



HAPPY PEOPLE, HEALTHY PLANET Community Climate Action Plan

for Easton and Lawrence Hill



Climate change and the changes needed to reduce its impacts are already picking up speed, and it's important for Easton and Lawrence Hill to prepare now and decide what we want our shared future to look like and how we get there. We must take an active role if we are going to help shape the path forward in a way that protects and grows what is important and good in our community.

Easton and Lawrence Hill have proven beyond doubt our strength and ability to take on enormous challenges when we work together, especially when we're protecting the people we love.

Together – and only together – we can take action to ensure a brighter, healthier future for our community, city and world.

THIS IS A SUMMARY OF THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN FOR EASTON AND LAWRENCE HILL. YOU CAN READ AN ACCESSIBLE VERSION AND THE FULL VERSION ON OUR WEBSITE OR CONTACT US TO REQUEST A COPY.

contact@upourstreet.org.uk or visit eastsidecommunitytrust.org.uk/project/climate-action

HAPPY PEOPLE, HEALTHY PLANET

In 2019 Bristol was the first city to declare a climate emergency, setting an ambitious goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2030, and later declaring an ecological emergency. This ambitious goal has Bristol leading the way globally and opening up possibilities for a much smoother landing and brighter future than if we delay until 2050. However, it will require a lot of big, bold changes and tough choices across our city and the way we live in a short period of time.





CHANGE THAT WORKS FOR ALL

The people who will be impacted the most by climate change and the actions we take to reach net zero are the people already dealing with deep inequalities. To make these actions as fair and effective as possible, communities and people from all different backgrounds, beliefs, experiences and perspectives must be included in taking action, and these voices must be heard as difficult decisions are made about our shared future.

OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

Easton and Lawrence Hill received a report from Bristol-based charity Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) outlining our local carbon footprint. The report breaks down the main sources of greenhouse gas emissions in our area: things like the food we eat (or end up binning), the way we get where we need to go, how we keep our homes warm and electronics running, the things we buy and services we use.

Knowing more about where our carbon emissions come from and how they link to our daily lives helps us make better decisions about actions we can take to reduce our emissions as a community. While Easton and Lawrence Hill's emissions are lower than the city average, it's clear we still have plenty of work to do to reduce our emissions to a sustainable level across all areas.

WHERE EASTON AND LAWRENCE HILL'S GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS COME FROM		% OF TOTAL AVERAGE EMISSIONS FROM LOCAL HOUSEHOLDS
EMISSIONS FROM THE FOOD AND DRINK WE BUY		26%
EMISSIONS FROM THE THINGS WE BUY AND SERVICES WE USE (INCLUDING WASTE)		37%
EMISSIONS FROM GAS AND ELECTRICITY IN OUR HOMES		19%
EMISSIONS FROM HOW WE TRAVEL		18%

WHOSE PLAN IS THIS?

The plan draws on the knowledge and experiences of the people who know Easton and Lawrence Hill best, and who have the most at stake with changes made in the local area. The people who live here in flats, houses and vans; who walk, cycle, scoot, wheel, run, ride and drive along these streets; who go to school, volunteer and work here; who do their weekly shop, run small businesses, attend faith services, go to medical appointments, play, gather and relax here. In short, all the people who call Easton and Lawrence Hill home.

GREENHOUSE GASES?

Greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide trap heat in the atmosphere and keep the earth warm enough for humans to live here. Rapidly rising levels of greenhouse gas emissions, however, have led to climate change which is making the planet hotter and harder for humans and other life to survive and thrive.



HOW THE PLAN WAS FORMED

From April to October 2021, Eastside Community Trust spoke with more than **350 members of the community**, including over **50 children and young people**, to understand what is important to our community and to begin developing actions that can address the community's priorities while also reducing our local carbon footprint.

We shared lots of information and listened to many different voices through a range of activities, including; **one-to-one interviews**, **Freedom Kids Podcast**, a monthly climate **radio show**, pop-ups and drop-ins, climate edition of Up Our Street **magazine**, a **community feast**, **craftivism workshops**, **listening sessions**, a uniform swap, sustainable fashion sewing social, and our Healthy People, Healthy Planet **survey**, which was available to fill out online and in person.



PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS

Easton and Lawrence Hill's Community Climate Action Plan is one of six plans written by communities across the city with support from Bristol Green Capital Partnership, Centre for Sustainable Energy and Bristol City Council to help start shaping what these changes could look like in each of our neighbourhoods.

The plan helps us map out our collective next steps, laying out actions we can take together as a community, as well as actions we are calling on government and other decision makers to take, to make our neighbourhood happier and healthier for the people who live here and for our planet.

Homes, buildings and energy



How we heat and light our homes and buildings, charge our computers and phones and run appliances like washing machines and dishwashers.

What the community wants to see

- ◆ Affordable heating and electric bills and warm homes for everyone, with extra protections for people renting from private or social landlords
- ◆ Skills, knowledge and funding to make sustainable changes in our homes and in community buildings
- ◆ Support and protection for people who don't own their homes to make improvements to the places where they live

Ideas from the community

Rising energy and housing prices are major challenges that will take action from business, and national, regional and local government. However, there are steps we can take to help each other save energy and lower our bills, also at the same time imparting knowledge and skills the community needs to have more local control over energy and to make larger changes to our homes and buildings.

- ◆ Local energy learning hubs to share information about low-cost things we can do in our homes to reduce our energy bills and use, and advice accessing funding and support for larger changes to homes and buildings like insulation or solar panels
- ◆ Campaigns and support for private and social renters and landlords to keep homes warm and dry without making housing unaffordable for local families
- ◆ Local buildings and homes modelling what's possible for energy efficiency and creating our own energy
- ◆ Developing plans for community-owned energy projects in community buildings and public spaces

Food



What the community wants to see

- ◆ More affordable, healthy food options close to home that represent the many different local food cultures here
- ◆ More opportunities for people to grow food in our local area
- ◆ Opportunities to learn how to reduce food waste at home and healthy ways to shift to more plant-based meals

Ideas from the community

- ◆ Group activities like cooking clubs, plant-based nutrition classes, recipe exchanges and shared meals
- ◆ Skills, support and spaces for residents, especially those without private gardens, to grow food in our neighbourhood; including freeing up more allotment space and planting projects in blocks of flats and shared public spaces

Transport



What the community wants to see

- ◆ Easier, cheaper, faster and more accessible public transport for everyone
- ◆ Make it easier, safer and more pleasant for residents to walk and cycle
- ◆ Clean air for everyone

Ideas from the community

Lots of big actions like reduced bus fares and linked up walking and cycling routes away from cars will need support and leadership from national, regional and local government, but here are some of the things we can do together as a community to start making it easier for people to get around in ways that are good for our wellbeing and for the planet.

- ◆ Group cycling and walking activities and training
- ◆ Cycle hubs where people of all ages can hire cycles and test out things like electric and cargo bikes and accessible bikes for a range of impairments
- ◆ Collecting evidence of what's needed in our area and building a stronger voice to make sure decision makers hear from the community early on when making big choices about transport

Buying and throwing away less



This covers clothes, cars, furniture, appliances – basically, anything we buy, use or throw away other than food. It also includes the services we use linked to sports and entertainment, banking, insurance, medical, educational and social activities.

What the community wants to see

- ◆ More ways to share, reuse and repair things we have and less need for each household to keep buying new
- ◆ Less litter, fly-tipping and waste in our neighbourhood
- ◆ Less plastic packaging, and more plastic-free options that are affordable and widely available

Nature

Nature is not included in our carbon footprint, but it has a very important role to play in climate change and meeting our goal of becoming carbon neutral. Trees, plants and soil all store carbon, keeping it out of the air and reducing our net carbon emissions. Nature also has a big impact on our wellbeing, keeping us cool as summers get hotter, helping to clean pollutants out of the air, pollinating the food we grow and eat and improving our mental health.

What the community wants to see

- ◆ Protect and improve the green spaces we have, and make the areas inbetween greener and more pleasant
- ◆ More opportunities, especially for children and young people, to be in nature both in and outside of the city
- ◆ Develop the skills and resources of local people to improve and grow our community's green spaces

Ideas from the community

- ◆ Neighbourhood projects for planting and re-wilding in parks, school grounds, alleyways and the spaces between
- ◆ Resident-led mapping of accessible “green routes”
- ◆ Activities and training tailored to our local environment

Ideas from the community

- ◆ Places, groups and activities to share and learn skills to make the things we buy last longer. For example; mending and sewing socials, repair cafés, basic repair training
- ◆ Run regular clothes swaps, bike exchanges, a local toy library or “library of things” where people can share, trade, hire or try things out rather than everyone buying their own
- ◆ Refill schemes, less packaging from local takeaways and shops, easy-to-access water fountains, campaigns to reduce waste before it can become litter

Jobs, education and local business

As we begin the transition to net zero, we'll need to make sure our community, especially young people, have the skills to make these changes, and that opportunities for jobs and successful, environmentally friendly business are spread equally across the city.

What the community wants to see

- ◆ Local people with the skills, confidence and opportunities they need to be able to secure good jobs and lead in a greener future
- ◆ More opportunities for children and young people to learn about climate and nature
- ◆ High streets and local businesses able to adapt, thrive and contribute positively to a changing environment

Ideas from the community

- ◆ Develop pathways to employment for quality green jobs close to home, through community hubs and apprenticeships
- ◆ Training, signposting, knowledge sharing and mentoring within the business community
- ◆ Provide opportunities for hands on learning, arts and creative programmes and expanded local curriculum in local schools

What's next?

This plan is one step toward building a fairer, healthier future for our community and planet. Exciting things are already bubbling along, but the work of putting these words into action is just beginning. Our hope is that each of us can see actions, big and small, that we can start in our homes, on our streets, at work and school. Some things we can do on our own as a community, but some we will need to demand of our decision makers and those in power.

Want to get involved in community climate action or find out more about what's ahead? Get in touch with the Eastside Community Trust team on emily@upourstreet.org.uk or 0117 954 1409



Thank you to all of the individuals and organisations who shared your thoughts and ideas with us as we developed this plan – we learned so much and are grateful for your contributions.

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