

The Good Council's Charter

ACTIONS FOR A RESPONSIBLE, PUBLICLY ACCOUNTABLE COUNCIL IPCC: "Rapid & far-reaching transitions"

National Planning Policy Framework: "Help to shape places to radically reduce greenhouse emissions"

Climate Emergency! Key principles to act on urgently *Should have been done 10 yrs ago!*

Public declaration of Climate & Wildlife Emergency (look at actions/plans by other councils)

Urgent audit of all council actions and **immediate action** to reduce CO₂ and cut high emissions

Publish **Action Plan for Climate / Pollution / Biodiversity** priorities across all sectors & interim targets

Political commitment: aim for Net Zero GHG emissions by 2030 or ASAP, + annual review

Change internal culture top to bottom so climate measures are top priority. Be honest with public

Ensure employees understand the seriousness of the problem and act on it (No tokenism!)

Appoint executive level Climate Champion + team, + champion for each dept – weekly meetings

Introduce **Climate & Air Pollution Action Desk**, and have a **Carbon Calculator** available

Start **Citizens Assembly** to generate/help prioritise ideas/enable - community ptrnship (cross-border)

Issue households with **Climate Emergency Guide** to reducing climate emissions (+ info sources)

Divest council from fossil fuel investments; **invest in renewables**; form non-profit green energy co.

Introduce **ethical procurement** framework so suppliers are in step, cutting CO₂ footprint

Call on govt to provide policy changes and funding. **Produce biogas** from non-recyclable waste

Protect nature & do more to **connect people with nature** (especially **schools**); green roofs/balconies

Protect parks & improve for nature; work with communities on new pocket parks/green corridors

Protect all trees – they all absorb CO₂. Luton has 'lost' & not replaced thousands

Plant thousands of trees each year to fix carbon, on council, business, school land, in gardens

Turn down heating in all council buildings and private offices. **Greener heating** inc solar panels

Reduce air pollution– big health & quality of life benefits! Pollution kills people, animals, insects

Separate vehicles & children – no parking/idling areas at every school; walk to school schemes

Urge people to have no more than **2 children**: a child will use a vast amount of CO₂ in its lifetime.

Expand/new Air Quality **Management** Areas, Clean Air Zones/ULEZ (not just monitoring)

Stop roadbuilding – new roads = more journeys, and transport is biggest emitter & polluter

Reduce road traffic by at least 20% especially diesel vehicles & SUVs, even with fast EV uptake

Reduce need to travel (car/taxi sharing; park & ride NSEW; display realtime pollution danger)

Provide & promote **better public transport** where most needed (funded by workplace parking levy)

Reduce pollution from council vehicles (more electric/hybrid; pooling, walking & cycling rewards)

Reduce pollution from buses/coaches (partnerships, electric buses, more services, free travel)

Provide more cycle lanes in quiet roads or off-road; **all schools to run cycle training**

Bring all housing closer to net zero carbon (insulation, draught reduction, heat pumps, solar panels)

Work with businesses to cut CO₂, pollution, waste/plastic, energy use from data; home working;

workplace parking levy; car share/pool/clubs/EV fleet; training in green actions; SEMLEP energy fund

Reduce pollution from lighting (LED; turn off many streetlights at night as Hitchin). Buy green energy

Promote eating less meat / going flexitarian/vegetarian/vegan / buy local food (farmers market)

Encourage people to **reduce consumerism**, use charity shops, buy secondhand & ethical clothing

Localism: **Partner farmers** to grow local food; **help people grow fruit & veg**; promote allotments;

Create Local Energy Partnerships with local business/landowners to focus on green jobs: projects

like insulation; making/installing solar panels; building solar farms; air/ground source heat pumps

Airport OWNED BY LUTON RESIDENTS, WHO MUST BE INCLUDED IN DECISION-MAKING

Flying is the fastest growing source of climate change, causing between 4 and 9 % of emissions. Although CO₂ stays in the atmosphere for decades, jet trails (which also release NO_x, Sulphate & Soot) act like clouds, form ice crystals, reflect sunlight from above, hold heat below, trigger chemical reactions, and are 2 to 4 times more damaging than CO₂. European air passenger numbers have gone from 360 million in 1993 to 1106 million in 2018. More people fly from UK than anywhere else. This is catastrophic for the climate and must stop to save humanity.

Luton is the fastest growing airport, generating tens of millions of vehicle journeys a year, bringing Luton to 4th most congested town. Air pollution has a significant effect on residents' health. Flying is also the method of freight transport that produces the most emissions. Luton Council wants to expand further, but in a climate emergency it is no longer viable for airports to expand.

Only 50% of people fly. Those who don't subsidise those doing the most damage. We need an aviation fuel tax and a frequent flyer tax. A return flight to New York generates the same emissions as an average person heating their home for a year.

The most important thing a person can do to cut their CO₂ is to stop or reduce flying.

"We only have the slimmest of opportunities remaining to avoid unthinkable damage to the climate system that supports life as we know it." *IPCC board member Amjad Abdulla*

- 1 Stop expansion plans and protect Wigmore Valley Park** (absorbs airport pollution & noise, CWS)
- 2 Reduce flights, do not allow flights with empty seats** (limit airport advertising)
- 3 Reduce pollution from planes and plane movements** (+ promote train / Dart)
- 4 Reduce pollution from cars & vans visiting the airport** (inc diesel, SUV & workplace parking charges, car pooling/sharing/clubs, improve public transport/walking /cycling for airport workers)
- 5 Reduce pollution from diesel taxis/hire cars** (require phase-in of electric or hybrid taxis by 2025)
- 6 Reduce pollution from buses and coaches** (company partnerships, electric buses, free travel)
- 7 Reduce pollution from delivery vehicles visiting the airport** (partnership with companies)
- 8 Reduce pollution on site** (buildings inc heating, equipment and processes; install solar panels)
*Stop planes, diesel bus, coach & taxi drivers sitting with engines idling **immediately** (+outside heaters)*
- 9 Public transport use to airport must increase while flights and empty seats are reduced**
- 10 Divest Luton Council and all companies at the airport from fossil fuel investments**
- 10 Stop roadbuilding** : widening Vauxhall Way would destroy thousands of trees protecting residents from pollution & noise; traffic lights instead of roundabouts would **increase** pollution)
- 11 Promote holidays to UK and Europe by train** (international tourist travel 2% rail, 4% water, 37% road, 57% air)
- 12 Declare Wigmore Air Quality Management Area** (not just monitoring – **managing** a Clean Air Zone; and commit to doing the same on the airport complex)

Also see (part of Airport Air Quality Scrutiny agenda 3 Dec 2019): Public Health England Report; Greater Manchester Air Quality Action Plan 2016-2021. Also other air pollution reports on Luton.

The Good Citizen's Charter *(just a start)* Reduce CO₂, pollution, waste

Climate Emergency Key principles to act on urgently

Transport: Go car free or choose a very energy efficient car (at least 80mpg) hybrid or electric.

Avoid diesel. Drive less, share car/van, don't leave vehicle idling, if replacing vehicle buy electric or hybrid, use public transport, walk or cycle, don't fly (every jet mile is a day stolen from a child's life)

Holidays: Take holidays in UK or see Europe by train (bus or hire car at destination). Enjoy nature!

Energy: insulation, draught reduction, fit solar panels, reduce woodburners & gas, don't heat unused rooms, turn heating off or down, don't waste water, cook economically – one hob not 3

Switch to a renewable energy provider eg Good Energy, Ecotricity.

Family: Please have no more than **2 children:** a child will use a vast amount of CO₂ in its lifetime

Finance: Switch to a friendly, ethical finance provider like Triodos, Co-op, Naturesave Insurance

Food: Buy fresh fruit & veg (organic if possible), buy less processed foods, avoid palm oil, eat less meat (especially cows & sheep), buy local / from farms, go flexitarian, vegetarian or vegan

Too much farmland is used to grow crops to feed to animals. You can feed **10 people** on the land it takes to support 1 meat-eater. Vegetarians are spoiled for choice of tasty food. Grow fruit & veg!

Garden: Install a waterbutt, start a compost heap or compost bin, no bonfires. Plant fruit trees.

Start a pond. Create a wildlife garden. Keep front garden with bee-friendly flowers, not driveway

Reduce waste: Try to avoid or reduce plastic packaging. Recycle properly. Reuse whatever you can.

Always take bags with you. Use council recycling centres for electric goods, batteries, wood, oil etc

Clothes/shoes– use charity/vintage shops, freecycle, ebay, swap clothes with friends or SWISH events

Buy Less. Make things last. Factories pollute, use oil, water & many materials often from slave

labour, produce waste & greenhouse gases in manufacturing & transport across the world

Recycle old phones, devices, TVs, PCs, printers to charities. Don't buy a new one unless essential.

Wood – repair & don't replace furniture or doors unless you must. Don't buy/burn toxic vinyl flooring

Furniture, white goods, household items – pass on to charity shops, car boot sales.

Pollution: Never pour oil, fat, paint, spirit, solvents, bleach, sanitary towels, wipes down drain, toilet, sink, bath. Use all these sparingly. Avoid wipes – they're plastic that clogs sewers or ends in the sea

Technology: Turn everything **off** when not in use. Standby mode gobbles energy

Work: Join with others in making your work environment a green place. Tell family & friends!

Compiled by Luton Friends of the Earth Dec 2019

Good ideas at

<https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/insight/33-actions-local-authorities-can-take-climate-change>

<https://www.treehugger.com/energy-policy/ipcc-says-we-have-12-years-cut-carbon-45-what-does-look.html>

<https://www.greenpeace.org/archive-international/en/publications/reports/how-to-save-the-climate-pers/>

Climate Actions in the Office – handout from a talk to 60 businesses in 2010 by David Oakley-Hill, Luton FoE

Best Foot Forward climate report commissioned by Luton Council in 2008 recommended some of the above actions, both within council and across the community. Most were not acted upon.

Leeds Climate Change Citizens' Jury Recommendations

Question they were tasked to address: "What should Leeds do about the emergency of climate change?"

TRANSPORT

Extensive action to ensure that private car use is the last resort for transportation.

As a priority, bus provision should be taken back under public control.

Safe cycle lanes and cycle storage

Park & Ride

Increased and improved pedestrian areas

United public transport fare system (eg Oystercard)

Framework to help car sharing, including taxis

Congestion charge

HOUSING

All existing housing must be made energy-efficient – housing must be retrofitted.

We recommend the council enables residents to come together to insulate their homes and transition to greener energy sources via locally organised social enterprises.

This would encourage sharing skills and teaching people to be more green.

All new housing must be as future-proofed as possible (A or B energy rating) & include: green spaces; shared facilities & communal areas; new technology eg smart homes.

COMMUNICATION & EDUCATION

A large scale community drive through social media, face-to-face events, community groups, company advertising, screens in the city and other methods.

Education in schools is central to this.

Clear, positive, practical messages emphasising the need for individuals, community and organisational action at all levels.

FUNDING & FINANCE

An **Investment Fund** that investors (anybody) buy shares in. It invests in projects which make money. This goes back into new projects and pays investors a return on their investment.

A **Local Government Green Bond** Council identifies projects, batches them together, asks investors to buy a bond. Investors' money funds the projects. Council pays interest to bond-holders.

A **Carbon Budget** for every individual so you can choose lower carbon products with smart labelling. You can change your behaviour by avoiding high-carbon activities eg flying

Pension Funds – encourage pension fund managers to invest in green bonds & green investment fund and cleaner greener companies.

Crowdfunding – a website of accredited schemes for would-be investors

Business case support to help communities identify and develop proposals that could be invested in by the investment fund or a part of a green bond or for crowdfunding.

DECISION-MAKING

There should be more locally devolved power to ensure & enable action on climate change.

Political groups should work together to get more decision-making power locally.

GREEN SPACES

Create more green spaces (parks, trees, community gardens etc) and reclaim abandoned spaces.

GREEN NEW DEAL

A set of social & economic policies to stimulate development of low-carbon solutions, create new jobs, boosting the economy and improve people's lives.

this could include a citywide housing retrofit programme creating jobs and reducing energy bills.

Also invest in green public transport, improving air quality.

This would attract 'green' businesses and buy/promote green energy.

AIRPORT

We recommend stopping Leeds Bradford airport expansion – it is not compatible with zero carbon targets. To make this happen :

Leeds should not approve new road building or selling land to develop.

Residents should block expansion and be educated about the impact on the carbon footprint

18 of 21 citizens jury members (86%) think expanding the airport is the wrong decision (2 abstained)

We also believe flying must be discouraged by, for example -

- a frequent-flyer tax (based on income and number of flights & location – ie domestic)
- advertising holidays in UK rather than abroad.

COMPANIES

Ask companies and organisations to pledge to become carbon neutral by 2030.

A Leeds First scheme (kitemark/badge, a bit like Fairtrade) for businesses actively investing in / supporting climate action.

RECYCLING

More extensive recycling opportunities available/accessible to all (eg disabled people, non-drivers).

We recommend that no one in the town accepts single-use plastic, and no local business offers it.

All food and drink outlets provide refundable deposit cups in place of disposables.

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress report from **Leeds Climate Commission**, Leeds city Council and any other stakeholders.

Update report on all recommendations with details on why/why not taken on.

progress report on any ongoing projects from our recommendations at 3/6/9/12 months from launch date.

Review of rejected recommendations to see if now relevant.

Investigate idea of a repeat process with this group and maybe some new 'recruits'.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xVmm5XxjpSw&feature=emb_logo&fbclid=IwAR2k5ALi_UgH2K5KwCycD9Y5yBMZA_gcg_09POjdhSoPqDFkCjPQnakMzM3o See Oversight Panel at end – include University

<https://leedsclimate.org.uk/leeds-climate-change-citizens-jury>