

Climate Partnership

Notes and actions from last meeting (9th May 2024)

Attendees: Kabir Hussain (KH) Co-Chair and Cabinet Lead for Environment and the Climate Emergency.

Alison Basa (AB) BARTS HEALTH NHS TRUST; Bethan Mobey (BM) Women's Environmental Network; Cassie Charette (CC) Canary Wharf Group; Chloe Johnston (CJ) Poplar HARCA; Fiona Peskett (FP) BARTS HEALTH NHS TRUST; Fraser Burt (FB) (Queen Mary University); Jenna-Marie Smallwood (JS) Queen Mary University; Katy Thompson (KT) Poplar HARCA; Rebecca Turnpenney (RT) Thames21; Riikka Vihriälä (RV) New City College; Susannah Littlewood (SL) TreesForCities; Tunde (Friends of Meath Gardens); Paul Roper (PR) Lee Valley Park; Vicky Scott (VS) Tower Hamlets Council Voluntary Service; Rebecca Waters (RW) NHS NORTH EAST LONDON; Zarina Ahmad (ZA) Women's Environmental Network; Zoe Miles (ZM) Women's Environmental Network;

Officers: Abdul Khan (AK) Head of Sustainability; Jenny Fisher (JF) Mayor's Office; Jonathan Taylor (JT) Sustainability; Ian Dalgleish (ID) Housing Asset Management; John Archer (JA) Biodiversity; Robert Morton (RM) Transport; Seth Bondonno (SB) Sustainability; Vicky Allen (VA) Strategy Policy.

Items - Climate Partnership (CP) Meeting

Welcome

Introductions from all Councilor Kabir Hussain and all partnership members.

Matters arising from last meeting & sub-group feedback.

AK discusses 2 important actions:

1. Importance for Climate Partnerships to send the council Sustainability Team their emissions reporting data.
 - This can be forwarding already published data.
 - Abdul and the council team are offering one to ones if members would like support reporting emissions. Contact to receive support on publishing emissions.
2. Follow up for all organizations to give an update on what actions they are taking to transition towards reducing their carbon emissions or reaching net zero.

Both actions will continue to be on the agenda for next partnership meeting.

You can contact the sustainability team with information about your recent actions, reporting emissions, or scheduling a call with support from a council officer by emailing Climate@towerhamlets.gov.uk or seth.bondonno@towerhamlets.gov.uk

SB gives updates on Action to Coordinate with Businesses:

A meeting between Climate Partnership chair, East London Business Alliance, and council officers took place in April. It was decided to draft a project that could be supported by large businesses in the borough. A follow up meeting has been organised this month in May.

SB has completed the Climate Partnership subgroup Form and wider Partnership survey.

SB showcases Climate Partnership survey data.

How will your organisation contribute to reducing carbon emissions in your organisation and across the borough?

Overwhelmingly majority of CP members responded that:

- Attending events and campaigns
- Raising awareness and influencing positive change. For example, by engaging with boroughwide communications on carbon and climate emergency.
- Sharing good practice, information, and guidance to your networks.
- Supporting the Climate Partnership in the delivery of a wider borough Climate Alliance.

If the Climate Partnership organises future conferences or workshop activities, what type of content or activities would be useful for your organisation?

- Climate Finance and Funding Opportunities
- Climate Change Adaptation Strategies
- Workshops on Sustainable Supply Chain Management

SB proposes that climate partnership meetings will be organised using feedback from the Climate Partnership Form and based around specific themes.

SB will take this further to the planning meetings with both Chairs.

End of actions from previous meeting.

Sub-group feedback.

Research, data, and intelligence sub-group.

Updates given by subgroup member Riikka Vihriälä (New City College).

- Defining criteria for Green Jobs (dark green jobs).
- Deciding list of additional external organisations to join the subgroup. Currently, there are only education providers represented. For the next subgroup meeting, we want to invite more employers to the group.
- Looking for a chair for the subgroup! Please email Climate@towerhamlets.gov.uk or seth.bondonno@towerhamlets.gov.uk to express interest.

Innovation and Leadership sub-group.

Updates given by subgroup chair Cassie Charette (Canary Wharf Group)

- Requests for members to contact about local events and projects in the borough!

- The subgroup is creating case studies to spotlight activities.
- Case study template has been created for the sub-group members.

JS – states that they are happy to share case studies for the innovation and leadership subgroup.

Women's Environmental Network give case study presentation to Partnership.

Key points:

26 projects focused on Tower Hamlets food system.

- Closed loop system site in R-Urban Poplar
- Compost toilet in Mile End Community Garden
- Culturally appropriate and subsidized veg from Folx Farm, Sussex
- Grow-cook sessions for SEN class at Bowden Primary
- Composting capacity on St George's Estate
- Food and Land Justice Centre at Kinglsey Hall
- Plastic free Poplar
- Herb learning for POC by Misery Medicine
- Providence Row growing training for people with experience of homelessness.
- 3 food co-operatives

WEN are offering:

- Visits to Just FACT projects/ join us on knowledge exchange trips to other parts of the country.
- Support to co-design opportunities to collaborate with Tower Hamlets communities to shape policy/strategy.
- Support to include residents in the work of the climate partnership.
- Participatory grant making.

Greening, growing and biodiversity sub-group (Tower Habitats).

Updates given by subgroup chair John Archer (Tower Hamlets Council)

- next meeting is on May 23.
- Local Biodiversity Action Plan – draft for May meeting
- A couple of good news stories from Rewild London Fund - Swans are using the Wapping Canal raft habitats that were constructed in February.
- JA asks that the Women's Environmental Network (WEN) be represented on the Subgroup and will contact ZM from WEN.
- JA showcases other interesting projects in the borough that require further research: WildE3, Urban Growth/Clarion Housing, Greening across Lincoln Estate, Poplar HARCA/FoTHCP, Linc the SINC's

Workshop Activity – Climate Conversations (Run by SB)

CP Members were organized into breakout groups to discuss the following:

- Talk about a recent climate related project in your organization.
- How is your organization contributing to the wider remit of transitioning towards net zero?

Projects and initiatives Members discussed:

- QMUL - implementing a coordinated "shut down" approach to rooms that are manually managed i.e. stickers/signs with reminders to switch off and power down.
- Talked through how complex it can be to enact projects with a PFI as legal variation to contract is required, which can prove expensive and require a business case.
- Circular Economy - Tech Takeback recycled/refurbishment project (phones/laptops etc) - donations through ELBA.
- Heart of the City – Canary Wharf Group - Supply chain emissions training program, supporting on understanding emissions and development of net zero
- QMUL - Addressing building emissions - especially emissions from gas heating systems. Looking at putting key buildings into "hibernation" stage to show savings.
- Tower Hamlets Council - E cargo bikes for businesses - 600km distance covered, leading to emissions savings.
- Green Theatres Royal London - changing the uses of theatre ventilation that saves energy, engaging clinicians, creating an operating procedure.
- Friends of Meath Gardens have created habitats and planted lots of trees in Meath Gardens over the last few years, with an active membership of 200 volunteers.
- Menu flipping at New City College
- Wen's Climate Sisters project which isn't about reducing carbon emissions but about understanding everyday climate issues.
- We talked about our organisations and how we are attempting to reduce our gas emissions and how we are looking at our ventilation and how this can be turned off in areas.
- Efficiency measures across buildings managed (insulation, lights etc.)
- Poplar HARCA's Community Carbon Champions - resident group educating ourselves & the local community about climate change in a fun & practical way.
- QMUL - addressing direct and indirect emissions. Looking at our realm of influence, how can we motivate behaviour change beyond our organisation.
- Tower Hamlets Council - identifying locations for sustainable micro-logistics sites through planning system.
- ICB - our main function is to convene and connect, so we oversee system wide networks covering medicines, travel, and estates.

ZM – highlights that community-based food solutions are important but do not hold large emissions currently due to the lack of power being held in these spaces.

Climate Communications (All)

- How can we use Tower Hamlets good news stories to inspire change?

ZM – asks for there to be a space for good news stories to be stored to reduce research fatigue. Could be focused on community-based solution.

JM – powerful if a business sees another business doing an action. Fundamental to change in the borough. Good news stories need to be shared widely. Important for climate partnership members

RB – discussed the availability of newsletters and networks within the council. Our East End – Quarterly publication – corporate ongoing strand we could attach the good news stories to. There is

also potential to utilise the Housing Forum. Identify local community champions from the area of Tower Hamlets that can promote good news stories.

CC – stated that Canary Wharf Group owns interactive boards around Canary Wharf which could display climate activities in the borough. The displays would need to be short and engaging for passers-by. Contact Canary Wharf Group or attend the Innovation and Leadership subgroup to find out more how the partnership could utilise them.

Date of next meeting

Proposed dates:

Next Climate Partnership Meeting - September 5th.

Following Climate Partnership Meeting - November 14th.

June/July - Subgroup Meetings

July - Agenda setting period.

19th-22nd August – Climate Partnership Representation at '*In The Neighbourhoods Festival*'.

Actions for Next Meeting

- ALL - Send emissions data to sustainability team or contact the team if their organization needs support in reporting emissions by 5th June.
- ALL - organizations to give an update on what actions they are taking to transition towards reducing their carbon emissions or reaching net zero.
- Seth Bondonno to meet with the chairs to plan Climate Partnership meetings based on the survey data feedback.
- ALL – provide information on communication networks that the climate partnership could utilize for communications. Seth to prepare further work on this.
- ALL – contact Seth or fill in the Climate Partnership Form to register interest to join the subgroups.