

# Feeling the heat?

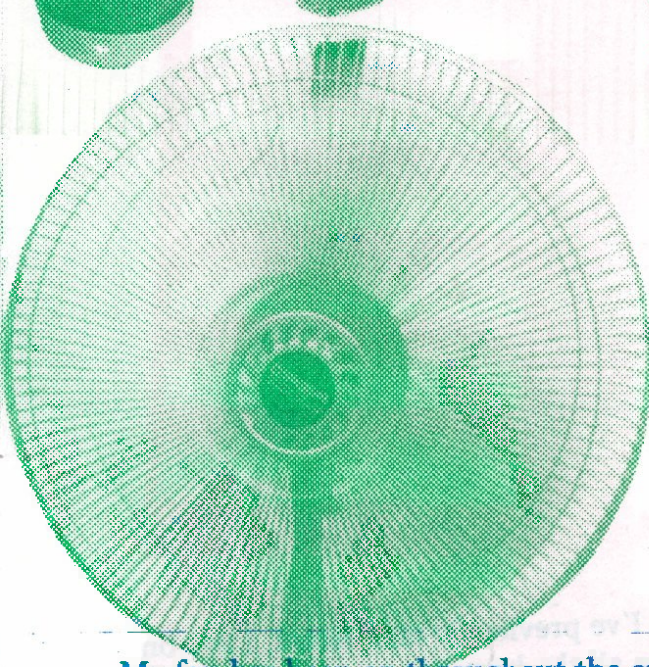
Londoners' experiences  
of climate change

Summer 2024





In cooling mode!



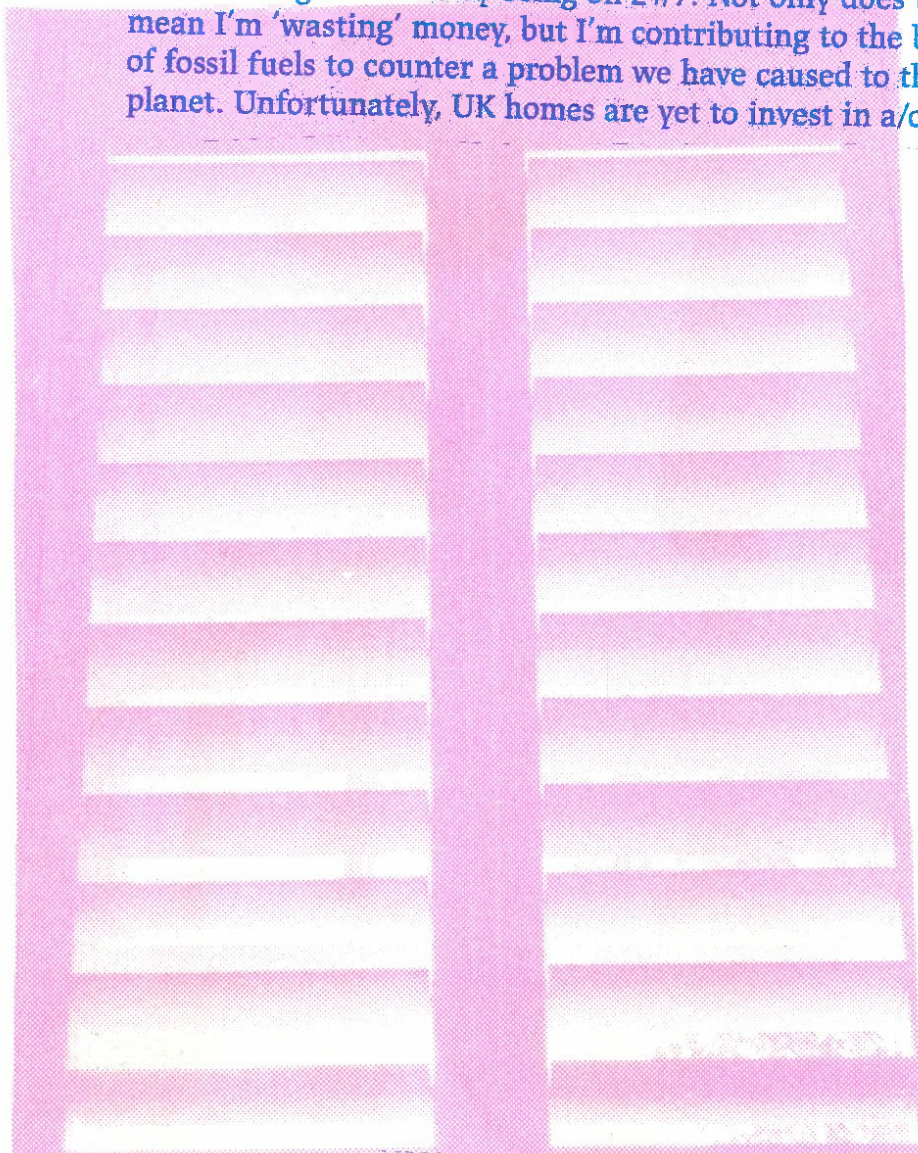
In Peckham, I see firsthand how older housing and crowded estates trap heat, making life particularly tough during heatwaves. Many residents, especially the elderly and low-income families, struggle without adequate cooling, putting them at real risk of heat-related illnesses.

My fan has been on throughout the entire day and night when working from home. One consequence has been me having frequent colds. When I work in the office the a/c has left me feeling ill and I'm finding it very difficult to adjust to different extremities of heat





With climate change, the temperature in my room can only get higher throughout the summer. My fan is also working overtime by being on 24/7. Not only does this mean I'm 'wasting' money, but I'm contributing to the burning of fossil fuels to counter a problem we have caused to the planet. Unfortunately, UK homes are yet to invest in a/c.



As I've previously mentioned, I live on the top floor which means all the heat rises up to my room. I've tried placing ice in front of my fan to cool my room down, keeping all the blinds shut, having multiple fans etc and nothing has worked. This a/c machine also didn't work!

no drastic action has been taken. For example, the powerful countries in the world come together, they just discuss it and then sweep it under the carpet. You just see them go to the summit, the G7, et cetera.

I'm pessimistic as some of this will require a lot of investment and not sure where that's going to come from and also cost of living puts pressure on people and the money they have.

Even though there's a lot of education that's been given in schools or even through documentaries about the fact the effects of global warming or how the fact that Earth is getting warmer.

And there's a lot of actions that we need to do as humans to improve that.

Heatwaves are likely to impact the future of our local community in a very disastrous way if necessary and required measures are not fully put in place from now.

Tragedies like Grenfell have unveiled the weaknesses in housing structure - many of which ethnic minorities live in. The reality is we're far likelier to bear the burden of climate change. I think those that are wealthier can benefit in adapting to change without compromising on the quality of their lifestyle.

The people I support in Peckham are resilient, often finding creative ways to cope with the heat, like seeking cooler spots in the evening. However, if heatwaves become more severe, their resilience will be increasingly tested. Limited resources and access to cooling options make it challenging for the most vulnerable.



I would like to see the beauty retained in my area to share with future generations (not just unaffordable pretty buildings).

8:30 am - 8:30 pm



The parks are large enough to have space for people



The most important thing is to protect and improve green spaces like Burgess Park, and all local parks. These areas need to stay looked after and in good condition. Without them, the community will struggle even more during heatwaves. Focusing on these spaces can help everyone cope better with rising temperatures.

Green space- intense heat might stress the ecosystem, leading to a loss of the already few green spaces in lower income neighbourhoods. With this is also worse air since there is less trees to compensate and therefore more sicknesses and children will be less likely to have the freedom to explore outside.

The park's ponds, once lively with birds, now see fewer due to overheating and drying up, reducing the area's natural beauty. The park's decline during extreme heat highlights its vulnerability and the community's reliance on it.

The green spaces remind me of the constant regenerative continuity of life and in particular the biology behind life itself. Photosynthesis (identifiable through the greenery of plants) is a key factor for the generation of O<sub>2</sub>. The majority of people spend time and

This is a green space that I use regularly as part of my caring responsibility, this is a community space which is used by many. It's important to so many people for so many reasons. I think a number of people use a space like this to engage





Church: going to church requires a level of discipline and warmer weathers may affect how people wish to spend their day. I would imagine services would have to adapt to be later in the evening when it is cooler, which is difficult



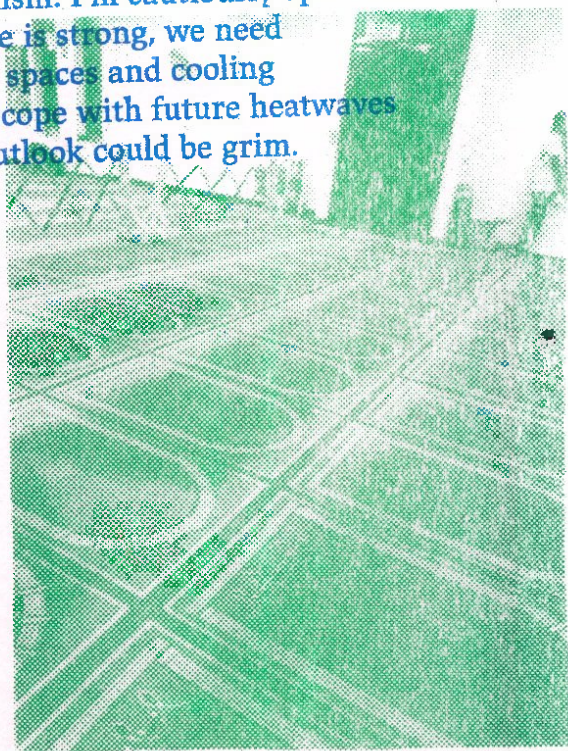
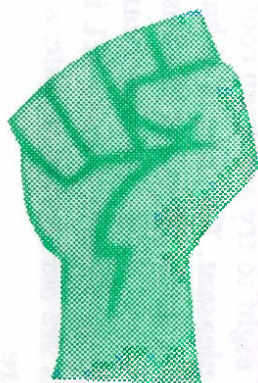
We're now distrusting food on an estate in Peckham, despite it being hot, some of our older volunteers are still dressed up in hoodies. When asked are you not hot they say they're ok, it can get cold or rain anytime.



Optimism or Pessimism: I'm cautiously optimistic. While the community's resilience is strong, we need significant investments in green spaces and cooling infrastructure to ensure we can cope with future heatwaves effectively. Without these, the outlook could be grim.

Local

resilience



Many people who live in my neighbourhood come from strong fighting backgrounds with different experiences but the same resilient characteristics is formed. We often have manageable situations in terms of living and education and so I'm confident we would be able to survive if heatwaves were to become more severe



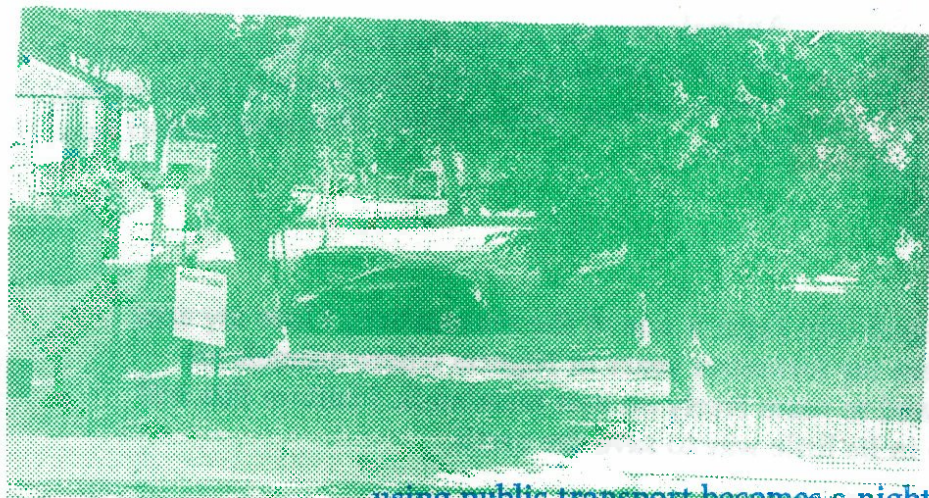




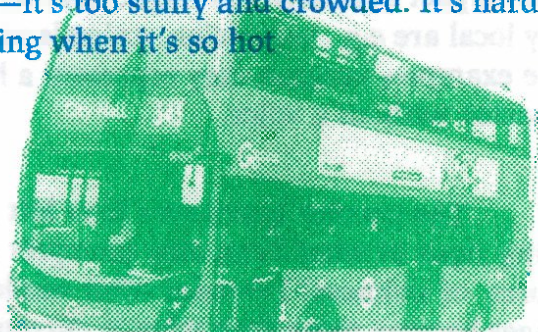
### Working from

home has been pretty impossible as I can't afford air conditioning at home and my flat gets the sun all day. This means I've incurred more costs due to travel but also running a fan day and night to try and keep cool in the flat. Travel hasn't been pleasant. The tube is so busy and there's no aircon. I wouldn't think of getting the bus. It's too slow and uncomfortable. 2.(c) Public transport cannot cope in hot weather. It is totally inadequate despite TFL increasing fares, the trains and tubes are old and out of date; a lack of investment in the infrastructure.






using public transport becomes a nightmare—it's too stuffy and crowded. It's hard to focus on anything when it's so hot.



All commuters are at risk during heatwaves, especially during peak hours when platforms and trains are crowded. The lack of ventilation in underground stations can exacerbate the effects of extreme heat, leading to discomfort and potential health issues.







Animals are one of the major sources of our food. If they do not have plants and other necessary produce to feed on due to climate change, they will die. This would affect us as human beings

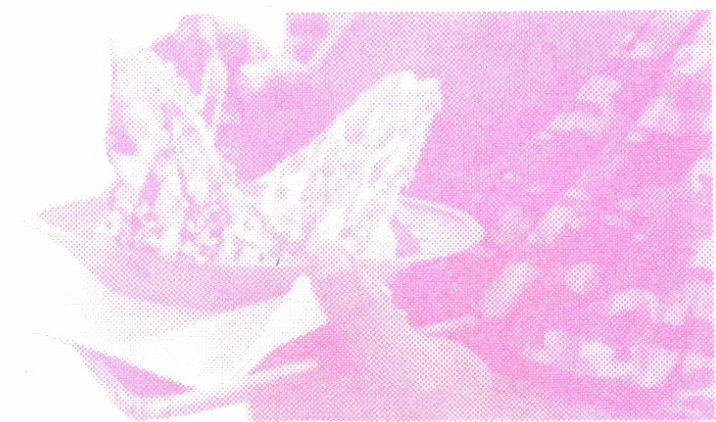
Vauxhall City Farm is one of the reasons why i love my area. I spent my formative years in Nigeria where animals are allowed to roam freely on vast farmlands. I believe this will help in its little way to save the earth.

The probable impact of heatwaves might have on other living things in my local are e.g., vegetation, animals vary. I have chosen these examples because they represent a highly vulnerable sector without a voice.

The current heatwaves have left me to note birds exhibiting signs of what I can only interpret as tiredness, or is it a form of sickness? I wonder what would occur if climate changes became more than what is currently experienced.

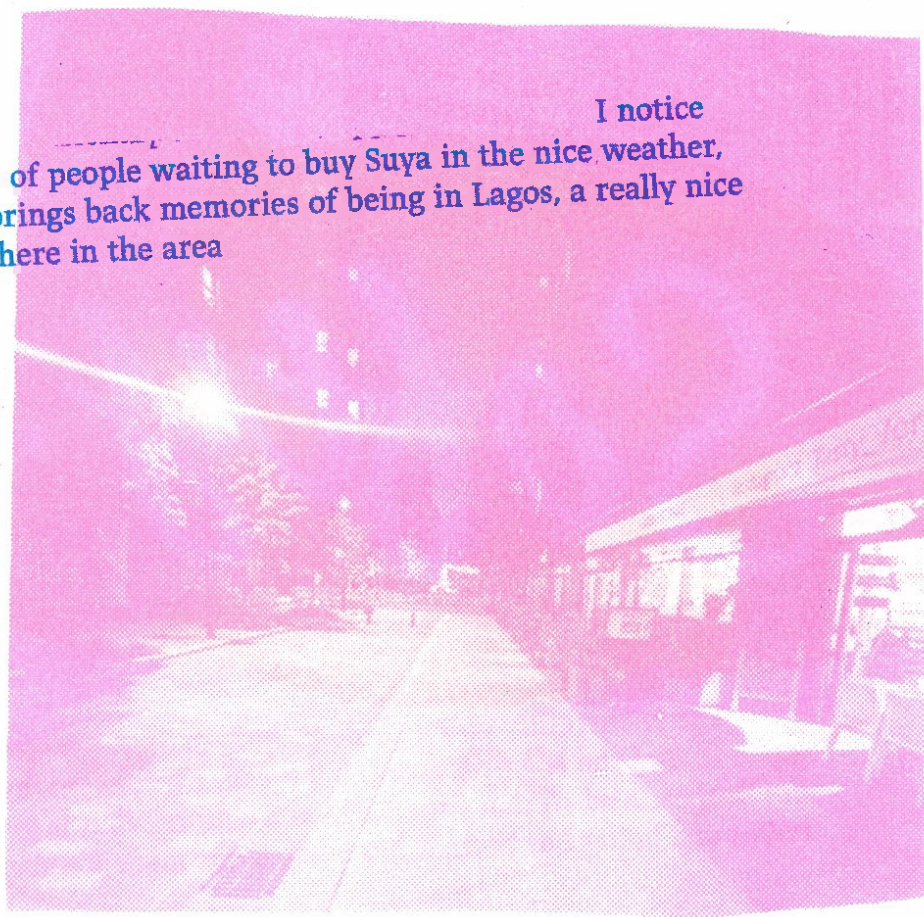






Keeping cool myself After a long exhausting day, I go to grab a bite to eat,

I notice  
a queue of people waiting to buy Suya in the nice weather,  
which brings back memories of being in Lagos, a really nice  
atmosphere in the area





my college is hot and I find it difficult to concentrate and I just feel drained.

the older people in the community seem to struggle with the heat. It just feels like the heat makes everything and everyone more tired and stressed out.

# Softly...

She is currently going through menopause. You wouldn't guess it, and she is going through a lot of, I would say, extreme hot flashes. And so that especially in a country that is growing hotter and hotter has been, it has been, it has made it unbearable.

Heatwaves could impact me and others around me in different ways, but me personally it makes me very lethargic not wanting to go out as the weather drains all my energy.







This report summarises the experiences of six Londoners living in Lambeth, Southwark and Tower Hamlets, who across August 2024 documented life in London on hotter days. Acting as 'peer researchers', they produced photos, videos and diary entries that captured what they saw and experienced, interviewed friends and family members, and reflected on how their area might change if we continue to see hotter, drier summers due to climate change.

The images and quotes in this booklet were generated by peer researchers in response to a series of tasks, completed via the Mobile Ethnography app Indeemo. These covered topics such as:

- Introduction to their area
- Parts of the community or environment that are vulnerable to heatwaves
- Things that they and others do differently on hotter days
- What they do to keep cool on hotter days
- Impact of heatwaves on nature (eg plants, parks, animals, etc)
- The potential for resilience in the future, if heatwaves become more regular and more intense

The six peer researchers came together in early September to discuss their findings. This booklet is the outcome of that discussion, and was made by the peer researchers in collaboration with risograph printer Jo Brinton at GOOD STUDIO. The booklet summarises the shared themes they saw in their observations and conversations with others, and highlight the foundations for change they'd like to see in their area.

*This work is part of the Hopeful Futures project, in which we are working with a group of residents from the London boroughs of Lambeth, Southwark and Tower Hamlets to develop a hopeful vision for climate resilient communities, and to help prioritise the actions that will get us there.*

*This project is funded by King's College London's Climate & Sustainability Seed Fund, and is delivered by King's College London in partnership with London Councils, and the London boroughs of Lambeth, Southwark and Tower Hamlets.*

