

Our Newham Local Plan: CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Main Changes from the Draft (Regulation 18) to the Draft Submission (Regulation 19) Newham Local Plan

Just Transition and the Climate Emergency

**Policy CE1: Environmental design and delivery and
Policy CE3: Embodied carbon and the circular economy**

The policies and supporting text now reference Newham's Just Transition Plan, providing further details on how the Council will meet its climate emergency targets.

Heat Networks

Policy CE2: Zero Carbon development

The policy has changed so that the heat network will not have to be decarbonised at the point of application. Instead a fully funded decarbonisation plan, which will be implemented within the lifetime of the Local Plan, must be in place at the point of application. This follows representations from developers, the Greater London Authority and the London Legacy Development Corporation.

We consider this change necessary to allow for continued use of existing heat networks, in line with the London Plan, while ensuring that decarbonisation occurs within the lifetime of the Local Plan, in line with our climate emergency objectives.

The policy approach regarding waste heat as a source of low carbon heat has been made clearer to ensure that waste is minimised and local air quality is not worsened.

Zero Carbon Development

Policy CE2: Zero Carbon development

Additional evidence base from LETI, Etude and the Greater London Authority that supports the policy has been added to provide greater justification and implementation guidance for applicants to aid the delivery of our ongoing policy objective of zero carbon development. This ensures the policy remains up to date as evidence base on this policy approach continues to emerge.

The policy thresholds have been clarified to make clear which developments need to meet the policy, while maintaining the overall approach that as little energy as possible should be used to run/heat a building.

The supporting text has been updated to state that roof space should be prioritised for solar PV and that biodiversity improvements and amenity space should be delivered at ground or podium level.

Examples of low carbon heat, and their benefits and assured performance methods (such as Passivhaus) have been added to the supporting text to provide greater guidance for applicants.

This follows representations from developers, the Greater London Authority and local residents. We consider these changes necessary as they make the policy and supporting text clearer to enable deliverability, especially as this is a new and emerging area of policy.

Air Quality

Policy CE6: Air quality

The policy has been updated to make clear when development will not be supported. This is when an increase in local pollutant emissions is created by the development. This follows internal discussions with environmental health colleagues and to align with the principles of the Newham's Air Quality Action Plan (2019-2024).

Details regarding physical and green buffers (including Nature Based Solutions) have been added to the policy. This highlights a range of ways development can address poor air quality and aligns with policies in the design and green and water spaces chapters.

The supporting text has been expanded to encourage use of zero carbon alternatives for Non-Road Mobile Machinery, and maximise the use of high quality backup generators. This is to deliver best practice in line with the requirements of the Council's environmental health team.



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Embodied Carbon

Policy CE3: Embodied Carbon and the circular economy

The supporting text has been expanded, as newly published evidence from the West of England Combined Authority and City of Westminster indicate that embodied carbon targets can be reached with little viability impact.

The policy has also changed to encourage developers to use Newham's future Just Transition Fund for offsetting their remaining embodied carbon, rather than offsetting this embodied carbon elsewhere in the UK or the world. These changes follow publication of Newham's Just Transition Plan, and to support the aims of the Climate Action team.

Groundwater pollution

Policy CE1: Environmental design and delivery

Following representations from the Environment Agency, additional policy wording and supporting text has been added regarding groundwater pollution and source protection zones.

The Contaminated Land Strategy has also been updated. We consider these changes to be necessary in light of environmental and legislative requirements.

Overheating

Policy CE4: Overheating

The justification text has been expanded to explain why considering overheating at the earliest stage of design is important. This is because passive design principles (building orientation, unit layout etc.) can only be considered at the earliest stage of design, and during the planning process, rather than when building regulation sign off occurs. Delaying these considerations risks limiting the cooling principles which could be considered making it more likely that active cooling methods are required, as demonstrated in our Overheating Evidence Base.

The policy approach has been modified, clarifying that significant noise, pollution or agent of change issues may mean that that active cooling is appropriate. Policy H11 Housing Design quality also requires the provision of alternative aspects (windows or doors) where poor external conditions including noise and visual amenity exist.

The supporting text has been expanded to include circular economy considerations and the link to retrofit. This follows requests from local residents, as well as internal discussions with colleagues. We consider this change necessary, as it highlights the links between retrofit and the circular economy, enabling further delivery of circular economy principles.

Circular Economy

Policy CE3: Embodied Carbon and the circular economy and Policy CE5: Retrofit and the circular economy

The policies and supporting text have been expanded to include circular economy considerations and retrofit. The policy name has also been changed in light of this addition. These changes follow a review of where the circular economy concept best sits in the Local Plan, following requests from local residents. We consider this change necessary as it highlights the links between retrofit and the circular economy, enabling further delivery of circular economy principles.



Submit your comments online, by email, by post or in-person at our drop-in sessions. Find out more by scanning the QR code or by visiting your local library.

**Have your say before
5pm, 6 September 2024!**

