

Adaptation for a Just Transition

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Newham's Climate Challenges

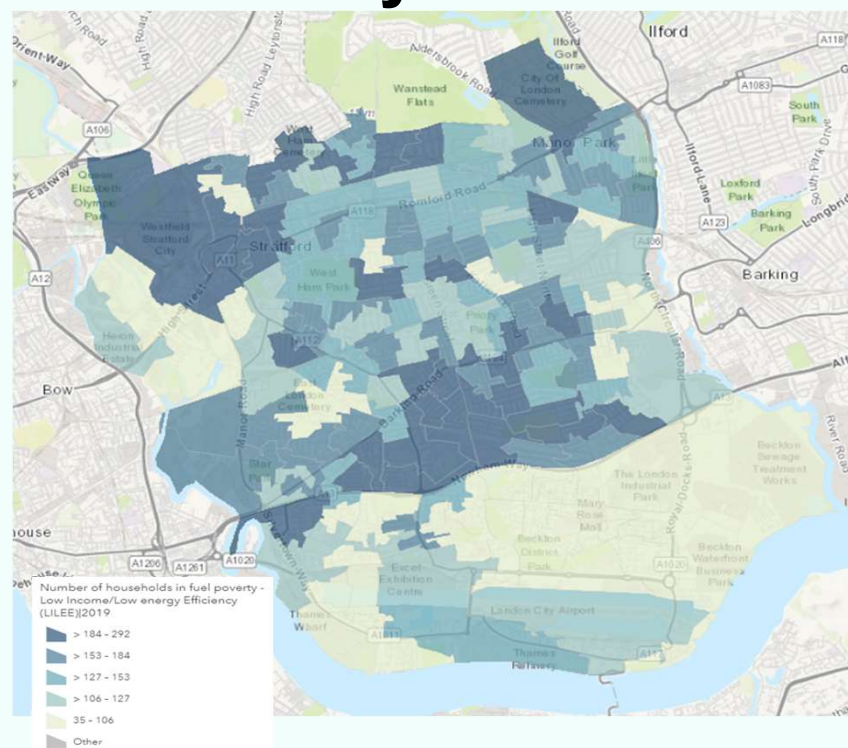
Newham is at a unique intersection of climate and socioeconomic risks for a UK local authority

Newham is amongst London's most young and ethnically diverse boroughs.

It is also the third most deprived local authority in London where 1 in 2 children live in poverty.

The borough has the highest number of households in temporary and non-secure housing in the UK.

This puts Newham at the forefront of present and future needs across climate mitigation and adaptation.



Number of households experiencing fuel poverty according to English Housing Survey (EHS)

Source: <https://www.newham.info/deprivation/map/>

Extreme weather impacts have exacerbated the need to focus on adaptation measures in Newham

Newham is the second most at-risk area to extreme heat in the UK.

In July 2021, 22 areas of Newham had multi-day road closures, due to flooding.

The July 2021 floods and 2022 heat waves resulted in over 3,000 deaths across the UK.

Of these, people of colour and those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds were amongst the most affected in England.



Newham Climate Risk Context

Increasing heat wave events

The Met Office defines a heatwave event in London as a period of at least 3 consecutive days when the maximum temperature is greater than 28°C.

1981-2010

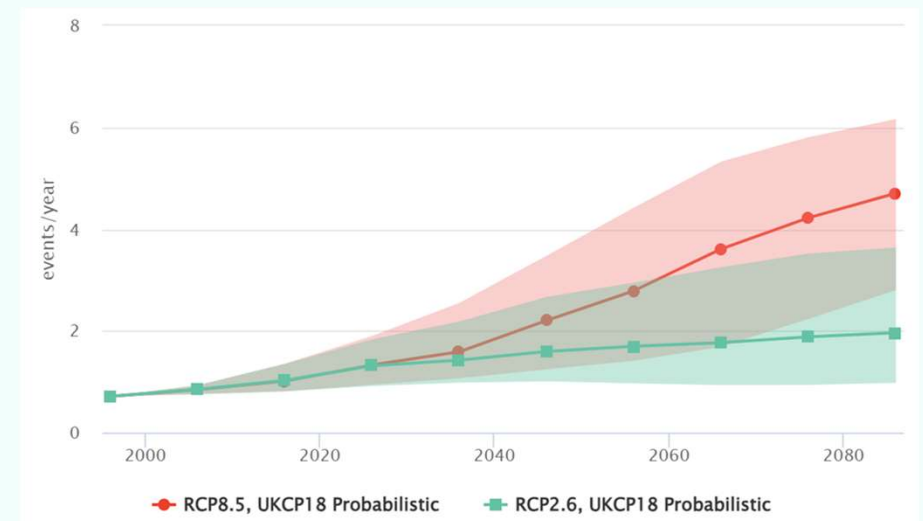
Newham experienced heatwave events in less than once a year (0.7 events/year).

2050s

Heatwaves are expected to increase to 1.0-2.9/year under the low emissions scenario, and up to 4.4/year under the high emissions scenario.

2080s

This will increase to 1.0-3.6/year in the low emissions scenario, or up to 6.1/year under the high emissions scenario.



Projected average annual count of Met Office heatwave events in Newham.

The graphs show the 50th percentile (median) projection with 10th and 90th percentile uncertainty bands.

Source: Climate Risk Indicators <https://uk-cri.org/>

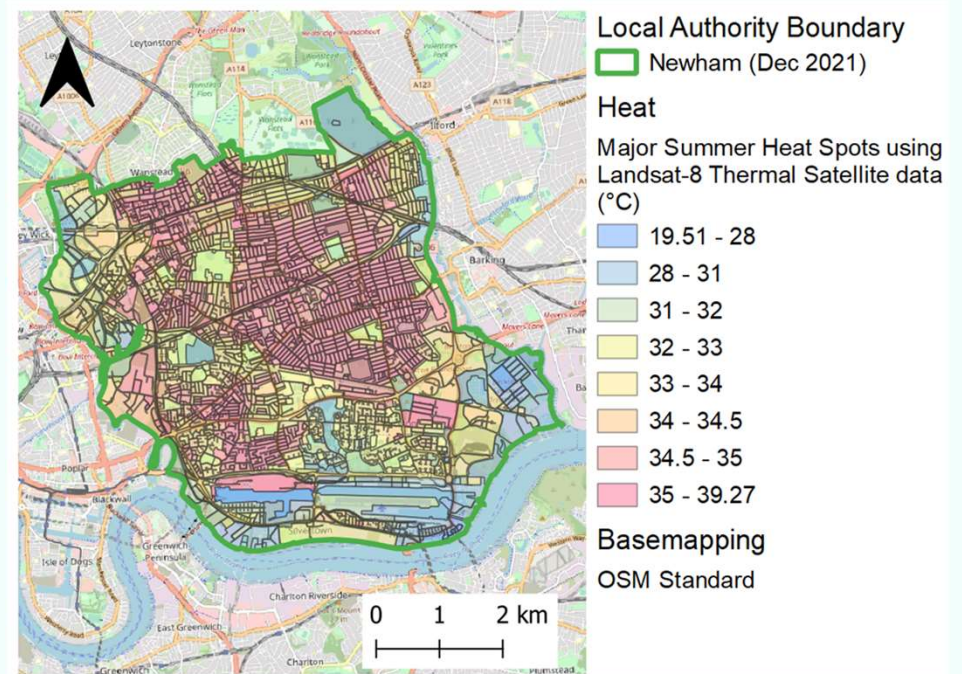
Newham Climate Risk Context

Urban heat islanding in neighbourhoods

Mapping undertaken for the Greater London Authority identifies 'heat' spots across London, based on summer daytime surface temperatures from 2016-2020.

The map shows that the majority of Newham is a 'heat spot', in particular around Upton and East Ham.

Newham is at elevated risk to overheating, relative to other London boroughs. This could be due to a lack of green spaces compared to concretised areas and vehicle use on major roads.



Source: map produced using data from:
[Greater London Datastore - Major Summer Heat Spots using Landsat-8 Thermal Satellite data](#)

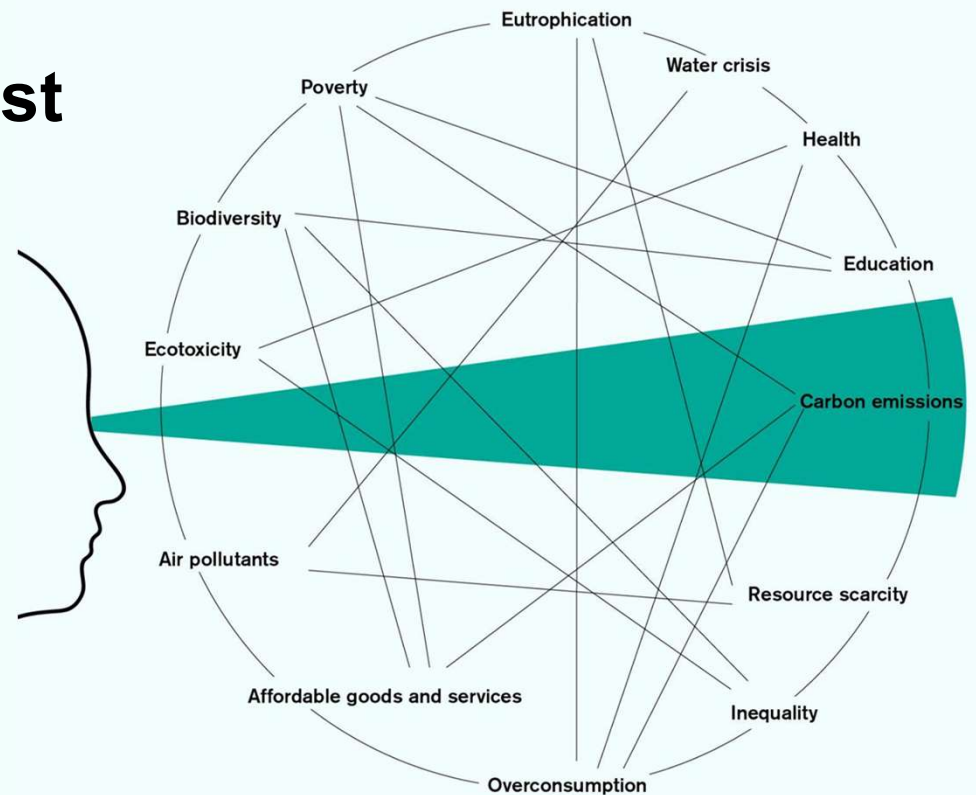
Map of summer heat spots in Newham

Newham's Just Transition Plan

Leading-edge climate action must look beyond 'carbon tunnel vision', to initiate a Just Transition.

The case for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and the means by which to do so, are familiar, albeit difficult. But the climate emergency comprises a range of factors that impact human and nonhuman life and environments across the globe. Meaningful climate action needs to look beyond 'carbon tunnel vision'.

In attempting to address the climate emergency holistically, Newham can initiate its Just Transition.



3 Principles

Every Climate Policy And Project Guided By 3 Principles



Increasing equity

- Addressing the unequal impacts of the climate emergency by taking on the inherited imbalance of power
- Leveraging the Just Transition to improve the employment opportunities, living conditions, health and wellbeing of all Newham residents



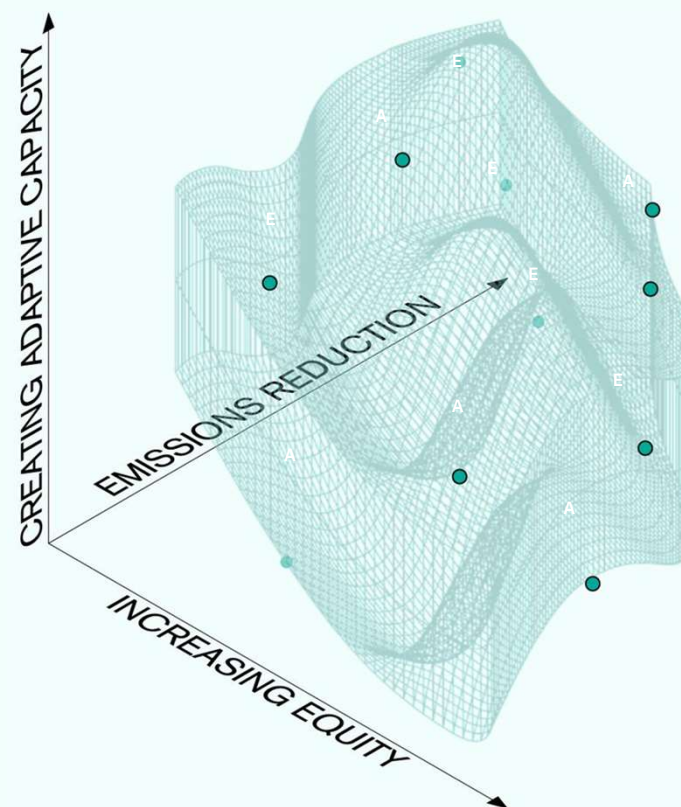
Reducing emissions

- Accelerating our pathway to net zero within Newham and via the supply chains it engages
- In doing so, we will reduce the externalities associated with resource extraction and economic growth, reflecting a shift in our collective understanding of value



Future-readiness

- Building Newham's physical, social and organisational capacity, to absorb, adapt and respond to the negative stresses and shocks associated with the climate emergency
- Growing the presence of care across our economies



How Does the Just Transition Plan Work?

3 Principles



Increasing equity



Reducing emissions



Future-readiness

6 Futures



Our homes, workplaces and schools are comfortable, healthy and efficient



Our energy system is resilient, equitable and not dependent on fossil fuels



We prefer to walk, cycle or use public transport and goods are safely moved without polluting our streets



We increase sharing and reduce waste building a sharing and circular economy



We eat well and sustainably



Our neighbourhoods are resilient, connected and green

5 Enablers



Growing the Council's Climate Action capacity and effectiveness



Targeting and increasing investment



Partnering with Newham's Anchor Institutions



Enabling civic and place-based action



Working beyond Newham's borders

Building a Socioeconomic Case For Climate Adaptation

Extreme climate events are a huge economic burden to cities and put our residents' lives at risk.

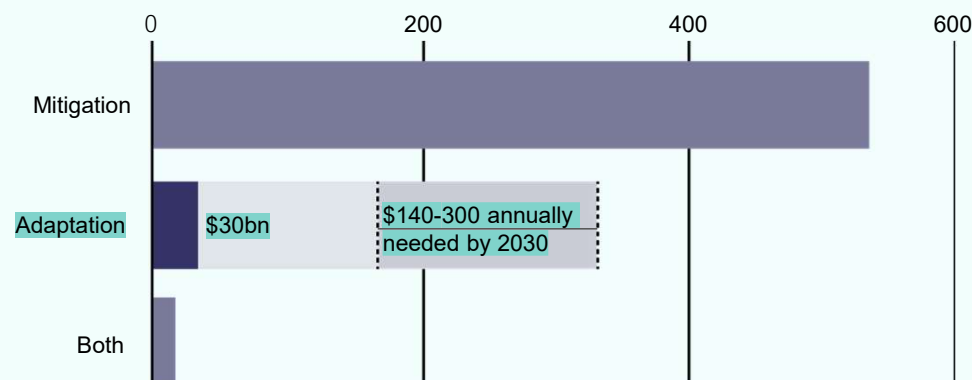
Integrated adaptation and mitigation actions are key to encourage investment, create value and reduce risks.

Therefore, local authorities need to increase focus on adaptation measures and their fundamental intersection with mitigation.

Climate investment totalling £1.4trn globally between 2020 and 2030 could generate £5.5trn in net benefits.

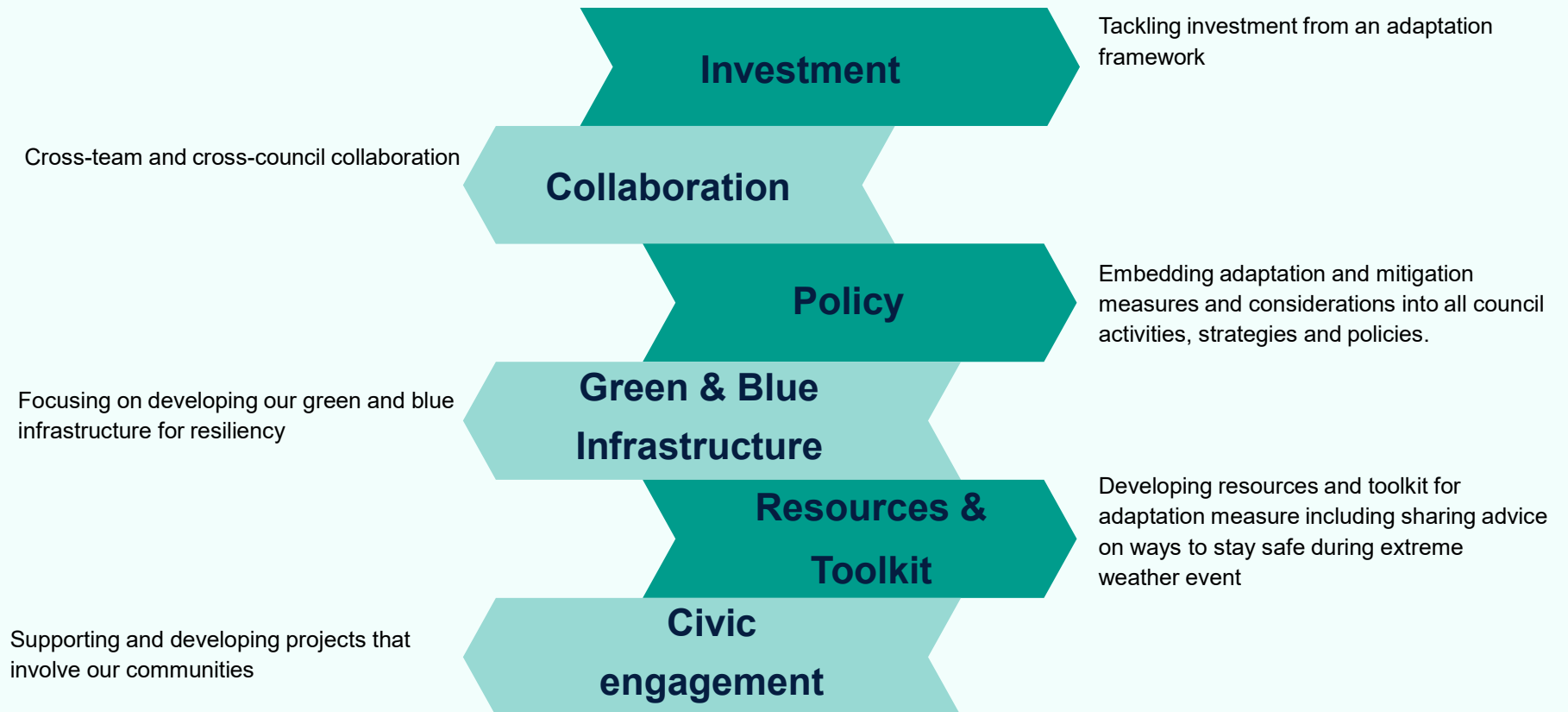
Source: Global Commission on Adaptation

Global investments (\$bn, 2018) in:



What We're Doing

What We're Doing



Newham x SUGi Pocket Forest



Lessons Learned