

A photograph of Mayor of London Sadiq Khan kneeling in a grassy field. He is wearing a dark blue suit and a light blue shirt. He is holding a green-handled shovel. To his right, a young girl with blonde hair, wearing a colorful floral jacket, is clapping her hands. In the background, there are trees and a fence.

London Environment Strategy

Executive Summary -
easy read version
May 2018



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More London
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www.london.gov.uk

enquiries 020 7983 4000
minicom 020 7983 4458

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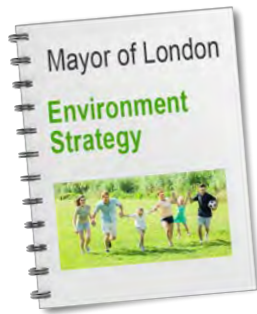
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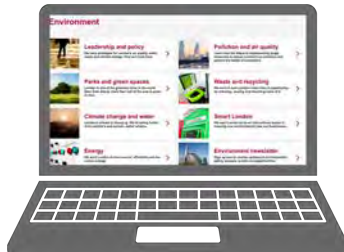
Introduction



The Mayor's draft London Environment Strategy explains how the Mayor wants to make a big improvement to the environment in London in the future.



This is the easy read version of the short version of the Strategy.



You can find out a lot more about different parts of our plans for the environment at:
www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment



The Mayor wants to know what you think. You can join in discussions about different parts of our plans for the environment at:
www.london.gov.uk/talk-london

London's environment



The environment is:

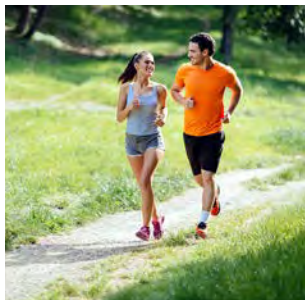
- The air we breathe



- The water we drink



- The parks where we meet and spend time



The environment:

- Helps Londoners to stay healthy
- Makes London a good place to live, work and visit
- Keeps London working from day to day



We have many problems:



- Our air is polluted



- We produce too much waste. We don't recycle enough



- Not enough people can easily get to a park



- We could be short of water and electricity in places in a few years



- There are more and more people living in London



- The changes to the climate mean there might be more flooding



This report looks at our plans to deal with these problems.

A better environment



The Mayor wants London to be the world's greenest city. This will mean making it:

Greener

The Mayor wants to:

- Plant more trees
- Make more green spaces accessible
- Have more green roofs and green areas around new buildings



Cleaner

The Mayor wants to:

- Have buses that don't give off so much pollution
- Discourage the most polluting cars from coming into London
- Clean up the air around schools
- Improve how we deal with sewage to help keep the rivers clean
- Help people make electricity from the sun
- Produce less waste



Ready for the future

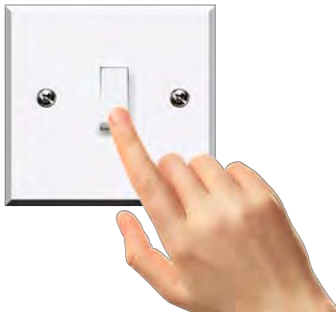
The Mayor wants to:



- Protect against floods



- Help to make sure there is enough water in the future



- Help people to not waste electricity, gas and water



- Convert more of our rubbish into things we can use

Air quality



The poor quality of air in London is affecting people's health.

Many people are dying sooner than they should because of air pollution.

The Mayor wants London to have the best air quality of any major world city by 2050.



The Mayor will:

- Discourage the most polluting vehicles coming into London by 2019
- Make all London's buses give off no pollution by 2037
- Make new buildings help clean the air
- Clean up the air around schools
- Give more information to Londoners about air quality
- Work to make our air cleaner than rules say it should be



Green spaces

Green spaces are important for:



- People's health and mental health

- Attracting visitors

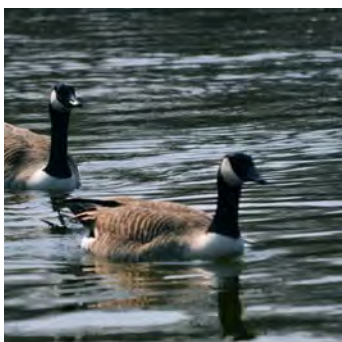


- Business



- Keeping our air clean

- The quality of our lives



- Animals, birds and other wildlife



The Mayor wants:

- More than half of London to be green
- To increase the number of trees



There is not the space to create new parks so The Mayor will make London greener through:

- Greener streets with more trees and green areas
- Greener buildings with green roofs and walls



- More natural ways to drain rainwater from streets and buildings



- Parks that are better places for wildlife

Climate change



The world is getting warmer because of the pollution caused mainly from the way we use fuels for electricity, heating and transport.

This is causing more storms, heatwaves and the sea to rise.



People need to:

- Stop making electricity by burning dirty fuels
- Stop using diesel and petrol to drive our cars and other vehicles



Instead people should:

- Use the sun and wind to make electricity
- Make our homes warmer so they need less gas or electricity to heat them
- Use clean electricity to run our cars and other transport



The Mayor wants London to be a **zero carbon** city by 2050.



Zero carbon means that dirty fuels like coal and oil will not be used to make electricity or drive our transport.

Burning dirty fuels like coal and oil pumps carbon dioxide into the air. This is what is making the world warmer.

The Mayor will:



- Help Londoners to make their homes warmer with insulation
- Encourage landlords to put insulation into the homes of poorer people, so they can save money and keep warmer
- Find new ways to heat people's homes
- Put solar panels onto the roofs of buildings to create electricity from the sun
- Make sure new buildings have solar panels and good insulation
- Work for fairer electricity bills for Londoners

Waste



Currently only half of the waste from all London's households and businesses is recycled. The rest goes to landfill or is burned.



Recycling is when people do something useful with their waste.



Landfill is when people bury our waste in the ground.



We are running out of space to bury our waste.



A third of our waste from households and businesses is coffee cups and plastic bottles.



By 2026 the Mayor wants us to:

- Recycle as much as possible



- Stop sending any waste to landfill



To do this we must:

- Make things that last, so they don't wear out and become waste



- Only use things that we need and reuse where we can

- Recycle as much as we can



- Convert anything that we can't recycle into energy to heat people's homes



The Mayor will:

- Set up new rules about how we throw things away in London
- Reduce the waste from food and drinks packaging by:
 - Supporting community schemes to refill water bottles
 - Building new water fountains
 - Working with food companies to design packaging that is better for the environment



- Ask businesses to share their waste collection services



- Ask the Government for more money to spend on waste and recycling in London

Preparing for climate change



The Mayor wants London to be able to cope with any severe weather and other effects of climate change. This includes flooding, high temperatures and **drought**.

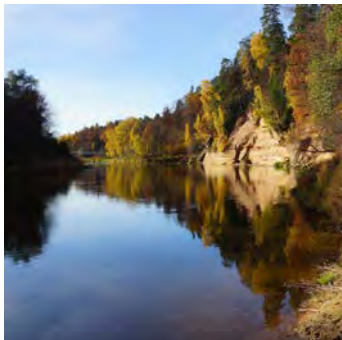


Drought is when it hasn't rained for a long time and plants start to die.

The Mayor will:



- Support London's services to be ready for any flooding or extreme heat
- Make sure that London has a good water supply
- Work with others to plan for a new Thames Barrier to protect London from more sea rises
- Clean up London's canals, rivers and streams



Background noise



Background noise can damage people's health.



It affects people's:

- Mental health



- Sleep



- Hearing



- Learning



The plans to build another runway at Heathrow will affect 200,000 people with more loud noise.

The Mayor wants to reduce the number of people who suffer from background noise by:



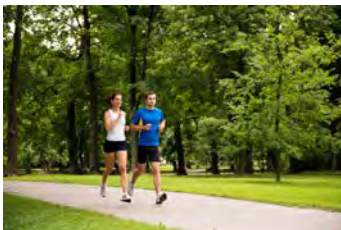
- Planning for fewer cars and more walking, cycling and public transport



- Opposing the extra runway at Heathrow



- Finding new ways to cut the noise from underground trains



- Having more green and quiet spaces

Low carbon circular economy



The economy is how money is made and spent and the effect this has.



At the moment a lot of money is wasted because we take and use things then throw away what we don't need.



A circular economy is about getting the most value from things and creating items that can be reused instead of thrown away.



A low carbon circular economy would look at doing everything in the best possible way for the environment.



The Mayor wants London to move towards a low carbon circular economy so that we can:

- Make the best use of the things we already have



- Create more jobs and opportunities for people in London



The Mayor will:

- Build a new Clean Technology Centre, which will make products that are good for the environment



- Use goods and services that are environmentally friendly



- Help university students develop new ideas for goods and services that are environmentally friendly

For more information



If you want more information please contact us at:



Telephone: **020 7983 4000**



Web: **www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment**

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Public Liaison Unit

Greater London Authority
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
More London
London SE1 2AA

Telephone **020 7983 4100**

www.london.gov.uk

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