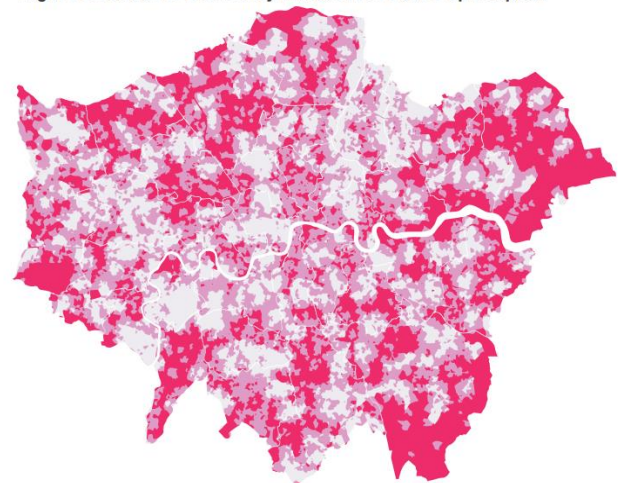
Greening London. OBJECTIVE 5.1 aims to make more than half of London's area green by 2050. Local council funding is no longer sufficient to maintain and enhance the public realm. The mayor will back greater community involvement in the improvement and management of green spaces and natural environment, working with the boroughs, Parks for London and NGOs. The environmental performance of gardens must be improved. The mayor will advise householders on how gardens contribute to green infrastructure.

The new London Plan will protect the green belt, metropolitan open land and publicly accessible green space, under OBJECTIVE 5.1. It will ensure development outside the protected green space network does not lead to an unacceptable loss of local green infrastructure. Access to green space and nature will be improved by identifying areas that should be greener and by developing green infrastructure, especially in regeneration areas. The London Plan may adopt an Urban Greening Factor, based on the green space factor developed in Malmö. Plan policies will green streets and buildings, including more green roofs and walls, and sustainable drainage.

Urban forest. Under OBJECTIVE 5.1, a major tree planting programme will ensure that London's urban forest is maintained and expanded. It will include community grants, "Woodlands for London", a street tree sponsorship scheme and a London Tree Partnership to coordinate research and guidance, data sharing and communicating.

Biodiversity. OBJECTIVE 5.2 seeks to conserve and enhance wildlife and natural habitats. The mayor will work with wildlife organisations to produce an updated list of priority species which are of conservation importance in London. The new London Plan will include policies on the protection of SINCs and the promotion of wildlife friendly landscaping. More habitats should be created to strengthen wildlife corridors and augment fragile or threatened habitats and create new landscapes that deliver the most valuable green infrastructure services. The mayor proposes to "explore opportunities to establish a new biodiversity offsetting metric for London." Biodiversity offsetting was first outlined in the 2011 Natural Environment White Paper. It aims to compensate for habitats and species lost to development in one area, with the creation, enhancement or restoration of habitat in another.

Natural capital and investment. OBJECTIVE 5.3 aims to value London's natural capital as an economic asset and support greater investment in green infrastructure. The mayor will:

Establish a "time-limited" **London Green Spaces Commission** to develop new models for the delivery and management of green infrastructure.

Publish and promote a **natural capital accounting** framework for the capital.

Provide stronger evidence for **green infrastructure programmes** to identify priority areas.

Explore new approaches to **financing strategic green infrastructure** projects.

Work with NGOs to engage Londoners and enable them to contribute a **National Park City**.

6: Climate Change Mitigation & Energy

"London will be a zero carbon city by 2050, with energy efficient buildings, clean transport and clean energy… Alleviating fuel poverty is a key element of the mayor's ambition to become a zero carbon city."

Zero carbon city. To fully decarbonise London, greenhouse gas emissions will need to be reduced from around 38 megatons today to near zero by 2050. To make this happen, London will require far reaching reforms to decarbonise homes and workplaces while protecting vulnerable by tackling fuel poverty. It must develop clean and smart, integrated energy systems and deliver a zero emission transport network by 2050. In 2014, it is estimated that 35% of emissions were generated from London's homes, 42% from workplaces and 23% from transport. The physical challenges of London's homes – solid walls, flats, private renting and heritage settings – makes delivering energy efficiency measures difficult and expensive.

Reduction of carbon. To achieve the challenging target of zero carbon by 2050, the rate of emissions reduction must be increased threefold that since 1990. Many actions to achieve this need to be UK-wide, others are reliant on the government granting new powers and funding to the mayor. Some 1.3 million new homes and over ten hectares of new schools, hospitals and workplaces are needed by 2050. This will lock in emission patterns for 60-120 years. The mayor is considering introducing five-year carbon budgets to create a pathway to 2050 that can be adapted as circumstances or technologies change.

Energy efficiency. OBJECTIVE 6.1 aims to reduce emissions from homes and workplaces while tackling the fuel poverty that affects 10% of households. The mayor will improve the energy efficiency of homes by providing technical assistance, support and funding and pilot methods for stronger energy retrofitting. The Energy Leap Project will deliver whole house zero energy retrofits. The government will be lobbied on a long-term regulatory and financial framework to speed up energy efficiency. Energy management will be improved, including by supporting smart meters and advocating time of day tariffs. A new energy supply company will give Londoners fairer bills. Policies in the London Plan will support zero carbon development. Improved monitoring will ensure developments meet agreed energy and carbon standards. Work through the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group will help implement the Paris Climate Agreement.

Energy. OBJECTIVE 6.2 aims to develop clean, smart energy systems, using local and renewable energy resources. The mayor will oppose fracking in London and help implement large scale decentralised and low carbon energy projects. A District Heating Network Delivery Body could secure funding and build district heating networks. The solar action plan sets out actions to more than double London's solar energy capacity by 2030. On decentralised and smart energy, the strategy talks of encouragement, demonstrators, trials and investigations but offers no specific proposals.

Zero emission transport. OBJECTIVE 6.3 aims for a zero emission transport network by 2050, delivered through the strategy's air quality policies.

7: Waste

"London will be a zero waste city. By 2026 no biodegradable or recyclable waste will be sent to landfill and by 2030 65% of London's municipal waste will be recycled."

Waste of waste. The linear economy (take, make and dispose) is unsustainable and produces too much waste. Just 52% is recycled and performance has stagnated. Over 40 million single use hot drink cups a year are thrown away in London. Tackling food waste will increase the resilience of London's supply chain, reduce costs of dealing with the waste and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A circular approach will design out waste, keep materials in use at the highest value for as long as possible and minimise environmental impact. The 33 London waste authorities must act in general conformity with the municipal waste provisions of the environmental strategy.

Reducing waste. OBJECTIVE 7.1 aims to drive resource efficiency to significantly reduce waste, concentrating on food waste and single use packaging waste. The mayor will support campaigns and initiatives to prevent food going to waste, cut the use of single use packaging and promote the reuse of materials. The mayor supports the Courtauld Commitment 25 to reduce food waste by 20% by 2025.

Targets. OBJECTIVE 7.2 seeks to maximise recycling rates. The targets are to recycle 65% of waste by weight by 2030. Waste authorities should collectively achieve a 50% recycling target by 2025 and aspire to achieve 60% by 2030. They should increase recycling rates in flats and improve recycling from businesses. The mayor will reduce litter and fly tipping, including through working with the government on the Litter Strategy for England.

Impacts. OBJECTIVE 7.3 will reduce the environmental impact of waste activities, including reducing the emissions from collection vehicles and increasing transportation by rail and river. Energy from waste facilities must meet the minimum greenhouse emissions standards of the carbon intensity floor.

Infrastructure. OBJECTIVE 7.4 aims to maximise local waste sites and ensure London has the infrastructure to manage the waste it produces. The mayor wants more local waste collection sites.

8: Adapting to Climate Change

London and Londoners will be resilient to severe weather and longer-term climate change impacts. This will include flooding, heat risk and drought.

Challenges. The risk of flooding must be reduced through flood defences and increased awareness. The capital's water supply must be efficient, secure, resilient and affordable. People, infrastructure and public services must be better prepared for extreme heat events and increased temperatures. London's rivers have been left in a poor state by years of pollution from road runoff and water treatment work, sewer infrastructure problems and poorly managed river maintenance and modification work. The Thames Tideway Tunnel will improve the water quality of the Thames but not the quality of tributary rivers.

Risks. Personal water consumption is more than 10% higher than the national average. The capital is forecast to be short of over 100m litres of water a day by 2020, rising to over 400m litres by 2040. London will be at risk of drought after just two dry winters. Projected increases in average monthly temperatures by 2050 show a 5-6°C increase in summer and winter. This will impact on health, infrastructure, comfort and the operation of the city. Although the GLA has a duty to act on climate change, it is not a flood risk management authority and has no responsibilities for water supply. There is no single authority responsible for managing heat risk in London.

Understanding. OBJECTIVE 8.1 encourages increased understanding of the risks and impacts of severe weather and climate change in London. This will include identifying thresholds at which disruption will occur and infrastructure providers should act. Large infrastructure projects will have "adaptive pathways" to manage severe weather and climate change risks. Data will be collected and indicators developed with the London Climate Change Partnership.

Flooding. OBJECTIVE 8.2 seeks to reduce risks and impacts of flooding on people and property and to improve water quality rivers and waterways. The mayor will work with partners to increase awareness of all forms of flood risk, including surface water flooding. Flood risk management authorities will be supported to manage fluvial flood risk and promote best practice in hard and soft-engineered flood management. Work with the Environment Agency will develop 25-year flood risk management strategies for each river catchment. The mayor will support delivery of measures in the Thames Estuary 2100 Plan and safeguarding of sites for a new Thames Barrier east of London. Management of flood risk for developments and more ambitious requirements for sustainable drainage will be considered through the London Plan. The actions in the London Sustainable Drainage Action Plan will be implemented. Sustainable drainage retrofit on large non-residential properties will be encouraged.

Water supply. OBJECTIVE 8.3 promotes efficient, secure, resilient and affordable water supplies. This includes reducing water consumption and the 21% leakage rate. Water metering and wise water use will be promoted, including through Energy for Londoners. Through the London Plan, policies will require new housing development to be more water efficient. The mayor supports, in principle, the need for new large scale water resources for London and the south east of England but will assess any proposals from Thames Water (including a major reservoir in Oxfordshire).

Heat risk. OBJECTIVE 8.4 intends to ensure London's people, infrastructure and public services are more resilient to extreme heat events. This will include developing a communications protocol for an extreme heat event and working with the GLA group, Public Health England and the London Resilience Forum on effective responses. Through the new London Plan, develop policies to minimise the risk of new developments overheating and to reduce their contribution to the urban heat island effect. Through the Healthy Streets Approach, work with TfL and the boroughs to provide shaded areas for Londoners.

9: Ambient Noise

Londoners' quality of life will be improved by reducing the number of people adversely affected by noise and promoting more quiet and tranquil spaces.

Excessive noise and the problems that go along with it "have long been accepted as a necessary cost of living in a successful city." But by tackling excessive noise, London can become a healthier and more pleasant place to live. Within Greater London, almost 2.4 million people are exposed to road traffic noise above the WHO guideline of 55dB and 525,000 are exposed to rail traffic noise. Heathrow Airport alone accounts for 93% of the 827,400 people affected by noise at 55dB or above from London's six main airports.

Transport. OBJECTIVE 9.1 aims to reduce adverse impacts of noise by targeting locations with the highest noise pollution from transport. Work with TfL will encourage a modal shift to reduce road traffic, a transition to zero emission vehicles, quieter driving styles and low noise road surfaces. Working with TfL, the noise impacts of tube and rail services will be managed, especially at night time. New rail infrastructure must use technology that is effective at reducing noise. Under the draft Transport Strategy, key stakeholders will work to reduce noise from freight activity. The mayor will oppose the expansion of Heathrow Airport, and lobby to minimise the adverse impacts of noise from aviation and reduce helicopter noise exposure. Work with the Thames and London Waterways Forum will develop options to address noise arising from waterway use. Guidance will be provided on appropriate noise mitigation measures for commercial and industrial premises. Better planning and integration of road works will be encouraged. The mayor will investigate what powers may be required to control noise from moving sources within London, such as music from a passing car, a party boat on the River Thames or emergency sirens.

Night time economy. To reconcile the competing needs of noise mitigation in a growing night time economy, the mayor will investigate how to support and enhance the night time economy in the London Plan. This may include encouraging boroughs to consider the cumulative impacts of high concentrations of night time activities on noise pollution for residents.

Tranquillity. OBJECTIVE 9.2 will protect and improve the acoustic environment of London. This will include encouraging boroughs to create and maintain quiet and tranquil spaces. But yet again the strategy says: "It is not feasible to create extensive areas of new public open space or natural habitats based on the old model of parks and nature reserves." Developers should reduce the impact of noise through good design. The London Plan will consider how to separate noise sensitive development from major noise sources – where that is possible – rather than relying on soundproofing. The London Plan will also introduce an Agent of Change principle, putting the onus for noise mitigation on the developer or promotor of a scheme.

"Good acoustic design not only applies to individual buildings; it also applies to how the city runs."

Figure 51: Noise map of important areas for road and rail traffic noise

Noise Action Planning Important Areas Round 2
- Rail
- Road
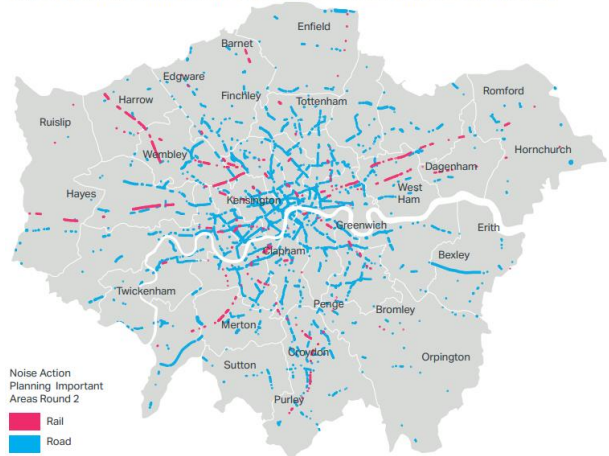
10: A Low Carbon Circular Economy

Going circular. The low carbon and environmental goods and services in London was worth £30.4bn in 2014/15. The mayor will support growth of this sector and market, enabling London to be a global leader and realise the environmental and economic benefits and encouraging businesses, academia and citizens to contribute to the low carbon circular economy.

Transition. OBJECTIVE 10.1 promises to enable the transition to a low carbon circular economy. The mayor will support the growth of a London cleantech cluster and support businesses creating solutions to London's environmental challenges. The London Green Fund, London Energy Efficiency Fund and other sources will finance low carbon circular economy projects. The forthcoming Economic Development Strategy will contain plans to support start-ups and business growth across the economy, including the environmental sector and students and young entrepreneurs.

Reaction

Broad support. Libby Peake of the Green Alliance generally supported it: "The plan contains plenty of promises for actions we are keen to see Sadiq Khan put into action during his term in office. And, while the strategy is not perfect, it clearly sets a high bar for other, newer city regions to follow". The Renewable Energy Association, the Environmental Industries Commission and the UK Green Building Council are among green business organisations that have welcomed the strategy. Green party AM Caroline Russell was critical. She said Sadiq Khan's failure to create a not-for-profit energy company for the city, instead putting it out to tender, was a blow for Londoners. Laura Hill of campaign group Switched On London agreed, saying the strategy was a whitewash.

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