

Hopeful Futures

Lessons on involving the public in
decisions around climate adaptation

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Hopeful Futures brought together researchers and practitioners from across King's College London, including the Policy Institute, Department of Geography, Culture at King's and Department for Political Economy. The work was delivered in partnership with the London Boroughs of Lambeth, Southwark and Tower Hamlets as part of London Councils' Climate Programme, and in collaboration with artists Angela YT Chan, Good Studio and Policy Lab.

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Introduction



About this report

Over the last decade, deliberative processes such as citizens' assemblies and citizens' juries have been growing in popularity in the UK as alternative means of involving the public in decision-making ([Smith, 2024](#): 37-38). This is especially true in London, where around a third of boroughs have now run a citizens' assembly or citizens' jury to inform climate mitigation and adaptation efforts ([KNOCA](#)). Most have focused on climate mitigation, calling on the public to inform how councils and residents can work together to become carbon neutral or reach net zero. Two exceptions are the 2024 Citizens' Climate Jury in Hackney and Climate Panel in Islington, which focused on adapting to climate change and ensuring equity.

Recognising the need for greater public involvement in climate adaptation initiatives and to strengthen practices around deliberation on climate, King's College London and London Councils collaborated to deliver Hopeful Futures. We ran a series of four deliberative workshops, asking a diverse group of 27

residents from Lambeth, Southwark and Tower Hamlets to consider what well-adapted neighbourhoods could look like by 2050, and the steps required to get there. To ground the project in local delivery and inform the work of local authorities, we worked closely with the London boroughs of Lambeth, Southwark and Tower Hamlets.

This report aims to support people looking to involve residents in climate adaptation and resilience efforts, particularly within local government, by building confidence and capacity in the use of deliberative and participatory approaches. It provides actionable insights into how – with the time to learn and space to deliberate with others – members of the public understand the need to adapt to a changing climate. We hope this will strengthen dialogue with residents, helping to ensure that adaptation measures reflect the priorities of the communities they are designed to protect.

This report sets out five key lessons learnt:

1 Highlighting the wide-ranging benefits of climate adaptation increases support for action.

Participants became highly invested in climate adaptation once they understood how adaptation measures could positively impact their daily lives in the future.

2 Place-based discussions facilitate meaningful engagement on climate adaptation.

Rooting conversations about climate adaptation in participants' local areas facilitated rich discussions about what's at risk and how things could feel different with the right interventions.

3 Residents want greater transparency about climate risks and the need for adaptation.

Participants were keen to learn about the impacts of climate change and the need for climate adaptation, but they expressed concern that local and national governments were failing to communicate the extent of the issue to the public.

4 Moral principles like equity and inclusion underpin residents' priorities for adaptation.

Equity and concern for groups most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change were at the heart of participants' discussions and drove decisions to prioritise certain adaptation measures over others.

5 Residents favour a coordinated and people-powered approach to climate adaptation.

Participants wanted to see a collective, all-of-community approach to climate adaptation, where government works in partnership, and communities and individuals are part of the solution.

For each lesson, look at...

How to use this report

Key takeaways

Read a snapshot of the deliberative workshops and how they relate to each lesson

How we put this into practice

Find tips on how to conduct workshops on climate adaptation with residents

Recommendations

See steps that practitioners can take to strengthen public involvement

Examples of existing practice

Read about resident-facing initiatives led by London boroughs – and get inspired!

Further information

This report should be read alongside our other resources from the project:

- » [Londoners' visions for a city that is well-adapted to climate change](#) – Summary report providing an account of participants' conversations across the four workshops, and the trade-offs and choices they made.
- » [Methodological approach and resources](#) – Technical report setting out details about the research design, sample, expert testimony, activities and materials.
- » [Reflections on a Hopeful Future](#) – Video produced by artist Angela YT Chan, featuring the voices of the workshop participants and their reflections on the process.
- » [Feeling the Heat](#) – A zine produced in collaboration with Good Studio containing the testimony of six residents who acted as peer researchers to document their experiences of hotter days in London during the summer of 2024.

Lesson 1:

Highlighting the wide-ranging benefits of climate adaptation increases support for action

“I put more liveable cities. ... If we can somehow improve our way of responding [to climate change], then I think everyone would be better off. I’m sure most of us would prefer to live in a cooler environment in the city, a place with cleaner air, breathable air, lots of green space. You can cycle and not be choked by fumes. Yeah, I just thought life would be better, really.”

– Workshop participant, Tower Hamlets

Key takeaways

Participants became highly invested in climate adaptation once they understood how adaptation measures could positively impact their daily lives in the future.

Over the duration of the workshops, participants became increasingly invested in climate adaptation as a concept. Upon understanding how climate change could disrupt parts of their daily life, such as transport, access to water and management of health conditions, participants were keen to learn more about how they and their local borough can make positive changes to adapt to climate change.

Participants’ interest in and support for climate adaptation also increased once they understood the wider benefits that climate adaptation could bring to people’s lives, beyond simply managing the impacts of climate change. This included outcomes such as reducing noise and air pollution, more accessible transportation, greater access to nature, better building

infrastructure, and access to clean energy. Participants linked these types of outcomes to improvements in health, wellbeing and belonging.

This more holistic way of thinking came to the fore when participants designed their visions for 2050 (available in our summary report), which featured aspirations for better lives in general, centred around health, safety, sustainability, strong social ties, and other positive outcomes.

How we put this into practice

Activity	Outcome
<p>Building knowledge through expert presentations and Q&A on climate change and climate adaptation</p> <p>In the first workshop, participants listened to and discussed evidence from a range of experts on topics such as what climate adaptation entails and how it differs to mitigation; who is likely to be most impacted by climate change; and case studies of places that have adapted well to climate change.</p>	<p>Engaging with the experts helped participants to: make connections between extreme weather events and climate change; understand how London may be impacted by climate change; and consider how climate adaptation activities could deliver a range of benefits to their daily lives.</p>
<p>Inviting participants to envision a well-adapted London</p> <p>During the second and third workshops, participants were invited to imagine they had time-travelled to 2050, arriving in a version of their neighbourhood that had successfully adapted to climate extremes. Working collaboratively, they created a map of the borough, which captured what this future looked like, what had changed, and how people lived and moved around. They were asked to describe what future residents might see, hear and feel in their daily lives.</p>	<p>By imagining a future world where their borough had already adapted well to climate change, participants were able to consider the wider benefits that adaptation interventions could have, without constraint. Importantly, participants focused less on feasibility and more on how, in an ideal world, things should be, and how climate adaptation might support wider goals such as health and wellbeing.</p>
<p>Presenting a range of adaptation measures, highlighting their benefits and limitations</p> <p>To support discussion on preferred adaptation actions, we handed out a set of 19 policy cards, detailing the benefits and limitations of each intervention. Each card included an indicative cost to implement and maintain, and indicated wider benefits such as improved health outcomes and increased biodiversity.</p>	<p>The policy cards enabled participants to consider the wide ranging benefits of different climate adaptation measures, beyond their ability to reduce climate risk. This, in turn, supported participants to decide how to rank policies in the prioritisation exercise, as they could weigh up their options based on their cost, efficacy and wider impact.</p>

Recommendations

- Connect conversations about climate adaptation to residents' priorities beyond climate change, to frame strategies and actions in terms of benefits to people's day-to-day lives.
- Be sensitive to residents' views on climate change (eg their level of support for net zero). For some residents, tackling climate change is seen as a priority and an intrinsic benefit that is as important as health and economic benefits, and so its importance shouldn't necessarily be downplayed.
- Emphasise the wider benefits of climate adaptation in communications and engagement (eg as part of developing a strategy or consultation for adaptation schemes).

Example of existing practice

London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames wetland restoration programme

LB Richmond-Upon-Thames' [Community Bluescapes programme](#) is delivered in partnership with the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) and Barnes Common Limited. It seeks to reduce flood risk by restoring wetland habitats and introducing nature-based flood prevention measures around Beverley Brook. The [consultation](#) aims to improve climate resilience while also highlighting the benefits to people's health and wellbeing, and to nature.

To involve residents and understand their priorities, the partnership has held a range of initiatives: for example, a fund for community projects, drop-in sessions, volunteering opportunities, a pond naming competition, a programme to monitor biodiversity in the area, interactive information packs to increase understanding of nature-based solutions, and tailored consultations for each proposed intervention.

Lesson 2: Place-based discussions facilitate meaningful engagement on climate adaptation

“What I found really interesting is the fact that we’re looking at such a local level and such a community-focused level. I think that talking about adaptation could be very dry in its national approach, and I think it’s good we’re thinking about the day-to-day experience of the people who live on the ground and actually putting that at the forefront of our minds.”

– Workshop participant, Southwark

Key takeaways

Rooting conversations about climate adaptation in participants’ local areas facilitated rich discussions about what’s at risk and how things could feel different with the right interventions.

During the workshops, participants were asked to reflect on the connection they felt to their local area by grounding discussions in their real-life experiences, using a large map of their borough. Participants wanted to understand how adaptation interventions would impact their local area and community, and what needs to be done to achieve these changes.

Enlisting participants as the knowledge holders on their neighbourhood also increased levels of engagement.

It was important to recognise participants’ roles as experts on their local area. This empowered participants to express their preferred adaptation interventions confidently, as they felt a sense of ownership and investment in any changes that would impact their local area.

This approach validated the findings of our literature review, which noted that creative interventions centred on place and hyperlocalism could make climate change conversations relatable, evoke emotions, and foster a sense of agency and empathy ([Hawkins et al., 2016](#); [Brennan, 2018](#)).

How we put this into practice

Activity	Outcome
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Platforming lived experience of extreme heat as a form of expert testimony

Prior to the deliberative workshops, six peer researchers living in Lambeth, Southwark and Tower Hamlets kept digital diaries, reflecting on how themselves and their friends and family members were impacted by hotter temperatures across August 2024.

A summary of their experiences was shared with workshop participants by two of the peer researchers, who presented at the first workshop alongside other experts. These findings were also summarised in a [zine](#) for participants to take away and is available to view online.

This activity, particularly its references to local communities and landmarks, supported participants to understand how climate change is currently impacting people in their local area. This provided a strong foundation for them to envision how climate change might impact their local area in the future, and the places or communities that are most at risk.

Centring exercises on maps of the borough to make the impacts of climate change and the need for climate adaptation more tangible

Large maps of the borough were a central feature of workshops 2-4. Participants were asked to take photographs of places in their local area that were meaningful to them, and to stick them to a relevant point on a map of their borough, explaining whether they thought these locations would be resilient to rising temperatures.

These exercises brought to life the neighbourhoods we were discussing and the impacts that climate change may have on them.

They also helped participants to envision climate adaptation measures in the context of their local area, including the wider benefits that climate adaptation may bring to their community.

In the following workshops, we continued to build on these maps. For example, participants studied heatmaps outlining the boroughs' vulnerability to heat risk, income deprivation, tree canopy cover, and social housing provision. They were also asked to imagine themselves in their vision for 2050, moving around the map and interacting with the people they met.

Recommendations

- Take time to understand what places mean to people and why, as a context against which to situate their climate adaptation priorities
- Ground communications on climate risks in specific places or neighbourhoods, for example using maps
- Ground visioning exercises at a borough or neighbourhood level, with discussion centred on the way different places could change (eg a specific high street)
- Convey proposed changes through images, ideally showing what the changes could look like on the ground (eg using renders)

Example of existing practice

London Borough of Southwark's Streets for People delivery plan

LB Southwark's Streets for People delivery plan was shaped by a [consultation process](#) which asked residents to submit preferences for changes to their streets. This was Southwark's largest-ever consultation, receiving over 9,000 responses, and provided the council with hyper-local insights on residents' preferences for the design of their streets.

From this consultation, Southwark developed its [Streets for People Delivery Plan](#), which includes maps for each of Southwark's 23 wards, setting out proposed changes. The delivery plan also sets out 'pledges' that build on the priorities raised by residents in the consultation process, for example more green spaces and increased accessibility.

Lesson 3:

Residents want greater transparency about climate risks and the need for adaptation

“Getting people informed is properly informing them, not telling them lies. It’s like ‘climate change is here, but we don’t have a straight answer to it; we would approach it through bits of mitigation and adaptation.’... We need to use various strategies to get our messages across.”

– Workshop participant, Lambeth

Key takeaways

Participants were keen to learn about the impacts of climate change and the need for climate adaptation, and they expressed concern that local and national governments were failing to communicate the extent of the issue to the public.

Participants displayed an interest in learning more about climate change and the actions being taken to both mitigate and adapt at national and local levels. They wanted to better understand these issues from trusted sources, especially once the personal implications of climate change became clearer (eg negative outcomes for health/wellbeing, the economy and living conditions), and the uneven distribution of these impacts.

Participants felt that climate mitigation (or net zero) needed to happen alongside adaptation, as part of an integrated approach. Participants saw local authorities and the national Government as strongly positioned to communicate climate risks and the need for climate adaptation, but felt they were failing to be transparent about the urgent need to adapt to the forthcoming

impacts of climate change. Participants largely stated they were not aware of any public communications related to climate change shared by their local authority, even after the workshops, and suggested current communication channels (eg newsletters and council websites) were inefficient and old-fashioned. They proposed running public awareness campaigns through social media, billboards, public transport, and local spaces like community hubs and supermarkets, among others.

The perceived lack of transparency from the national Government and local authorities was seen to undermine residents’ trust, and their confidence that enough was being done to effectively tackle climate change and its impacts, though this was addressed in discussions with local authority officers.

How we put this into practice

Activity	Outcome
<p>Involving an environmental scientist in the deliberative workshops</p> <p>The research team included Dr James Porter, a Senior Lecturer in Environment, Science and Policy at KCL. Dr Porter presented on climate risks and the importance of climate adaptation in the first workshop. He was also available at each workshop to answer any questions participants had about climate change and climate adaptation.</p>	<p>The presence of an environmental scientist brought credibility to the project, and helped participants understand climate risks and the importance of climate adaptation. In a post-workshop interview, one participant reflected on how Dr Porter supported them to grasp the complex topics around climate change and adaptation, and also advised them on how to achieve their visions.</p>
<p>Being explicit about uncertainty in projections, and how climate adaptation and mitigation feed into each other</p> <p>In response to requests from participants, we made time for presentations and discussions that went into depth on the causes of climate change, what net zero means, what climate risks the world faces, and why there are uncertainties about the way these risks will manifest in the future.</p>	<p>This approach allowed participants to grasp the difference between climate mitigation and climate adaptation, while seeing a need for both. Being open about the uncertainty of current projections of different climate scenarios also built credibility and trust among participants.</p>
<p>Communicating the current action being taken by local authorities to combat and adapt to climate change</p> <p>During the fourth workshop, a representative from each local authority gave a presentation on their climate adaptation work to residents from their respective borough. Their presentations covered how adaptation is delivered within the council, how boroughs work together, and the barriers to delivering adaptation. A representative of each local authority was also present at the preceding workshops, listening to residents' concerns and answering any questions that arose in the course of discussions.</p>	<p>The presence of climate officers from the three boroughs, and their willingness to engage with participants' questions about their work, was effective in alleviating concerns about inaction and siloed working. Through these conversations, participants also became more understanding of the difficulties faced by local authorities in attempting to put in place climate adaptation interventions.</p>

Recommendations

- Increase communications and awareness about climate risks, in partnership with trusted organisations and messengers like the Met Office and the London Fire Brigade
- Amplify action and successes to build a sense of momentum, by communicating the benefits and impacts of specific adaptation interventions that have been delivered
- Consider your organisation's existing communications channels and networks, and if they can be used for adaptation messaging
- Ensure your communications channels are targeted and increase your reach (eg prioritising campaigns in schools, shopping centres, supermarkets and GP surgeries)
- Undertake weather-related campaigns that are action-focused and link to the your organisation's wider strategy (eg publish practical tips for coping in a heatwave alongside examples of your borough's work to tackle overheating)

Example of existing practice

London Borough of Barnet's outreach campaign on climate risks

As part of a campaign to raise awareness of the borough's local climate vulnerabilities, risks and impacts, LB Barnet held a workshop on climate risk in the built environment at its town hall, which was open to developers, surveyors, architects, engineers, designers, and professionals from the construction industry. Another part of this campaign included setting up stalls at shopping centres to speak to residents about heat risk in the borough.

Lesson 4:

Moral principles like equity and inclusion underpin residents' priorities for adaptation

“We all came from different backgrounds, but I think one of the main points that was raised is it’s kind of to do with community and the improvement in the overall benefit. You know, living standards for everybody – ... not driving for profits, driving for improvements that benefit everybody. That, to me, would be a much better way to live.”

– Workshop participant, Tower Hamlets

Key takeaways

Equity and concern for groups most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change were at the heart of participants’ discussions and drove decisions to prioritise certain adaptation measures over others.

It was important to recognise how the unequal impacts of climate change may exacerbate existing inequalities, and to be clear about who would benefit from adaptation interventions, as these were key considerations for participants throughout.

Participants quickly recognised that Londoners would be unequally impacted by climate change. In every group, participants felt that it was those in lower-income households or in more deprived areas who would be most adversely affected by the impacts of climate change. Concern was raised that these groups would lack the financial means to adapt their homes to climate change, manage the potential health impacts of increasing temperatures, and have insufficient access to nature.

Participants struggled to see themselves as being at risk to the impacts of climate change, preferring to advocate for groups who were generally seen as vulnerable and in need of support (eg households with lower financial means). We attempted to get participants to consider the impacts that climate change would have on them personally, but participants generally felt that they would manage, while risks would be more severe for others.

Participants’ focus on equity, prioritising the most vulnerable and inclusion, carried through into the principles underpinning their visions for 2050, as well as the rationales given for the adaptation measures they chose. Participants prioritised interventions that were seen to benefit more people, such as parks and canals, while also targeting schemes to the most vulnerable households, such as retrofitting residential properties.

How we put this into practice

Activity	Outcome
<p>Localising discussions about climate risk and vulnerability using borough-level heatmaps</p> <p>During the second workshop participants reviewed maps of their borough that were overlaid with climate risk data. These heatmaps outlined risk and vulnerability across different metrics: heat risk, income deprivation, tree canopy cover, and social housing provision.</p>	<p>The visualisation of risk factors helped participants to understand the concept of unequal exposure to the impacts of climate change and vulnerability to climate risk. It also led to discussions on the link between current inequalities and climate risk, where participants could bring their own knowledge of the area and begin to imagine adaptation solutions which would tackle these inequalities.</p>
<p>Contextualising the management of risk and vulnerability through case studies</p> <p>Our experts presented case studies of adaptation interventions that sought to reduce risk in areas more at risk and for people more vulnerable and less able to deal with the climate impacts.</p> <p>When weighing up policy options, participants were also asked to consider who would benefit or be adversely impacted by each intervention, in reference to a set of five personas of fictional people who are likely to be more severely impacted by climate change..</p>	<p>Participants had increased awareness of the ways adaptation programmes can target areas and support people most at risk, and were able to consider the real-life and personal impacts of climate change and adaptation measures, in line with their priorities and beliefs, rather than considering these topics in the abstract.</p>
<p>Understanding what mattered to participants by collectively developing principles</p> <p>Throughout the workshops, we dedicated time to reflecting on what mattered to participants, their beliefs and motivations. One example of this was asking participants to work together to draft three 'principles' that underpinned the vision they had developed for 2050, before moving on to trade off and prioritise different adaptation measures.</p>	<p>Enabling participants to create principles to inform their decision making led them to bring their views and beliefs around equity, fairness, inclusion and other principles that mattered to them into the choices they made about which adaptation measures to prioritise.</p>

Recommendations

- Assess and communicate the implications of your interventions for different residents, including any financial implications
- Explain how your strategy or measures will target residents most at risk and tackle existing inequalities
- Undertake targeted engagement with communities at risk, making clear why they are deemed at risk and the actions they should take as a result – noting that residents considered to be at risk or vulnerable may not perceive themselves as such and that it may be harder for these messages to land
- Develop a participatory and fair process to shape your strategies and schemes, and communicate this to build trust

Example of existing practice

London Borough of Lambeth's [community awareness campaign and heatwave kits](#)

LB Lambeth and Impact on Urban Health worked with local community group Big Local to explore the effectiveness of heat advice, how social infrastructure can support residents and how cooling strategies work in real-life homes. This programme targeted residents with limited resources or capacity to cope during heatwaves.

Through community events, including with a children's centre and a forum for older residents, the partnership surveyed the community to establish awareness of heat risk, residents' perceptions of their own risk levels, and their understanding of how to mitigate against high temperatures. The project mapped channels of communications and support to understand residents' social, care and information networks, and how they were already coping with heatwaves. In addition, heatwave kits were provided to a cohort of residents, to support them during a heatwave and understand the effectiveness of the items provided.

Lesson 5:

Residents favour a coordinated and people-powered approach to climate adaptation

“We’ve spoken a lot about community and just the value of moving together. So in our policies, community support and awareness were big features. I think in the second workshop, we spoke about community hubs where people could access resources for climate change. So I think a lot of us have all mentioned stuff that’s about, like, doing it together in communities.”

– Workshop participant, Lambeth

Key takeaways

Participants wanted to see a collective, all-of-community approach to climate adaptation, where government works in partnership, and communities and individuals are part of the solution.

Participants expressed their desire to see integrated and collaborative efforts to adapt to climate change. Each group wanted their local authority to work hand-in-hand with partners like the national Government, the Mayor of London, the NHS, the Met Office, Transport for London, the Greater London Authority, and other local authorities.

They also saw an important role for community groups in supporting the delivery of adaptation measures and wider resilience. Community hubs were a priority adaptation measure. Participants saw community groups using these venues to lead programmes to educate and raise awareness on climate adaptation in their local area.

Individuals themselves were considered to be key enablers to achieving a well-adapted future and, as

such, were felt to have a responsibility to take action to support climate adaptation. Participants discussed the role that people should have in making their homes more resilient, looking after family members and vulnerable or elderly neighbours during extreme weather events, expanding green spaces, and more.

Participants also saw residents having a valuable role in decision-making through deliberative and participatory processes. They felt that this would help to improve public support for interventions, as residents had expertise which local authorities may not have, and that it was fair to involve residents who would be impacted by changes. Participants felt it was important for local authorities and the national Government to identify and promote ways for residents and community groups to take an active role in supporting the transition to a well-adapted city.

How we put this into practice

Activity	Outcome
<p>Giving power to the participants during the workshops</p> <p>Participants were invited to shape the discussions and outputs throughout the workshops, for example: by voting on their preferred adaptation measures, creating a unique vision for a well-adapted borough, and prioritising the actions (ie the interventions and policies) that would make their vision possible.</p>	<p>These exercises empowered participants, allowing them to feel a sense of ownership over the outcomes of the workshops.</p>
<p>Building awareness of existing partnership work between authorities</p> <p>As part of the workshops, an officer from London Councils explained how boroughs work together on climate adaptation through the London Councils Climate Programme. An officer from the Greater London Authority also presented their work on climate adaptation and the stakeholders involved in the London Climate Resilience Review.</p>	<p>Equipping participants with knowledge of how authorities already collaborate made them more confident in the ability of government actors to work together effectively, and how their choices can build on what already exists.</p>
<p>Keeping participants involved beyond the workshops</p> <p>After the workshops ended, we continued to engage participants in a number of ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Held post-workshop interviews to understand how views had evolved since the workshops• Invited participants to speak at a roundtable with representatives from local and national government, academia and charities• Put in place ongoing feedback mechanisms so participants know what is being done with the research• Connected participants with Local Authority officers so they can stay engaged in their council's adaptation initiatives	<p>Keeping participants involved in the project following the workshop gave them a sense of ownership and will enable them to continue feeding into local climate adaptation policy and programmes.</p>

Recommendations

- Emphasise partnership working to give actions greater legitimacy and credibility, including with community groups
- Work with community groups and empower them to shape projects and communications to residents
- Articulate the role of residents so they can play their part (eg what to do in a heatwave and how to climate-proof your home)
- Use participatory methods to engage residents and build legitimacy around your strategy and programmes, and plan ahead to ensure these processes can inform planning at the right stage
- Keep in touch with residents to let them know how their recommendations or views are being taken on board

Examples of existing practice

[Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's Householder's Guide to External Solar Shading](#)

Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's guide aims to support residents to make changes to their homes so they are better suited to the changing climate. It provides residents with advice on installing awnings and external shutters, including information on how to navigate the planning process.

[London Borough of Islington's Climate Panel](#)

LB Islington created a Climate Panel in 2024, bringing together 34 residents to answer the question: "What does a climate-resilient Islington look like, and how do we get there?". The panel produced a set of 22 guiding principles and 17 proposals directed towards Islington Council, its partners in the borough, and residents themselves, which the council is taking forward. This includes the [Cool Space Map](#) and the development of an Emergency Volunteers Network.

Taking part in Hopeful Futures

Testimonies from local authority partners one year on from the workshops

Lambeth

Lambeth has sought to actively build in participatory design and engagement within our climate adaptation interventions. From our heat risk to tree planting and sustainable drainage schemes, these investments require community voice.

Lambeth's heat risk programme was co-created with local community organisations bringing in diverse lived experiences and emphasising the interlinkages between mental and physical health, the quality of people's homes, and community networks.

“This process really demonstrates the value of creating dedicated time and space for our residents to not only learn about the impacts of climate change, but to discuss, debate and visualise how it will shape their lives, the local environment, and to co-create interventions for a different future.”

– Cassidy Travis, Head of Climate Change and Sustainability

Southwark

Southwark has refreshed its climate action plan, setting out actions to reduce carbon emissions and prepare the borough for the worsening effects of climate change. Hopeful Futures enabled us to communicate residents' views, prioritise adaptation and resilience actions, and inform our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment regarding excess heat risk.

Residents' focus on nature and cooling has provided qualitative evidence to support the integration of health outcomes into our wider climate adaptation planning. These insights are informing potential pilot projects that address the intersection of heat stress and social isolation in our most vulnerable estates, schools and services.

“Hopeful Futures provided a real insight into our residents' views and a rigorous evidence base for the adaptation priorities in our updated Climate Action Plan. It moved beyond standard consultation

to show that when residents understand the risks and costs, they are ready to contribute to shaping the neighbourhoods in their borough. This community insight helps us plan our adaptation work across estates, schools, council services and public realm programmes.”

– Tom Buttrick, Climate Change Programme Manager

Tower Hamlets

Tower Hamlets has begun work on its new Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy and has taken learnings from Hopeful Futures to help shape this work.

We have launched a Climate Alliance that residents can join to be part of a network that brings together the Council, residents and organisations, so we can all work together to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

“Being involved in Hopeful Futures has been really beneficial in informing how we plan climate adaptation in Tower Hamlets in our new strategy. It was great to see how engaged residents are on this subject and how they want to work with us to ensure we effectively adapt across the borough.”

– David Esdaile, Environmental Sustainability Officer

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London Councils

London Councils is the collective of local government in London. Our Climate Programme is a pan-London initiative designed to accelerate the transition to net zero and strengthen climate resilience across all 32 boroughs and the City of London.

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