



Haringey Labour Climate Action

(incorporating Hornsey and Wood Green and Tottenham Labour Parties)

January 2022

We publish this newsletter four times a year for circulation amongst Labour Party members and other concerned people. We would welcome comments, suggestions and contributions from readers. Please contact hlcaction9@gmail.com. Opinions expressed here are not necessarily the views of the Labour Party.

What we stand for

Our general aim is promote action and change through raising awareness that:

- Climate change and environmental degradation are primary and urgent global survival issues - they are already destroying livelihoods and the planet, and need to be urgently and dramatically addressed to prevent further potentially disastrous consequences throughout the world.
- Climate change and environmental degradation are primary and urgent political issues - the main obstacles to tackling climate change are inadequate government and corporate measures, which in turn are due to short term-ism and putting profit before people and planet.
- Therefore tackling Climate change and environmental degradation provides an opportunity for social and political transformation to a green economy based on socialist principles of sustainable growth, equality, and collective social and global responsibility.

In this issue

	Page
Forthcoming events	2
Catherine West's Update from Parliament	2
Message from David Lammy	4
Pathways to net zero by 2030	6
Rubbish and recycling in North London	7

Forthcoming events

Borough Conference

6th February

All Haringey Labour Party members are invited to the borough conference on Zoom. There are two motions on the environment and climate emergency.

COP26: Where now?

Look out for this meeting to be held at St Mary's school, Rectory Gardens, N8, with a speaker from Friends of the Earth. Date yet to be fixed around the beginning of March.

Catherine West MP's Update from Parliament

Happy New Year!

2022 will be another crucial year for the climate. After all the promises and impressive speeches from COP26, it is vital that Boris Johnson continues the momentum and ensures that the global community show real action. The data is sharper than ever, and, across the world, we can already see the consequences of the climate crisis. So, will significant action follow?

I am also pleased to say that I was asked to stay in the shadow Foreign Office team, now led by the fantastic shadow Foreign Secretary David Lammy. I am very excited about my new role as Shadow Minister for Asia and the Pacific and look forward to raising issues relating to the climate crisis, climate finance and international solidarity from the region.

Here are some of the things I've been doing in Parliament since your last newsletter:

My letter to the Prime Minister on COP26

Glasgow may be over, but the UK remains COP President for the coming year, and our credibility rests on demonstrable climate action at home. You can read my full response to COP26 [here](#).

Last month, I wrote to the Prime Minister to urge his Government to continue the momentum from COP26, including abandoning plans for the Cambo Oil Field and the new coal mine in Cumbria. You can read my letter [here](#). Before COP26, I also [wrote a piece](#) for the Ham and High on what needed to be achieved during the summit.

MPs should also lead by example and our pensions should not be used to fund climate disaster. That's why I'm calling for MPs to [Divest Parliament](#) from the fossil fuel industry.

Autumn Budget – a wasted opportunity from an out-of-touch Chancellor

Ahead of the Autumn Spending Review, I wrote to the Chancellor to [urge him to prioritise green investment](#). We needed him to set out a fully costed plan where all players, including governments, corporations, and banks, play their part. However instead of investing in public transport, the Chancellor announced the slashing of domestic Air Passenger Duty and the further freezing of fuel duty. You can watch my response to the Budget [here](#).

Backbench Debate: COP26: Limiting Global Temperature Rises

On 21st October 2021, I attended the backbench debate on COP26 and limiting global temperature rises to 1.5 degrees. I raised concerns about the impact of the foreign aid cut on international climate advocacy and the government's woefully inadequate Boiler Upgrade Scheme. You can read my contributions [here](#).

Brazil

I was delighted to speak at the launch of the TUC report into Brazil, "*The Challenge to Democracy in Brazil*", where I made clear that Labour firmly believes in a pro-worker and pro-environment trade deal. I have subsequently met with the Brazilian Ambassador to the UK, where I raised the serious increase in deforestation of the Amazon and the protection of indigenous rights, while emphasising our ongoing friendship with the Brazilian people. You can read more about my work on Brazil [here](#).

Edmonton Incinerator

I welcomed Haringey Council Leader Cllr Peray Ahmet's letter calling for a "pause and review" before the North London Waste Authority pushes ahead with plans for a new Edmonton Incinerator. It's an issue I've raised with Ministers previously and the [All-Party Parliamentary Group on Air Pollution](#) has highlighted the concerns over this method of waste management. The plans for the Edmonton Incinerator were put forward a long time ago, back when Boris Johnson was Mayor of London, and things have moved on since then. It's extremely disappointing that this opportunity wasn't taken by NLWA to look again at the plans.

Some of my recent Written Parliamentary Questions:

- To ask the President of COP26, if he will use the remainder of his time as COP President to establish a process to identify (a) the scale of funding required to address loss and damage and (b) suitable mechanisms to deliver that finance to developing countries. Response [here](#)
- To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent conversations she has had with her Brazilian counterpart regarding Brazil's participation in COP26 and their commitments to reaching net zero by 2050. Response [here](#)

- To ask the President of COP26, what steps he is taking to help ensure that new and additional finance for loss and damage is included in the discussions on the new post-2025 climate finance target at COP26. Response [here](#)
 - To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he is taking in response to the recommendation of the International Energy Agency that there should be no new investments in oil and gas production fields, coal mines or unabated coal power plants beyond 2021. Response [here](#)
 - To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent discussions she has had with her Central American counterparts on UK support for those countries in achieving net zero emissions. Response [here](#)
 - To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, with reference to COP26, whether a decision has been made on the potential development of the Cambo oil field. Response [here](#)
 - To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he is planning to take to decarbonise domestic heating supply. Response [here](#)
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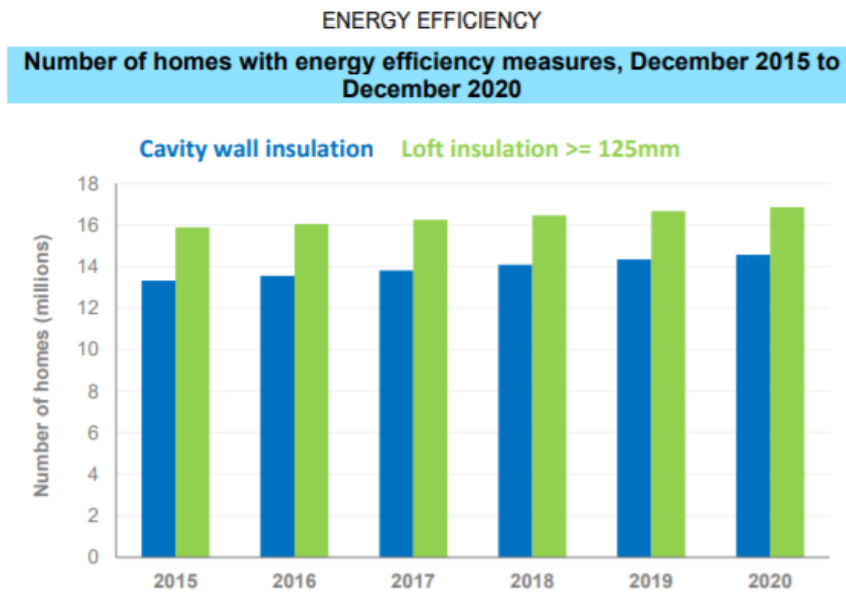
Message from David Lammy

The rise in energy prices is set to be one of the defining issues of the year. Over 20 energy companies have gone bust, while prices are likely to rise by up to 50% in April and millions of households will have to pay hundreds of pounds more this year. The cost-of-living crisis will be hard and widely felt.

My colleagues Rachel Reeves and Ed Miliband have clearly set out what Labour's short-term responses would be. A windfall tax on North Sea oil and gas companies, temporarily removing VAT on energy bills and a £3.5bn increase to the warm homes discount would all go a long way to limiting the impact of price rises on households. The Government should and must act to ensure we do not see rocketing household debt as a result of their failure to protect consumers.

While there are things that must be done immediately, the UK's vulnerability is in large part a result of its failure to shift quickly enough to renewable energy sources. The price rises are driven predominantly by soaring wholesale gas prices. As gas currently makes up roughly 40% of the electricity fuel mix, the UK is in a bind. Had successive governments not failed to underinvest in the transition to renewables, we wouldn't be in this mess. For example, development of on-shore wind has come to a complete halt. Over the last four years an average of four turbines per year received planning permission in the UK. As the cheapest form of energy available to us, this is an exasperating statistic.

Secondly, as you can see from the Government statistics below, there has been an emphatic failure to bring about increases in the proportion of houses that are properly insulated. 19 million homes remain in desperate need of improved insulation.



There must be a national mission to retrofit homes. Whether or not energy prices were set to rise, this is a no-brainer – households would save hundreds of pounds in energy bills for decades to come, regardless of the state of the market.

The impending energy crisis is one that needn't be as bad as it is going to be. The Government must take short- and long-term action to protect consumers and cut carbon emissions.

Pathways to Net Zero by 2030

Action by the Mayor of London

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has set a target for London to be net zero carbon by 2030. This admirable and urgently necessary target will have an effect on all of us in Haringey.

The extension of the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) to the North and South Circular roads has already had an affect on Haringey residents by restricting their use of the most polluting cars. This has been surprisingly successful in taking the worse cars off the road but it has so far only resulted in less than a five per cent fall in CO₂ emissions from cars and a 30% cut in toxic nitrogen oxide emissions. Less than half Haringey residents have access to a car so this might affect them less than those in other boroughs.

In order to reduce transport emissions by anywhere close to the amount required the capital will have to see a shift in the order of 27 per cent away from petrol and diesel vehicle use and towards walking and cycling, greater public transport use and cleaner vehicles. Although this would be a tall order at the best of times the pandemic has made the situation worse. People are staying away from public transport and the volume of car traffic has now reverted to the pre-pandemic level.

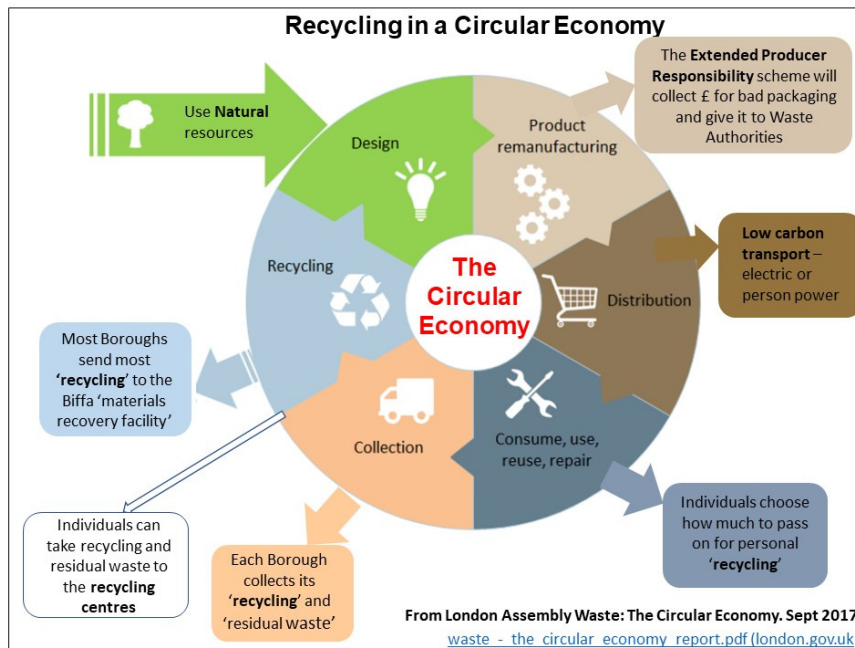
The best way of reducing car use is to make the alternatives more attractive. Haringey's Walking and Cycling Action Plan aims to do this by improving walking access to transport interchanges, schools, parks and other destinations and by improving the cycling networks including new segregated cycleways. Improving public transport and making it more affordable are also important although the current government's refusal properly to fund TfL makes this problematic.

But this will not be enough. New ways will have to be found to discourage car use and Sadiq Khan has at last bitten the bullet and is proposing a road user charge. Such a system could abolish all existing road user charges – such as the Congestion Charge and ULEZ - and replace them with a simple and fair scheme where drivers pay per mile, with different rates depending on how polluting their vehicles are, the level of congestion in the area and access to public transport.

There is strong opposition to the notion that one would have to pay to drive but it seems inevitable that such a system is going to be necessary if there is any hope of net zero by 2030.

Rubbish and Recycling in North London

Sydney Charles



Percentages targeted and achieved

Sadly there is a huge gulf between the recycling levels achieved in North London and the levels of the best Boroughs in the country. Recycling is at the heart of the circular economy and of the **'what can we do with all that North London waste'** conundrum.

The UK's target for recycling municipal waste – that is rubbish collected by Local Authorities from households and businesses – is included in the [London Environmental Strategy](#) of May 2018¹ for:

42% in 2022, growing to 65% by 2030.

This is a long way from the 2019/20 figures achieved in North London: eg 28.1% (Hackney), through **31% (Haringey)** up to the 33.2% (Enfield). Haringey ranks **291 out of 341** in the UK for recycling according to LetsRecycle², where St Albans ranked number one with households recycling **64.2%**.

And official figures don't include the 'recycling' we take to charity shops or give away for reuse. If we retrieved materials, such as plastic from rubbish to be sold to be made into new items however they would be counted in 'recycling' targets. But these streams are still important to the recycling stage of the circle. They avoid carbon emissions as they reduce new plastic and are not incinerated.

¹ [London Environmental Strategy](#)

² <https://www.letsrecycle.com/councils/league-tables/2020-21-overall-performance-2/>

How can Haringey get from 30% to 65% recycling?

- **Firstly** study existing research. For instance, Defra's **Digest of Waste and Resource Statistics**³ details how uncertainty from even the most dedicated recyclers leads to 'missed capture' and contamination. **WRAP's plastic tracker report**⁴ 'seven in ten (70%) UK households put one or more plastic items in the kerbside recycling that is not accepted', and **ReLondon/Peabody's Making Recycling work for people in flats**⁵ on the importance of motivation, knowledge and ease.
- **Secondly** ask residents about their problems and experiences and prepare them for the upcoming Government changes⁶ such as single stream collection of glass, metal, plastic, paper&card, food waste and garden waste. Ask residents in flats what they need to make it easy.
- **Thirdly** implement all the best practice actions that the best Boroughs take
- **Repeat**

Haringey's Reduce and Recycling Plan (RRP)⁷ contains a target of 38% recycling collection (but, *with a caveat that they might revise downward*). Haringey engages the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) to provide its recycling communications etc and the NLWA web site has information on the destination of recyclables⁸.

How can North London Waste Authority put valuable materials back into the circle?

The NLWA is responsible for disposing of what is collected as 'waste' and is commissioning a replacement incinerator to burn it all.

But since the incinerator was approved the technology to take valuable materials from the rubbish means that 'mining' it can reduce the disposal cost considerably - as well as reducing carbon emissions of orders of magnitude higher than the small improvements individuals or councils can make.

Some examples⁹ Northwich 80,000 tonne facility that recovers up to 70% of the residual waste; Wijster 800,000 tonne facility; Glasgow (GRREC) 350,000 tonne facility.

Moving around the circle

The new waste legislation⁶ will mandate measures, such as weekly food waste collection and deposit return which will increase recycling and decrease rubbish considerable. Haringey could increase recycling further by following the three points suggested. The NLWA could increase recyclate recovery by installing the latest Mixed Waste extraction technology – hence providing North London residents with the circular economy solution they deserve.

³ [Digest of Waste and Resource Statistics - 2018 Edition \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

⁴ <https://wrap.org.uk/resources/report/plastics-tracker-report-2021>

⁵ [Case study - Making recycling work for people in flats - ReLondon](#)

⁶ [September 2021: Waste and resource efficiency factsheet \(part 3\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

⁷ <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/waste-plans>

⁸ <https://www.nlwa.gov.uk/article/where-does-my-recycling-go>

⁹ <https://orsted.co.uk/energy-solutions/renescience> <https://www.attero.nl/en/our-waste-management/your-packaging-materials-are-converted-into-raw-materials/our-processing-technology/>
<https://www.attero.nl/en/our-sites/wijster/> <https://www.viridor.co.uk/energy/energy-recovery-facilities/glasgow-rrec/>