

# The Sustainability Series

**By The Lancaster  
West  
Neighbourhood  
Team**





# Insights from COP26

**Anca Giurgiu**



The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes in various shades of green, creating a modern and dynamic look. The shapes are primarily located on the right side of the slide, with some extending towards the left.

**Anca Giurgiu** - Sustainability Projects Manager  
Climate Change Team, RBKC

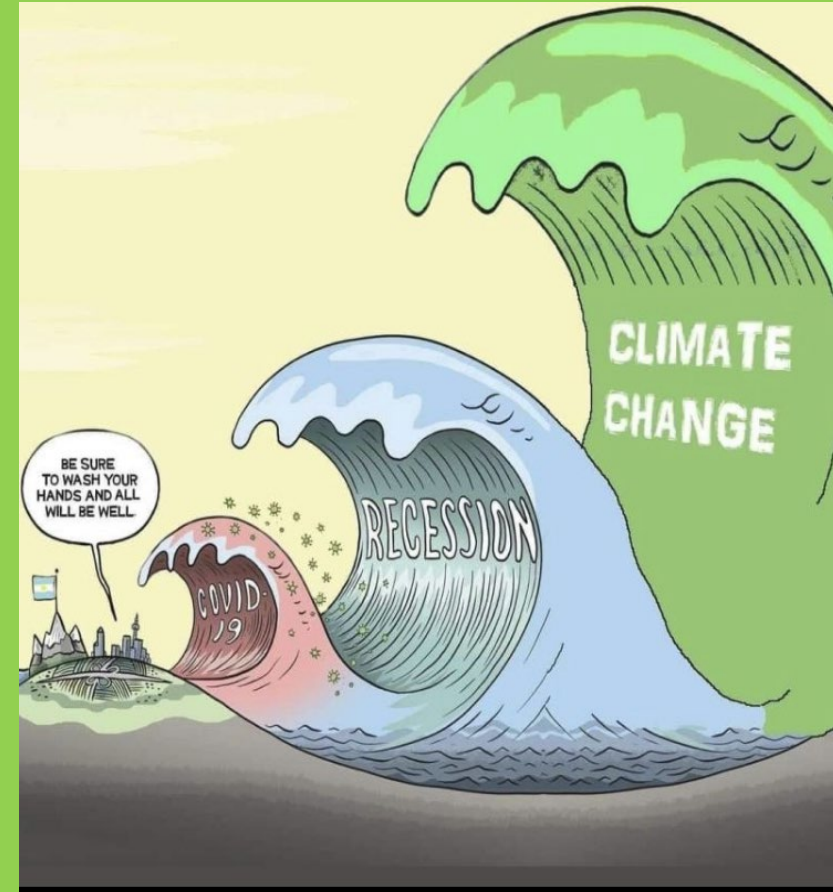
**December 2021**

# RBKC Climate Change

**Presented by:**

Anca Giurgiu | Sustainability Projects Manager  
Climate Change Team

Email address: [anca.giurgiu@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:anca.giurgiu@rbkc.gov.uk)



Live Green  
Love Your  
Borough



# What is COP?

- ▶ The UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) - the Earth Summit in 1992. The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was one of the multilateral environmental agreements of that Summit hold in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- ▶ The **United Nations Climate Change Conferences** are yearly conferences held in the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). They serve as the formal meeting of the UNFCCC parties (Conference of the Parties, COP) to assess progress in dealing with climate change, and beginning in the mid-1990s, to negotiate the Kyoto Protocol to establish legally binding obligations for developed countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.
- ▶ Any final text of a COP must be agreed by consensus. All are sovereign states
- ▶ **COP26 in Glasgow** between from 31 October to 13 November 2021. President of the conference—Alok Sharma.
- ▶ The result of COP26 was the Glasgow Climate Pact, negotiated through consensus of the representatives of the 197 attending parties.



# What happened at COP26?

- ▶ Two parallel worlds (Blue Zone- negotiations) and alternative events organised by the civil society and COP26 Coalition.
- The biggest ever climate justice demonstration in the UK, lead by frontline communities, with 150,000 people on the streets of Glasgow, 80 mobilisations across the UK and 300 worldwide.
- A hybrid in-person and virtual Peoples Summit in Glasgow featuring over 250 events.
- Convened A Peoples' Plenary where a Peoples' Decision.
- Actions and protests every day of COP26
- Powerful daily movement assemblies and online Inside-Outside briefings
- Visa and travel support for global South participants



# Climate Justice

**Was COP26 inclusive? Was COP26 successful?**

**Fair share?** Each country's carbon emission reduction must be proportional to their fair share: how much they have contributed to the climate crisis through past emissions.

Global North is responsible for 92% of excess global carbon emissions.

The richest 1% percent of the world's population are responsible for more than twice as much carbon pollution as the 3.1 billion people who made up the poorest half of humanity during a critical 25-year period of unprecedented emissions growth.

The voices of Indigenous communities, poor and working-class peoples, minorities, frontline communities and scientists were deafeningly absent from sanctioned debates at COP26.

## Big debates

- Fight For 1.5: We Need Real Zero, Not Net Zero
- Keep It In The Ground: No New Fossil Fuel Investments Or Infrastructure
- Reject False Solutions: No To Carbon Markets And Risky And Unproven Technologies
- Start The Justice Transition

## Global Climate Justice: Reparations And Redistribution To Indigenous Communities and The Global South

- Fair share of effort from all rich countries
- Cancel the debts of Global South by all creditors
- Grant-based climate finance for the Global South
- Reparations for the loss and damage



# Climate Justice Demands

1. **Global North countries pay their climate debt**
2. **Deliver a Global Goal for Adaptation:** And rapidly scale up finance for adaptation based on the needs of those most impacted.
2. **Address climate injustice and pay up for Loss and Damage**
4. **Urgently deliver your fairshare of action:** Governments must ensure that their emission reduction targets are sufficient to meet the 1.5°C target by urgently strengthening 2030 targets to rapidly reduce emissions to Real Zero, fully in line with each countries' fair share.
5. **Reject False Solutions:** This includes offsetting, carbon markets, carbon capture technologies, nature based solutions, geoengineering, climate smart agriculture etc.
6. **No trade off of Human Rights:** Governments must keep the promise of the Paris Climate Agreement and ensure that these rights remain central in the outcomes of COP26 including the rights of Indigenous Peoples, peasants rights, Gender rights, rights of people with disabilities, workers rights.
7. **Big Polluters removed from this Process**
8. **Deliver Just Transitions:** Parties must deliver just transitions as defined in the Paris Agreement with reference to decent work and quality jobs.
9. **Co-operation and Solidarity:** people centered solutions and fair share phase out.
10. Do not exclude people

# What was achieved?

- Progress on cutting emissions but this was nowhere near achieved
- A step change in urgency and greater recognition of the role of communities and indigenous peoples
- Language matters
- Phase down of unabated coal as opposed to phase out
- The power of the global community, solidarity and climate justice movement
- 153 countries have put forward new or updated Nationally Determined Contributions (emissions targets)
- 90% of the world is now covered by net zero targets, accounting for 80% of global emissions
- 80 countries are now covered by Adaptation Communications or National Adaptation Plans
- 34 countries and 5 public finance institutions to stop international support for the fossil fuel energy sector
- Paris Rulebook finalised and 'enhanced transparency framework' agreed
- Trees: "halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030"



# Reflections

## We are not all in the same boat

- ▶ We are sinking; for some it is a matter of survival!
- ▶ It is not about future generation kids; our kids are dying now!
- ▶ Indigenous communities are protecting Mother Earth!

## Glasgow Climate Pact

- ▶ No mention of phasing out oil and gas, only coal!
- ▶ Developing countries on the whole, were disappointed with the Glasgow outcomes, with little gains for them especially on issues of finance, adaptation and loss and damage.
- ▶ The rich world has once again failed to pay up for the consequences of its historic emissions.

## Participation

- ▶ Only four Pacific island nations were represented: Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu and Palau out of the 38 recognised by the UN, for instance. The US delegation, on the other hand, had around 1,000 people.
- ▶ Access to vaccination
- ▶ Power dynamics and colonialism
- ▶ Fight against climate change is a fight for system change!



# Our Green Plan to carbon-neutral by 2030

## The Green Plan Vision



Environment & Climate Change is a key priority.

**Holistic view** – Green Plan vision/umbrella sets out the five environmental priorities. Synergies and collaboration.

**These priorities** will help us to “build back better” and deliver a Green Recovery.

**URGENCY!** We need to go further, faster to achieve our shared ambition.

# Climate Emergency & Net Zero Carbon Targets



RBKC declared climate emergency in October 2019

- ❑ Council to be net zero carbon by 2030 as an organisation.
- ❑ Borough to be carbon neutral by 2040.

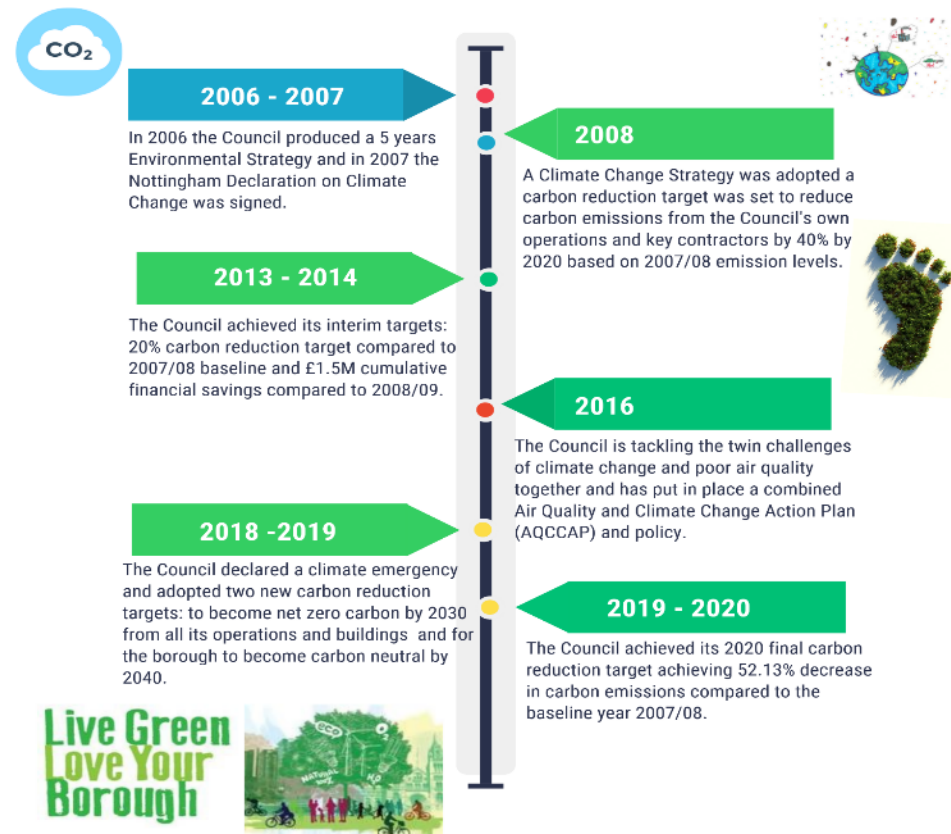
What does it mean?

- ❑ Change the way we deliver BAU.
- ❑ Embed climate change in all decision making.
- ❑ Develop bold actions. Scale/pace/urgency.

We cannot do this alone! Strong partnership.

- ❑ Support and engage residents who are most vulnerable.
- ❑ Partnerships across the borough.
- ❑ Empower residents and businesses to make informed decisions.
- ❑ Embed green recovery: co-benefits, tackle inequalities, resilience, health and well-being.

## Our journey so far



# RBKC Climate Emergency Action Plan (2022-2027)

## Wider picture for a local context

**Our vision is to have a greener, fairer, sustainable and resilient borough and the transition to a low carbon economy to be inclusive and fair, where everyone feels empowered to take action. We will reduce carbon emissions at pace whilst tackling inequalities, improving the wellbeing of all residents, protecting the most disadvantaged and climate vulnerable communities and enabling a just transition to a thriving green economy, with green recovery at the heart of Covid19 recovery.**

- Reduce emissions as close to real zero
- Reduce consumption
- Support the most vulnerable and tackle inequalities
- Empower residents to take action now
- Community owned energy projects that bring co-benefits
- Carbon offset should be the last resort
- The Council to lead by example
- Education and training
- Green skills





**Live Green  
Love Your  
Borough**

**Thank you! Let's work together!  
Any questions?**

[Email: Anca.Giurgiu@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:Anca.Giurgiu@rbkc.gov.uk)

Mobile: 07739 315 209