




Bristol's Community of Disabled People's Community Climate Action Plan

Summary version





Big changes are coming to Bristol to take action on **climate change**. Bristol has promised to be better for the planet by 2030. So our city needs to make our homes, travel and food better for the planet.

This means big changes to things that are important to Disabled people. If carried out poorly, this could make new barriers for Disabled people. If done well it could make the lives of Disabled people better and our city fairer.

This plan is a list of **priorities** that we think are needed to make sure that the changes happen in a good way for Disabled people. It is a summary of a longer and more detailed plan. You can read the full plan at https://bristolclimatenature.org/projects/community-climate-action/.

Let's take action to make things better for both the planet and Disabled people.

Community Climate Action
Let's make change in Bristol

COMMUNITY FUND

Top ten priorities

Where there are words or terms that some people might not know we have explained them in the jargon buster at the end of the document. Words that are in the jargon buster are in the document in bold.

We have lots of aims and actions in our full plan. So we have made this list to show people where to start. The **priorities** in this list might not be the most important ones but they are the actions that would make the most change if they are put in place first.

- Disabled people's safety needs to be a top **priority** in planning for disasters.
- Make sure all new homes are at least partly **accessible**.
- Bristol City Council to make a list of **accessible** housing.
- Ensure all new transport projects are **accessible**.
- Make public transport more **accessible**.
- Make sure that Disabled people are part of designing all the city's projects on **climate change** action.
- Make sure that Disabled people are a **priority** community to get jobs that are made to act on **climate change**.
- Support Disabled people to access **accessible** and affordable food that is good for the planet.
- Consider the needs of Disabled people when designing nature spaces for **heat resilience**. (**Heat resilience** is when changes are made to keep people safe in hot weather.)
- Value the work of Disabled people even if it is voluntary.

How the plan was made

We talked to hundreds of Disabled people in Bristol to get their ideas for this plan. The first version was published in 2022. In 2024-2025 we worked with 10 paid Disabled people to update it. We held two public events on this work to make sure other Disabled people could feed in and we hadn't missed anything.



Priorities

General



- Disabled people should be part of designing all the city's projects on **climate change**. This should be done by meaningful and **accessible co-production**. (**Co-production** is ordinary people working together with experts to create something. They are given power to make decisions.)
- **Policy** and processes should be carried out in a fair and meaningful way. Currently projects assess whether they will make problems for communities by doing an **equality impact assessment**. (**Equality impact assessments** are a piece of paperwork that has to be done to see who could be treated unfairly by a project.) These should be done better and by a Disabled person.

Being prepared as communities



- The safety of the community of Disabled people needs to be a top **priority** in planning for disasters and during **evacuations**.
- Emergency services should know where Disabled people live and plans for **evacuations** should be made and practiced with Disabled people. Support should be given to Disabled people to help them prepare as individuals, so they have plans in place for when disasters happen.
- The places Disabled people can go to stay safe during dangerous whether should be very **accessible** and easy to get to for all Disabled people.
- Housing should meet the needs of Disabled people as **climate change** gets worse. This means changing them so they stay cool when it is very hot. It also means making sure that Disabled people aren't given housing in areas that have a high risk of flooding or heatwaves.

Transport



- All new transport projects must be **accessible**. **Disabled People's Organisations** and local Disabled people must be involved through the whole process. Roads closed to traffic must not make Disabled people's access to their neighbourhood and care worse.
- Taxis should also be more **accessible**, with more **accessible** taxis available and better training for drivers.
- Public transport must be made more **accessible**. We need better bus routes, more **accessible** features on buses and for them to be used correctly. Stops and platforms need to be more **accessible**. Information about services needs to be improved. Staff need to be better trained and **discrimination** stopped.
- Support more Disabled people to walk and roll around the city by making better pavements.
- People who can and want to cycle should be supported to access an **accessible** bike. Bike lanes and storage should be **accessible**.
- Some Disabled people will still have to drive. These people should be allowed to do so and supported to do so in a way that does as little harm to the planet as possible.

Housing



- 25% of all new homes should meet **wheelchair user standard** and 90% should meet **accessible** standards under the current building rules. (**Wheelchair user standard** are rules that set out how to make a building **accessible** for wheelchair users.)
- Bristol City Council should make a list of **accessible** housing. This means people can know where housing is and how **accessible** it is.
- Social housing should have access nearby to all the services the people living there might need. For example, doctors, shops and parks.

Food

- Community meals should be as **accessible** as possible with options for people who can't leave the home to benefit from them.
- Food that would otherwise go to waste should be shared with Disabled people.
- Supermarkets and food shops that sell food must be **accessible** for all Disabled people.
- Changes to food should be **accessible** and not make difficulties for anyone's medical or **access needs**, including packaging and portion size.
- Not all Disabled people want to or are able to grow their own food but those who want to should be supported to. This will take more **accessible** allotment spaces and community growing projects within neighbourhoods.

Nature

- Nature spaces should be made more **accessible**. This includes parks, water spaces, woodlands and other natural landscapes.
- Nature spaces should be made so that Disabled people can get up close to nature and feel part of it. Volunteering experiences should welcome Disabled people to get involved and be **accessible**.
- Nature should be put into streets and the places Disabled people already visit.
- Action should be taken to make Bristol's air cleaner. This should be done in a way that is **accessible** and fair for all communities.



Energy

- Energy advice and support should be **accessible** and think about different access needs.
- Advice about energy should be truthful about the problems some technology can make for some Disabled people. Ideas of how to solve the problems should be given.
- Changes to energy in the home should be made so that the Disabled person can have full control where this is possible.
- When using new energy technology all different **access needs** should be thought about. For example, **smart meters** should be designed to be accessible for people with sight **impairments**.
- Energy funding should be designed for Disabled people and **prioritise** them as an important community.

Economy, Business, Jobs and Education

- Disabled people should be a **priority** community to get jobs that are made to act on **climate change**. This means **accessible** training and teaching and making the jobs and workplaces **accessible**.
- **The West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Good Employment Charter** should be updated through **co-production** with Disabled people to help make jobs more **accessible**. (**The West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Good Employment Charter** is a scheme that tries to get local organisations to improve for their employees.)
- Not all Disabled people can work. Changes should be made so that voluntary work is also valued and Disabled people are given something back. For example, shopping vouchers, training or food.
- Disabled people should be taught about **climate change** from a young age. This will take **accessible** and interesting resources.

Waste

- Disabled people should not be punished or judged for using things they have to. Disabled people often don't have the choice not to use things that are made from materials that are bad for the planet. For example, some Disabled people have to use medicines and health items that are wrapped in or made of plastic to stay well. These people shouldn't be made to feel guilty.
- **Assistive equipment** and medical equipment should be reused instead of being thrown away.
- Recycling and waste should be **accessible** for all Disabled people. This includes support for people who can't recycle on their own. Disabled people who are unable to use recycling centres should be able to have their rubbish collected from home for free.

Next Steps

Our work doesn't stop with the plan. We need to get people with power to support it and use its ideas when they make projects. We need Disabled people working with them and making sure that our needs aren't forgotten about. To make that happen we need Disabled to raise their voices and non-disabled people to support us. We need organisations to work closely with organisations of Disabled people to make sure projects are **accessible**.

Please help us to make Bristol better together.



Jargon Buster

Access needs: What someone needs to be able to fully take part.
Accessible: When something is made in a way so that it is good for Disabled people.
Assistive equipment: Tools that some Disabled people use to make daily life easier and more **accessible**.
Climate change: The planet is getting too hot because of how people are using harmful fuels like petrol. This is making lots of problems.
Co-production: Ordinary people working together with experts to create something.
Disabled People's Organizations: A charity that works to make things better for Disabled people that has staff who are Disabled people.
Discrimination: When someone is treated unfairly because of the group they are part of.
Equality impact assessment: This is a piece of paperwork that has to be done to see who could be treated unfairly by a project.
Evacuations: When someone is taken out of their house to stay safe because of a dangerous event like a flood.
Impairments: When someone has a difference in their body or mind. When a person is treated unfairly because of this they become disabled.
Policy/policies: The rules that an organisation sets to say how something should be done.
Priority/ Prioritised: When something is seen as being important.
Smart meters: A piece of technology that says how much energy is being used in a house as it is used.
The West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Good Employment Charter: A scheme that tries to get local organisations to improve for their employees.
Wheelchair user standard: Rules that set out how to make a building **accessible** for wheelchair users.

Thank you to everyone who helped update this plan. In particular to Forum members: Liz Crow, Priyanca D'Souza, James Deane, Elizabeth Edgeworth, Phil Gingell, Ruth Nortey, Lynn Parfitt, Beth Richards, Sam Richards, and Layla Taylor. Work led throughout by Emma Geen.
The Community Climate Action Project is coordinated by the Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership and funded by the Lottery.