

10 May 2021
Our ref: 7124144

Thank you for your request received on 15 March 2021, for the following information:

We write as part of a national research project being undertaken by universities throughout the UK and being led by the Environmental Law Foundation (ELF) exploring the work in tackling climate change and greenhouse gas emissions. The research focuses on the climate change emergency declarations made by a large number of public bodies; including district and city councils, unitary authorities and even Parliament, since 2018. We are seeking to track their development with a view on publishing the progress of public action on climate change in the lead up to COP26 in November 2021.

We have carried out some preliminary research of the borough of Barnet and have noted that Barnet has not yet made a climate emergency declaration.

However, we have taken notice of several publications providing data in respect of climate change engagement, including 'A Local Air Quality Strategy for Barnet 2002' and 'One Barnet. A Sustainable Community Strategy for Barnet 2010-2020'.

Further, we noticed your involvement in the London Climate Action Week 2019, i.e., the installation of e-vehicle charging points, the planting of 4,500 trees and the introduction and further enhancement of Sustainable Travel to and from Schools that is Active, Responsible and Safe (STARS).

In the light of the above, we would now like the Council to provide the following information:

- 1. We came across a Barnet ePetition for the declaration of a climate emergency in 2019. However, only a few signatures (precisely 9) were collected. What steps has the Council planned to undertake with regard to a potential Climate Emergency Declaration?**
- 2. Please confirm whether you have precise data for your council ktCO₂e emissions in terms of the scope classifications of the GHG Protocol, i.e., scope 1 (all direct Emissions), scope 2 (indirect emissions), and scope 3 (other indirect emissions such as outsourced activities, waste disposal). If yes, could you provide us with an overview of these? If no, have you taken steps to ensure that such data will be gathered?**
- 3. Please provide the amount of emission reduction planned, if possible, by scope 1, 2 and 3 in ktCO₂e.**
- 4. Besides efforts regarding e-vehicles, tree-planting and sustainable travel, do you have an overall Climate Action Strategy? If not, how are you planning to**

undertake further action and/or to develop a systematic strategy toward climate action?

5. What steps has the council taken to involve the community and/or stakeholders (i.e., local businesses, direct employees, residents, resident organisations, visitors) in respective climate action?

6. We have taken notice of your efforts towards a Flood Risk Management Plan 2021. Do you have a general Climate Change Adaptation Policy? If yes, please provide information on the policy.

7. Besides your engagement during the London Climate Action Week, do you have a general implementation plan? If yes, please provide information on the plan.

8. Please provide data on carbon offsets.

We also have some specific questions relating to community involvement in tackling climate change:

9. Please confirm how many Community Groups (including any Town Councils and/or Parish Council and/or Community Councils) in your area have made CEDs.

10. Please provide the names and contact details of each of these.

11. Please confirm how the Council collaborates with each of these Community Groups, and how the Council's own declaration intersects with their CEDs.

12. Please provide details of any other local community action the Council carries on pursuing any plans and commitments relating to your CED.

We have processed this request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Response

The council holds the information requested and the answers to your questions are below and attached.

1. We came across a Barnet ePetition for the declaration of a climate emergency in 2019. However, only a few signatures (precisely 9) were collected. What steps has the Council planned to undertake with regard to a potential Climate Emergency Declaration?

Barnet Environment Committee recognised that Parliament has agreed a motion declaring an environment and climate emergency and noted that the same environmental challenges that are faced by the UK are also faced in Barnet. Further information on this motion can be found here:

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=28972>

2. Please confirm whether you have precise data for your council ktCO2e emissions in terms of the scope classifications of the GHG Protocol, i.e., scope 1 (all direct Emissions), scope 2 (indirect emissions), and scope 3 (other indirect emissions such as outsourced activities, waste disposal). If yes, could you provide us with an overview of these? If no, have you taken steps to ensure that such data will be gathered?

The work that the Council carry out on air quality apart from planting trees to absorb pollution is about Nitrogen Dioxide and PM10, not directly CO2 emissions.

3. Please provide the amount of emission reduction planned, if possible, by scope 1, 2 and 3 in ktCO2e.

Not available as above.

4. Besides efforts regarding e-vehicles, tree-planting and sustainable travel, do you have an overall Climate Action Strategy? If not, how are you planning to undertake further action and/or to develop a systematic strategy toward climate action?

We are in the process of developing Barnet's first Sustainability Strategy, an update on which went to Environment Committee on 11 March (<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cld=695&MId=10159>). This will look to bring together the actions of existing strategies, as well as propose further ways in which Barnet could become more sustainable.

5. What steps has the council taken to involve the community and/or stakeholders (i.e., local businesses, direct employees, residents, resident organisations, visitors) in respective climate action?

Engagement and consultation has been undertaken in the development of other strategies such as the Long Term Transport Strategy (link below) and will be undertaken when producing the Sustainability Strategy.

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cld=695&MId=10156&Ver=4>

6. We have taken notice of your efforts towards a Flood Risk Management Plan 2021. Do you have a general Climate Change Adaptation Policy? If yes, please provide information on the policy.

No.

7. Besides your engagement during the London Climate Action Week, do you have a general implementation plan? If yes, please provide information on the plan.

A plan will be produced as part of the development of a Sustainability Strategy.

8. Please provide data on carbon offsets.

See attached spreadsheet.

Please note only three payments have been received. The rest will only be payable when the scheme is commenced (or later as set out in the covenant section).

We also have some specific questions relating to community involvement in tackling climate change:

9. Please confirm how many Community Groups (including any Town Councils and/or Parish Council and/or Community Councils) in your area have made CEDs.

None.

10. Please provide the names and contact details of each of these.

N/A

11. Please confirm how the Council collaborates with each of these Community Groups, and how the Council's own declaration intersects with their CEDs.

N/A

12. Please provide details of any other local community action the Council carries on pursuing any plans and commitments relating to your CED.

N/A

Further information

If you are interested in the data that the council holds you may wish to visit Open Barnet, the council's data portal. This brings together all our published datasets and other information of interest on one searchable database for anyone, anywhere to access. <http://open.barnet.gov.uk/>

Advice and Assistance : Direct Marketing

If you are a company that intends to use the names and contact details of council officers (or other officers) provided in this response for direct marketing, you need to be registered with the Information Commissioner to process personal data for this purpose. You must also check that the individual (whom you wish to contact for direct marketing purposes) is not registered with one of the Preference Services to prevent Direct Marketing. If they are you must adhere to this preference.

You must also ensure you comply with the Privacy Electronic and Communications Regulations (PECR). For more information follow this Link www.ico.org.uk

For the avoidance of doubt the provision of council (and other) officer names and contact details under FOI does not give consent to receive direct marketing via any media and expressly does not constitute a 'soft opt-in' under PECR.

Your rights

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review within the next 40 working days by writing to the Information Management Team at: foi@barnet.gov.uk. Or by post to Information Management Team (FOI) London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

If, having exhausted our review procedure, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you will have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF (telephone: 0303 123 1113; website www.ico.org.uk). There is no charge for making an appeal.