

London Citizens Climate Action Guide

	Action	Description	
London-wide	All public transport is fossil-fuel free by 2030	The London mayor has direct control over public transport, and could invest to make this a reality. Ideally, this would mean buses, trains, etc do not burn fossil fuels directly, and that all electricity used does not come from fossil-fuel sources.	
	All new buildings must meet a high standard of energy efficiency	The London Mayor has significant influence over approving large-scale or high-impact new developments. High-quality efficiency standards already exist, such as 'Passivehaus', and could be made mandatory.	
	Large-scale energy-efficiency retrofits for social housing	Retrofits involve renovating buildings to make them more energy efficient, upgrading things like heating systems and insulation. Mass retrofitting will be needed to make London carbon neutral. Retrofits will reduce energy costs for social housing tenants.	
	Gradually raise emission standards for the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ)	Sadiq Khan intends to expand the ULEZ to within the North & South Circular by 2021. But for London to be carbon neutral, the standards for what counts as low-emission will also need to be raised over time. The mayor could set out a planned timetable for this, and provide supporting funding, to reduce costs for Londoners.	
	Use revenue from the ULEZ to create a 'fair transition travel fund'	Vehicles which do not meet ULEZ standards will have to pay £12.50 a day to drive within the zone (£100 for lorries, buses and coaches). This money could be used to support others to switch to more energy efficient vehicles or to use public transport, especially for poorer people, and small traders reliant on vehicles to work.	
	Work with local communities to pedestrianize certain parts of London	Pedestrianization involves banning vehicles from certain stretches of roadway, either permanently or at given times. This can make streets more accessible, boost local businesses and open up community uses of public space, but it can also cause disruption if not done in line with local needs and habits.	
	Support the planting of community orchards and new trees	Community orchards involve fruit-bearing trees, which are maintained and harvested by the community. The mayor could also increase regular tree cover in polluted areas. Both will help clean up London's air.	
	Ensure the GLA and its contractors/suppliers use 100% green energy	The Greater London Authority is a major consumer of energy, and it could lead the way by changing its energy use to 100% renewable energy and prioritizing purchasing from contractors and suppliers who do the same.	
	Convene global business leaders to plan for carbon-neutrality transitions	The Mayor has significant influence in getting business leaders around the table. They could lead a process where big-businesses develop their own carbon-neutrality plans, with a 2030 target, in line with London's.	
Local councils	Require all new buildings to meet a high standard of energy efficiency	Local councils are most often the ones who grant or deny planning permission to new developments. Councils could require all plans to meet high energy-efficiency standards, such as 'Passivehaus', in order to be approved.	
	Set up a community energy buying scheme	Community energy buying schemes involve bulk-purchasing low-carbon energy, at a discounted rate. They require large numbers of participants, but then make it more affordable for households, estates, etc to switch energy suppliers	
	Provide support for energy-efficiency retrofits of existing buildings	Councils could adopt a range of measures, such as offering council tax refunds, or grants, to support homeowners to retrofit their buildings, while also participating in London-wide retrofitting work for social housing (see above)	
	Provide more Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points, cycle lanes and walking pathways	Much of the infrastructure in London has been built to prioritize fossil-fuel-driven cars, making the adoption of alternatives more challenging. These forms of infrastructure would make it easier to adopt alternatives, by making these safer, cheaper and less hassle.	
	Provide support for building renewable heating systems for blocks of flats, estates, and homes	Renewable heating systems use renewable energy sources, such as biomass or solar-thermal panels to produce heat. Some systems need to be built as independent structures capable of supplying several homes, while others, such as heat pumps, can be installed within individual homes.	
	<b>Action</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Resources for progressing</b>

Institutions	Change bank and pension to ones which don't support high-carbon corporations	Banks provide most of the finance to companies who want to undertake new fossil-fuel projects (drilling etc). Depriving banks of business can help cut off this finance, and most banks will support you in switching to them, making the process relatively easy. Most pension funds also own shares in fossil-fuel and other high carbon companies, and it may be possible to push pension providers to dis-invest from these.	UK Campaign group 'Positive Investment' have produced a detailed guide on switching to a greener bank: <a href="http://www.positiveinvest.org/campaigns/bankswitch/">www.positiveinvest.org/campaigns/bankswitch/</a> Charity, 'Share Action' have a similar guide for pensions: <a href="http://www.shareaction.org/pensions/take-action/">www.shareaction.org/pensions/take-action/</a>
	Switch energy supplier to a low/no carbon one, and support members to do the same	Household energy makes up the largest portion of our individual carbon footprint in the UK. Institutions can have an even greater impact. For example, churches can have up to 8x the carbon footprint of a household. Energy switching can be relatively simple, but individuals may require some basic information and support, which institutions can provide.	Hackney Citizens have prepared an energy-switching resource pack: <a href="http://www.tinyurl.com/CUKenergy">www.tinyurl.com/CUKenergy</a> The Mayor of London has launched a collective green-energy purchasing scheme: <a href="http://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/london-power">www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/london-power</a>
	Explore whether their building could install a renewable heating system	Renewable heating systems use renewable energy sources, such as biomass, heat pumps or solar-thermal panels to produce heat. Some, but not all of these, may require a bit more space or a bit of upfront funding to install, making institutions better able to lead the way.	A comprehensive guide to options and government subsidies can be found at: <a href="http://www.homebuilding.co.uk/renewable-heat-incentive-guide/">www.homebuilding.co.uk/renewable-heat-incentive-guide/</a>
	Set up a community renewable energy scheme	Renewable energy schemes involve a community group crowd-funding to buy solar panels or wind turbines, to provide local electricity and with profits going back to those who contributed to the scheme.	Guidance and support is available from charity 'Community Energy England': <a href="https://hub.communityenergyengland.org/">https://hub.communityenergyengland.org/</a>
Individual/community	Changing my bank and possibly pension scheme	See the same action in the 'Institutions' section above	See above.
	Setting up a meeting to talk to my MP about climate change, and following up on this regularly	Evidence shows that MPs across the political spectrum can be persuaded to champion sustainability policies if constituents meet with them to explain why climate change is urgent and important to them, and if they follow up regularly to hold MPs to account. It is best to go as a small group, and to approach this as a dialogue.	Find your MP at <a href="http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps/find-your-mp/">www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps/find-your-mp/</a>
	Switching my own energy supplier to a low/no carbon one, and/or installing a renewable heating system	See the same action in the 'Institutions' section above. Many private homes may be suitable for installing heat pumps, and there is a government grant available within the Renewable Heat Incentive.	See resources for switching energy supplier and installing renewable heating systems above
	Investing in a community-based renewable energy scheme	Renewable energy schemes are often crowdfunded. If you know of one in your area, or if you can convince a local institution to set one up, even £10 can make a difference – and you may even make some money back from energy that gets sold back to the national grid.	'Community Energy England' have a map of many schemes: <a href="https://hub.communityenergyengland.org/projects">https://hub.communityenergyengland.org/projects</a>
	Significantly reducing my usage of petrol/diesel vehicles	After household energy, car use is the next largest individual source of CO2. Pollution from diesel and petrol cars in cities can also create significant health impacts. Public transport and electric car clubs (which provide cheap, short-term rentals), can provide affordable alternatives to car use.	Find a map of car clubs at: <a href="http://www.como.org.uk/shared-mobility/shared-cars/where/">www.como.org.uk/shared-mobility/shared-cars/where/</a>