

Our vision for Hackney



Sustainable Hackney aims to protect and enhance the environment, create a sustainable community and contribute to social, economic and environmental justice locally and globally.

Our vision is that Hackney builds on its many positive attributes to become a place where people live, work and enjoy their leisure time in ways that are sustainable for people and the environment.

Greenprint for Hackney

Sustainable Hackney has developed this Greenprint for Hackney which sets out our vision of a sustainable future for our borough.

The Greenprint was launched at a public meeting in March 2014 where it received enthusiastic support. A lively debate was held on each aspect, priorities were discussed and a great many ideas were contributed to the action plan.

The Greenprint for Hackney is a working document which will evolve. It includes priorities that we think need to be implemented in the next 3-5 years. We want people to participate in this process and get involved to help make the vision a reality.

In 2016 we discussed and adopted the Greenprint for Social Justice and updated the Transport section.

The Greenprint covers:

-  [Air and water pollution](#)
-  [Built Environment and Housing](#)
-  [Food and Food Growing](#)
-  [Social Justice](#)
-  [Waste and resources](#)
-  [Biodiversity and green spaces](#)
-  [Energy and Climate Change](#)
-  [Local Economy](#)
-  [Transport](#)

See <http://sustainablehackney.org.uk/greenprint> for more information and contact greenprint@sustainablehackney.org.uk with comments and ideas!

Sustainable Hackney's aims

-  To bring together, support and co-ordinate the activities of people and organisations in the London Borough of Hackney to create positive solutions.
-  To promote increased awareness and develop understanding of environmental issues and the work of environmental organisations.
-  To influence policy and represent views to our council and other organisations and to increase co-operation between such organisations and local environmental groups.
-  To undertake projects which support and complement the work of others in support of our aims.
-  To develop the diversity of our organisation.



Air and Water Pollution

Our vision is that Hackney's air becomes clean and fit to breathe and the health impacts of air pollution are significantly reduced. We keep our rivers clean and invest in sustainable drainage systems, not unsustainable Supersewers.

Greenprint for Hackney

- **A clean river Lea** – prevent sewage, oil and other pollutants entering the river through regional programmes which address misconnections of foul waste to surface water drains and install sustainable urban drainage. Comprehensive action is taken in areas of Hackney where foul and surface drains need to be separated under the Surface Water Management Plan.
- **Clean air for Hackney** - reduce polluting traffic through improvements in public transport, car-sharing, walking, cycling and low-emission vehicles and reduce pollution from buildings by improving energy efficiency.
- **Sustainable Urban Drainage** - prevent floods and pollution of the Lea and reduce air pollution by making rainwater harvesting, green roofs, swales, ponds and wetlands and other SUD schemes a priority in new developments and renovations in critical drainage areas and promote their use in other areas. Protect biodiversity by filtering runoff through reedbeds and other vegetation before it enters ponds.
- **We all do the right thing** - raise awareness amongst residents and businesses on how to reduce pollution. Planning Enforcement and Building Control pay close attention to pollution issues. Politicians demand more of motor manufacturers and incorporate World Health Organisation air quality thresholds into European legislation.

Our work programme

- We support the Love the Lea campaign.
- We respond to the coming local Air Quality Action Plan consultation.
- We help raise awareness of how to prevent pollution.
- We get involved in the changes in social and health care.
- We support alternatives to the Supersewer.

See <http://sustainablehackney.org.uk/work/pollution> for more information and contact greenprint@sustainablehackney.org.uk with comments and ideas!



Biodiversity and Green Spaces

Our vision is that Hackney becomes the wildlife and green space heart of inner London, leading the way in urban ecology with active parks where local people take responsibility for their environment and biodiversity

Greenprint for Hackney

- 🏡 **Reverse the loss of open space** - we need 25 acres of new open spaces to reverse the losses since 2009.
- 🏡 **Improve access to nature** - create new green spaces for new residents; 1 Ha of new green space per 10,000 new residents.
- 🏡 **Expertise in ecology** - our council should employ ecologists in both the Parks and Planning Departments.
- 🏡 **Beyond Green Flag** - our parks should go well beyond Green Flag standards and provide: safe, popular, active parks for everyone to enjoy, a mixture of casual, free and organised sport/exercise facilities, maximum diversity and density of wildlife, sophisticated, sustainable habitat management, and community led park development.
- 🏡 **Care for our green spaces** - we need a well trained, properly paid and staffed grounds maintenance and ranger service.
- 🏡 **An active park forum** – our Park Forum needs a funded co-ordinator to facilitate dynamic volunteer user groups representing all communities at all major parks and green spaces.
- 🏡 **Create two new Sites of Special Scientific Interest** - SSSI status for Abney Nature Reserve and East Reservoir.
- 🏡 **Tree protection** - All trees over 100 years old should be fully protected.
- 🏡 **Zero pesticide borough** – our council and our residents stop using pesticides and use only organic methods of pest control.
- 🏡 **Planning policies** that protect nature and biodiversity from development

Our work programme

- 🏡 We continue our practical and political support for: volunteer conservation and parks improvements led by Tree Musketeers, Hackney Marshes User Group and others, active, community based parks user groups, local wildlife education (website, walks and talks), and biodiversity recording.
- 🏡 We challenge our council to deliver its existing Core Strategy policy commitments on Parks & Green Spaces, Biodiversity and Healthy Living
- 🏡 We continue to oppose developments that threaten green spaces and biodiversity.

See <http://sustainablehackney.org.uk/work/biodiversity> for more information and contact greenprint@sustainablehackney.org.uk with comments and ideas!



Built Environment and Housing

Our vision is that Hackney becomes a place where people can afford to live, work and enjoy their lives locally, and where a richer natural environment is valued as highly as buildings by people, politicians, business and developers.

Greenprint for Hackney

- **Planning which serves our needs** – our council's Planning Committee should serve the needs and preferences of local people rather than developers and investors.
- **A built environment action plan** - our infrastructure and built environment should be audited and an action plan developed to address all key environmental challenges, including climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and freshwater and other resource usage.
- **Greener and more liveable homes** – adopt core principles of neighbourhood design and build that minimise use of materials, energy and water, reduce pollution and make it easy to exercise, grow food and reuse and recycle resources.
- **No further loss of employment space** to housing and the protection and creation of workspace fit for small business' budgets.
- **Develop a neighbourhood-based public register** of green and built community, cultural and heritage assets, including land and buildings owned by public organisations.
- **Housing which meets our needs** - there should be no demolition of social housing without replacement at local wage level rents. In each area, types and sizes of homes must be fit for whole lifetimes
- **Appreciation of our natural environment** - Foster appreciation of the natural environment's critical value to urban lives through clean air and water, a stable climate, flood defence and better health.

Our work programme

- We challenge politicians and planners to create human-scale, environmentally sound neighbourhoods.
- We support challenges to planning applications that fail to meet our criteria.
- We work with groups and organisations to support their efforts to take more democratic control of their neighbourhoods.
- We collaborate with regional organisations like London Tenants Federation and Just Space.

See <http://sustainablehackney.org.uk/work/built-environment> for more information and contact greenprint@sustainablehackney.org.uk with comments and ideas!



Energy and Climate Change

Responding to high energy bills, lack of decent jobs and the threat of 'climate change' can seem intimidating. Sustainable Hackney proposes a vision of a borough that empowers and supports anyone who wants to be energy efficient, get a green job or simply lead a more sustainable life.

Greenprint for Hackney

- **A network for change** - create a live network that supports action on energy saving, solar power and campaigns to reduce fossil fuel dependency.
- **Greener jobs** - help open up opportunities for green jobs in the borough
- **Cleaner investment** - support campaigns for switching investment away from polluting industries and businesses.
- **Greener businesses** - help Hackney businesses and workplaces to become greener – cutting their footprint and costs.
- **Clear information** - increase access to information and resources about climate change and what we can do about it.
- **Greener council** - encourage our council to become an exemplar of good practise in making its commercial and residential buildings energy efficient and reducing fuel poverty.

Our work programme

- We support the development of community energy projects across the borough.
 - We create an online register of green companies and employers.
 - We use our website to raise awareness of campaigns to switch investment away from fossil fuels.
 - We communicate practical solutions for saving energy and resources at work.
- See <http://sustainablehackney.org.uk/work/energy> for more information and contact greenprint@sustainablehackney.org.uk with comments and ideas!



Food and food growing

Our vision is that food eaten in Hackney is healthy and has a positive impact on our environment, locally and globally.

This vision is supported by a wonderful food culture, with the best of cuisines from around the world, by fantastic community growing and by a buzzing café and street food sector.

Greenprint for Hackney

- 🏡 **A thriving local economy** - sustainable local food production that has a positive benefit for the community and the environment is celebrated and supported as part of I Love Hackney with benefits for economic regeneration and skills development. Cafés and food processing businesses are linked with local food growers and markets to develop local food chains.
- 🏡 **Health and wellbeing for all** - local food businesses are helped by our council and others to offer healthier options, introduce Healthier Catering Commitments and reduce saturated fat, sugar and salt. A map is produced of the most harmful food outlets. Free school meals are provided for all Primary school pupils and all schools are able to show their food is healthy and sustainable.
- 🏡 **Resilient, close-knit communities** – a network of community kitchens is developed and initiatives encouraged that bring people together through food. Neighbourhood food coops are established to reduce the cost of buying healthy and sustainable food.
- 🏡 **Life long learning and skills** - the sharing of cooking skills is supported to enable people of all ages to cook healthy, affordable and delicious food, and reduce waste.
- 🏡 **A reduced eco-foot print** - more space is created for local growing, including on roofs, without no net loss of green space, supported through planning policy, on land owned by public bodies, through land swaps, more allotments of a range of sizes and growing in colleges, schools, and nurseries. The provision of tap water is promoted in cafes and restaurants, public buildings and parks. Details are published of the monthly food waste of large chain supermarkets in Hackney, alongside their plans to reduce this. A Supplementary Planning Document is produced by Hackney Council to provide guidance on themes including location and accessibility of food-related community facilities, allotments and food growing spaces, and reducing the proliferation of hot food takeaways.

Our work programme – Sustainable Hackney / Hackney Food Partnership

- 🏡 We set up a Hackney Food Partnership to champion and coordinate work towards the vision and longer-term aims.
- 🏡 We continue to gather support for the partnership, consult on priorities and encourage wide support for a charter on sustainable food.

See <http://sustainablehackney.org.uk/work/food> for more information and contact greenprint@sustainablehackney.org.uk with comments and ideas!



Local Economy

Our vision is a borough whose residents can earn their living, buy what they need and do most of their shopping locally. These needs are met by local companies, particularly co-operatives and social enterprises, who reinvest in the community and are sustainable.

Greenprint for Hackney

- **Support local businesses** - increase the share of small businesses and community ownership in the local economy.
- **Green local businesses** - support the mentoring of local businesses in sustainable business practises.
- **London Living Wage** - ensure all Council contractors, including voluntary sector providers and partners such as the North London Waste Authority, pay the London Living Wage, and encourage local businesses to do the same.
- **Support the green business sector** - encourage growth of businesses in the environmental sector: recycling, energy efficiency, reuse and green energy.

Our work programme

- We support the creation of an alternative currency / Hackney pound.
- We help create sustainable development plans for all town centres.
- We support the mentoring of local businesses in sustainable business practises.
- We celebrate sustainable / alternative business models.
- We support local green business awards.

See <http://sustainablehackney.org.uk/work/sustainable-local-economy> for more information and contact greenprint@sustainablehackney.org.uk with comments and ideas!

Transport



Hackney becomes a borough which is well connected by public transport, where cycling and walking are used for an increasing number of journeys and become part of people's lifestyle.

Hackney continues to be at the forefront of the cycling revolution.

Greenprint for Hackney

- **A tube line for Hackney?** - Crossrail 2 will have a huge construction impact on Hackney and will stimulate additional development exacerbating problems of housing affordability and gentrification. This vast costly project will deliver only a single station at Dalston. Hackney's transport needs would be better served by lower-cost options such as investing in the new Overground lines.
- **A frequent Overground service to seven new stations** - Investment in the new Overground lines should deliver more frequent services as well as new trains and upgraded and accessible stations.
- **Oppose airport expansion** - Alternatives to growth in air travel will be needed to meet climate change targets. The economic case is weak when the cost of mitigation and health impacts of noise and pollution are included.
- **Scrap the Stoke Newington Gyration** and return it to two-way operation.
- **World-class cycling borough** - Support the development of cycle facilities in conjunction with Hackney Cyclists. Hackney gets its share of cycling funding.
- **20 is plenty** - Hackney has a universal 20mph speed limit.
- **Bring back car-free day** - Car-free day becomes an annual event.
- **Pedestrian-friendly** - More streets in our town centres are pedestrianised and other parts of Hackney are made more pedestrian-friendly.

Our work programme

- We support the permanent pedestrianisation of the Narrowway.
- We set up a working group on transport.
- We continue to develop the transport pages on our website.

See <http://sustainablehackney.org.uk/work/transport> for more information and contact greenprint@sustainablehackney.org.uk with comments and ideas!

Social Justice



The interests of people and planet are inextricably linked and environmental sustainability is unachievable without social justice at its core. The damage to the natural environment unfairly affects the poorest and most marginalised while that destruction is in turn exacerbated by the widening inequalities that are rooted in our economic system. Sustainable Hackney's approach will assert the importance of social justice and resist poverty, inequality and social exclusion.

Greenprint for Hackney

- **Reduce poverty & inequality** - Support social inclusion, regardless of age, gender, origin, ethnicity, disability, religion and sexual orientation. Support the defence of jobs, employment and trade union rights and resistance to casualization, precarious and zero hour contracts. Support campaigns for the London Living Wage. Support a just transition to greener and climate jobs. Oppose the loss of local employment from unaffordable rents and housing. Oppose the use of benefit sanctions, benefit cuts and cuts targeting minority groups.
- **Housing for all** - Support planning that serves the needs and aspirations of local people rather than investors and developers. Defend the right to secure housing and which meets social needs and affordable housing that equates to local wage levels. Oppose the reduction of council and social housing and the growth of the private rented sector. Support energy efficient standards in buildings, the use of renewable energy and reduction of fuel poverty
- **Education for all** - Defend state education with local oversight and accountability from privatisation and corporate interests. Ensure accessible, inclusive, equitable and primary, secondary and tertiary education and support lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- **Health & well-being for all** - Support opposition to and reversal of NHS privatisation. Support healthy, affordable and sustainable food options for all. Support the reduction of all forms of pollution including that from transport. Support the development of cycle facilities. Support the expansion and improvement of pedestrian areas. Defend the integrity of and access to parks and open spaces.
- **Migrants, asylum seekers and refugees** - Opposing racism, xenophobia and all forms of scapegoating. Support national and local bodies campaigning for the rights of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in an era of growing intolerance and misinformation.
- **Justice & Policing** - Support equal access to institutions that are accountable and inclusive at every level. Support legal representation and justice for all. Support for an open transparent and accountable police service

Our work programme

- Provide support for existing local campaigns.
- Map local organisations and disseminate through our website and social media.
- Consider ways to build a network of support and practical action and create stronger links between organisations.

See sustainablehackney.org.uk/work/justice for more information and contact greenprint@sustainablehackney.org.uk with comments and ideas!



Waste and resources

Our vision is that people's lives get better while our environmental footprint gets lighter. Hackney becomes a place where people can meet their needs and aspirations without consuming too much stuff.

Resources are used and reused locally and nothing is wasted. A circular economy starts to become a reality.

Greenprint for Hackney

- 🏠 **Zero waste borough** - Hackney sends no waste to landfill and recycles and reuses most resources locally.
- 🏠 **Prevention first** - people consume less, reuse more, recycle more and waste less. Our council, community groups and businesses work together to develop and implement a waste prevention strategy for the borough.
- 🏠 **Planning out waste** - our planning policies support the use of sustainable materials, reuse of construction waste, and keeping existing structures.
- 🏠 **World class recycling** - recycling rates continue to improve and become among the best in the world, producing high quality materials. Commercial recycling levels continue to increase.
- 🏠 **Local repair jobs** - the potential of the reuse and repair sector in the borough is supported and encouraged. A thriving waste exchange system develops in the area.
- 🏠 **Don't despair, repair** - community repair events are held to reduce waste, increase skills and encourage reuse.
- 🏠 **Reused in Hackney** - households and businesses waste less food. Waste food is turned into into wonderful compost for local use

Our work programme

- 🏠 We continue to monitor recycling rates and challenge our council to do more.
- 🏠 We promote repair and reuse by holding Restart Hackney community repair events.
- 🏠 We work to set up broader "Bring and Fix" events.
- 🏠 We help set up a working group on waste prevention.
- 🏠 We research the reuse and repair sector and develop a web directory.
- 🏠 We help develop a business case for support for the reuse and repair sector.
- 🏠 We explore the potential for a cross-borough alliance of groups concerned about waste policy in the North London Waste Authority area.

See <http://sustainablehackney.org.uk/work/waste-and-resources> for more information and contact greenprint@sustainablehackney.org.uk with comments and ideas!