



# Camden Climate Panel

## Session Two

Thursday 6th July 2023

This document outlines the key discussions, questions and themes that emerged from Session Two of Camden's Climate Panel.

### 01. What does climate resilience mean to you?

Prior to the session, Panel Members were asked: 'Please share a few words or short statements about what climate resilience means to you'. The following responses were provided.

- Climate resilience means proactively adapting to the challenges of climate change. It involves developing strategies to mitigate risks and build a sustainable future.
- Being prepared, able to withstand events. Identifying risks & weaknesses in advance & designing them out, where possible.
- Means my family and community being able to survive the impacts of climate change - and by preparing for the impacts, create a fairer & safer environment for everyone
- If you care and look after the planet, the planet will care and look after you.
- Recycling, reducing energy usage, insulation, educating consumers



- Climate resilience in general is the ability to recover from, or to mitigate vulnerability to, climate-related shocks such as floods and droughts.
- Preparing for increasingly hot weather and its effects upon people, places and things. These include having minute water refill points, places where people can stay cool, preferably w/working loos, etc.

## 02. Presentations

During the session, Panel Members heard from two speakers and had an opportunity to ask questions. The first speaker was Jackson Bylett, Climate Programme Manager at Camden Council, who explored 'What is climate resilience?'. The second speaker was Zara Scott, Climate Resilience Officer at Camden Council. Zara presented on Camden's Climate Resilience Plan 2023 - 2025. **A copy of the presentation slides can be found [here](#) and on the [Microsite](#).**

## 03. What can Camden residents do to be more resilient to the impacts of climate change?

After the presentations, Panel Members worked in small groups to explore what individuals and communities could do to improve climate resilience in Camden. A number of ideas were shared but a common thread throughout the discussions was that **money is a barrier to individual action**.

### **Gardens and green spaces**

Panel Members wanted to respect green spaces around their homes, for instance by maintaining front gardens. Proactive greening ideas were also mentioned, including community food gardens, and green rooftop projects.

### **Changes to buildings**

Small changes inside homes such as putting cling film over windows as additional insulation were mentioned. Ideas for whole building changes included painting blocks in solar reflective paint, collecting grey water to reuse, and using stairwells for recycling bins to encourage behaviour change.



### Community action

Panel Members discussed the role of individuals and community groups taking action to speak out about climate resilience and organising and working collaboratively together to address challenges in their homes and communities.

## 04. What should change in the borough to better prepare us for the impacts of climate change?

In small groups, Panel Members then explored what other actors could do to make Camden more climate resilient. The following themes emerged.

### Camden Council

Panel Members felt Camden Council had the largest role to play in making Camden more climate resilient. This included:

- **Communication and information sharing.** Panel Members felt Camden had a big role to play in communicating to individuals and communities what they can do to minimise the negative impacts of climate change, for instance through local information campaigns.
- **Long term planning.** Panel Members wanted to see Camden taking a long term approach to climate resilience, not 'sticking a plaster on the problem' which was seen as an ongoing barrier to effective climate action.
- **Community Spaces.** Specific ideas about how community spaces could be improved to support climate resilience were mentioned including, keeping civic spaces e.g. parks open for longer hours, providing more shade in streets and community areas, and more water features in parks.
- **Green spaces.** Panel Members raised specific concerns about tree felling and pollarding trees at the wrong time of year, minimising available shade in the summer months.
- **Regulation and enforcement.** Panel Members felt Camden Council has a big role to play in regulating and enforcing positive action from other actors, such as building developer guidelines and ensuring private landlords support tenants to make properties more climate resilient.



- **Financial support.** Panel Members expressed a desire for Camden to make funding more easily accessible to residents who wish to retrofit their homes, sharing stories about how the current process is overly bureaucratic and time consuming. Some Members also felt Camden should use their service charge fees more effectively to improve climate resilience in Camden-owned properties.
- **Collaboration.** Panel members discussed the idea of Camden bringing in a climate resilience 'pledge' or 'charter' scheme for other actors in Camden to encourage proactive action on climate resilience across the borough.

### **Schools**

Panel Members felt schools had a role to play in supporting climate resilience, primarily through educating young people and encouraging them to share this learning with their parents. Some Members also discussed changing school uniforms in the summer so they are more appropriate for extreme temperatures.

### **Businesses**

Panel Members discussed the role of business in supporting climate resilience projects in Camden. It was felt that big businesses like google and meta that have headquarters in Camden have a responsibility to invest in climate resilient projects, and local businesses could financially support community action projects. They also discussed the role of businesses in communication and information sharing about climate resilience, for instance using their large social media presence to disseminate advice and information.

## **05. How should Camden communicate about climate resilience with the wider community?**

For the final part of the session, Panel Members discussed how Camden could communicate the Climate Resilience Plan with the wider Camden community. The following points were raised.

### **What should it be called?**

Panel Members discussed what Camden's Climate Resilience Plan should be called. A few ideas included:



- Living with...
- Living better...
- Camden's backdrop
- 21st Climate Resilience Guide
- Future generations plan
- Community survival guide/ young people survival guide
- Survive and thrive
- Planet survival guide
- Preparedness

Members also explored the benefits of using language that links to the urgency of taking action.

### **What should the key messages be?**

Panel Members discussed ways to frame and present key messages about climate resilience.

- **Public health messaging.** Many Panel Members discussed Covid messaging as a good example of communications. It was felt that taking a 'public health approach' to climate resilience communications would be beneficial as it demonstrates the importance of collective action and makes it relatable to people's lived experiences e.g. "do you want your kids to have asthma?".
- **Storytelling.** Taking people on a journey by showing what action has been taken and explaining the positive impact of it was seen as an important way to present information about the urgency and necessity of climate resilience action. Examples such as placing visual plaques next to changes that explain what has been done and why would be beneficial. This connects to the idea that "actions speak louder than words" and shows that Camden is already making changes to support its communities.
- **Work within existing plans.** Panel Members felt it would work well to incorporate the Climate Resilience Plan into Climate Action Plan, showing joined up thinking and a collaborative approach to addressing the causes and mitigating the impacts of climate change.

### **What form should the plan take?**

Panel Members discussed the form or way the information about climate resilience should be



communicated with different audiences.

- **Short messages and images.** It was felt that people need quick and easy information to fit in with busy lives. The following ideas were shared:
  - Fewer stats - more animations and infographics
  - Youtube shorts
  - Inspirational, not technical or negative
  - For young people, use influencers
- **Word of mouth.** Panel Members discussed supporting “Community Champions” to share information about climate resilience actions and how others can get involved. It was felt this way of sharing information would be more connected to people's lived experience, build on existing relationships, and connect direct action with communications.
- **Think about timing.** Connecting with people’s lived experiences, Panel Members explored promoting comms during times of the year when the impacts of climate change are felt most strongly, for example during heatwaves. This would encourage more people to engage with the topic and want to help make changes.
- **Use public spaces for information sharing.** Panel Members discussed using existing public spaces that are frequently used to share information. Examples included:
  - Posters etc on public transport and bus/train stops and doctor’s surgeries
  - Links with human health and wellbeing (and survival)
  - In public buildings, spaces/places etc.
  - Turning the neighbourhood into a story, ie stickers, posters on streets
  - Videos in libraries
  - QR codes
  - Use Camden magazine ; Camden News Journal
  - Webinars