

# The importance of local government's role in sustainability

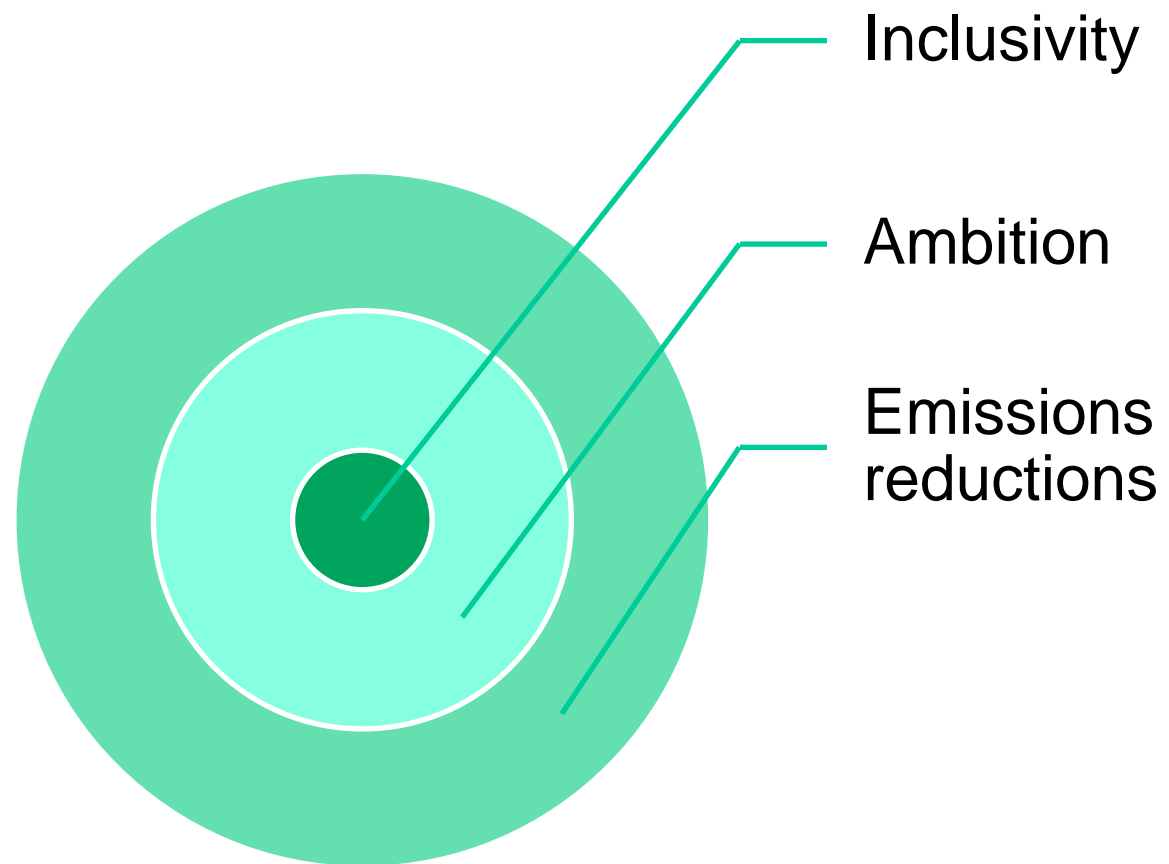
12 November 2024

EALING COUNCIL



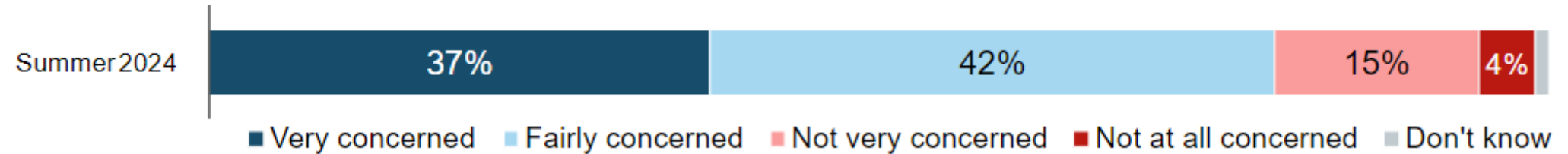
# Agenda

- Context: what *is* our role?
- National policy
- Local policy
- Local influence as enabler



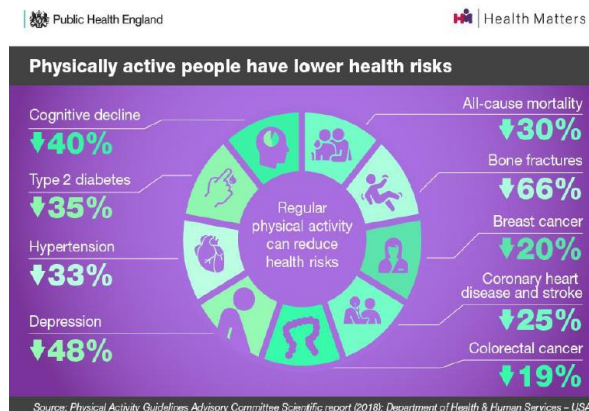
# Why is our leadership important?

## 1. People want us to act



Source: DESNZ public attitudes tracker

## 2. Climate action has so many benefits across all populations



# Why is our leadership important?

3. Because bringing people together:
  - is how we build ambition
  - is how we inspire action
  - brings more people into the conversation

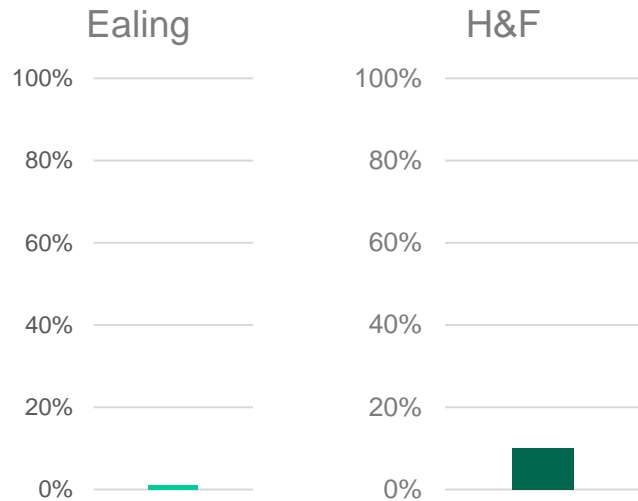


Left: 2024 climate summit in H&F

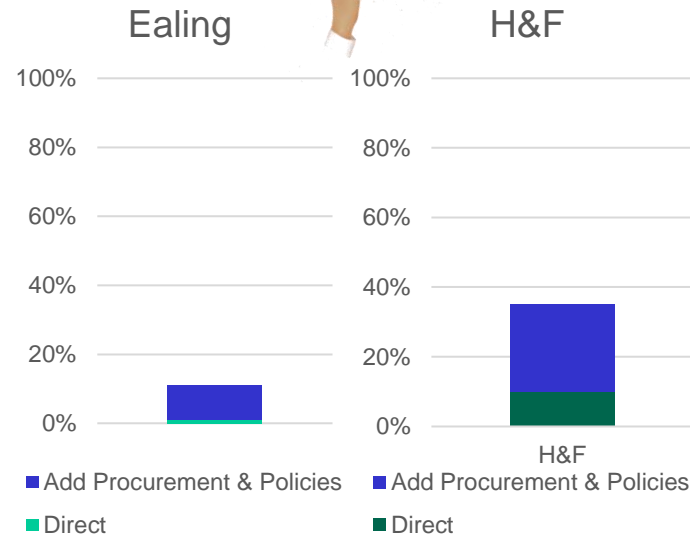
**But...**

# Three options:

## We don't matter



## We matter

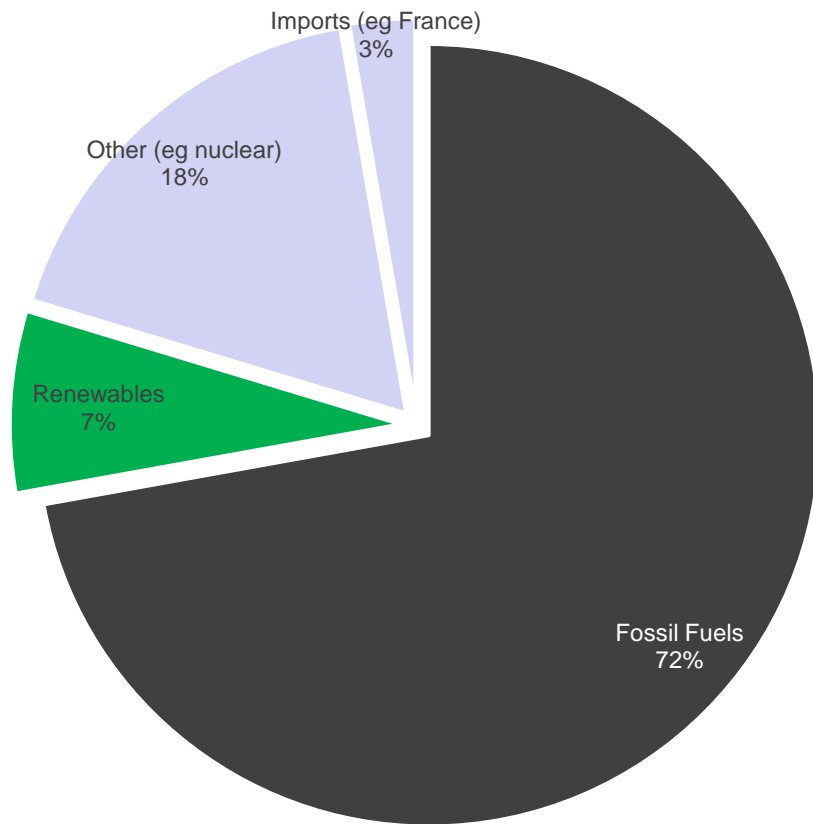


## We certainly matter



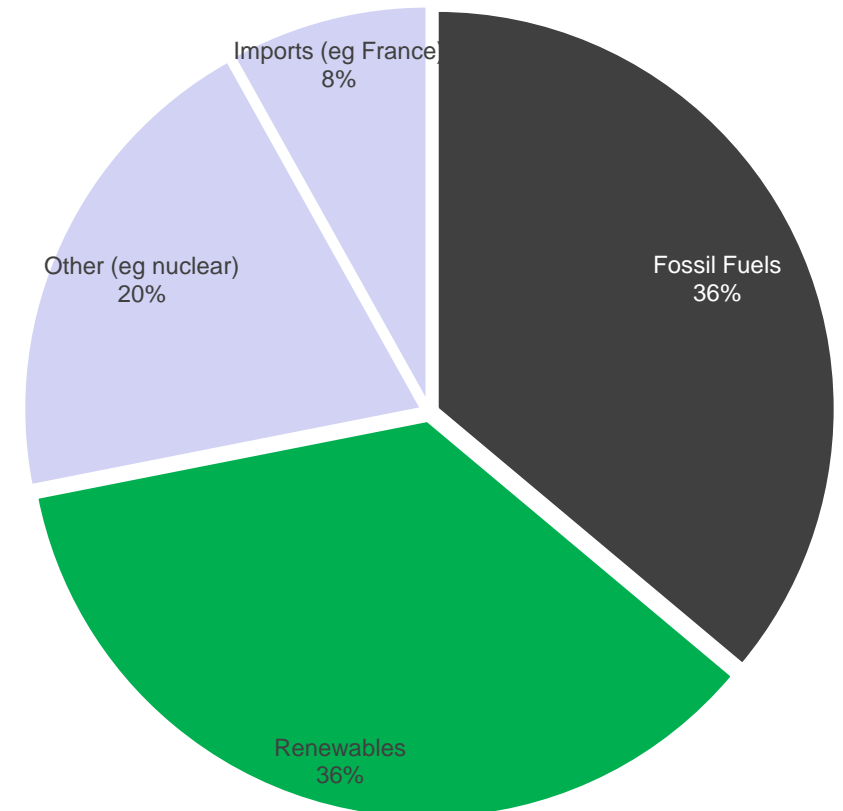
# 1: National policy matters

UK Energy Mix (2011)



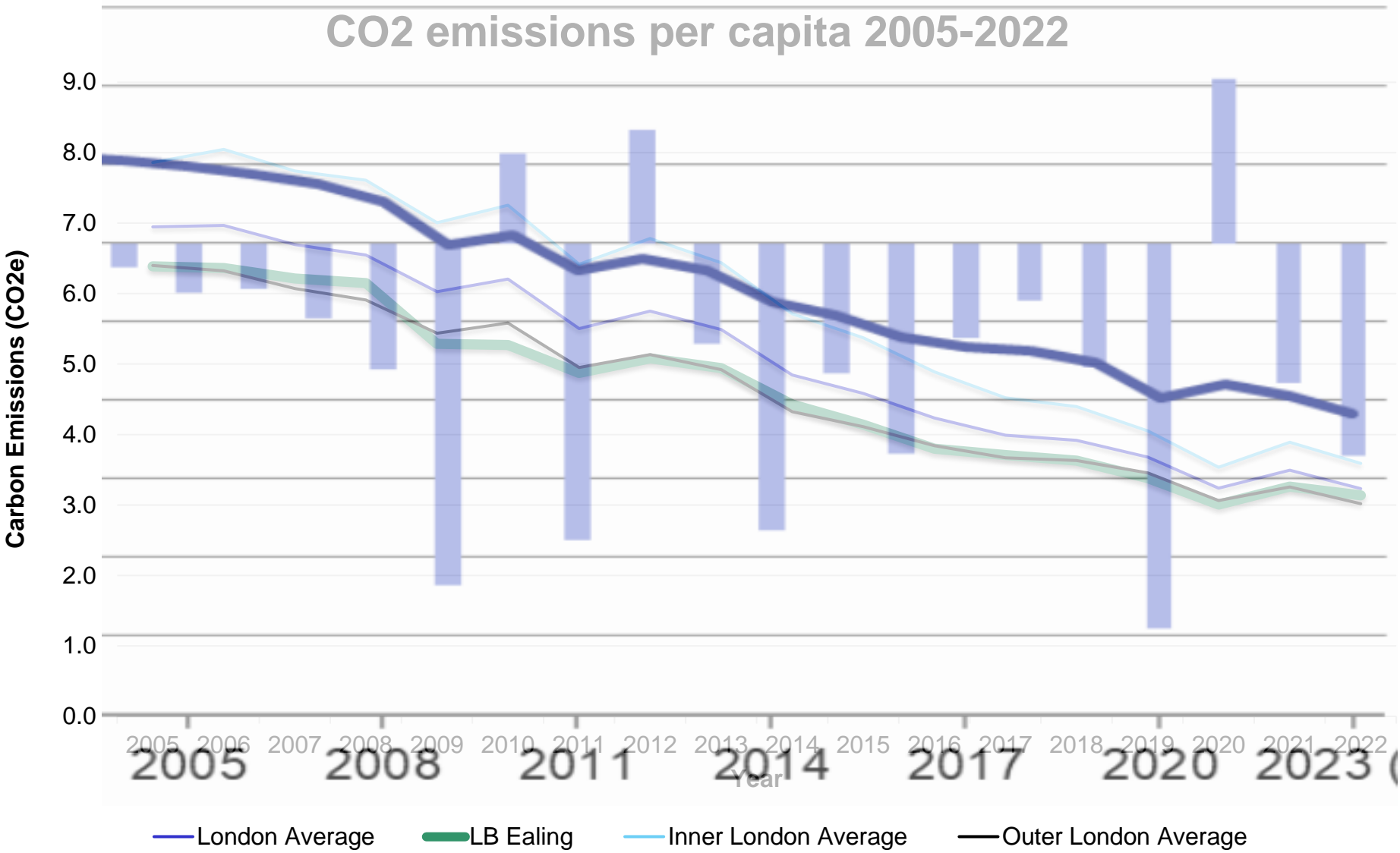
■ Fossil Fuels ■ Renewables ■ Other (eg nuclear) ■ Imports (eg France)

UK Energy Mix (Nov 2022 - Nov 2023)



■ Fossil Fuels ■ Renewables ■ Other (eg nuclear) ■ Imports (eg France)

# Emissions reduction



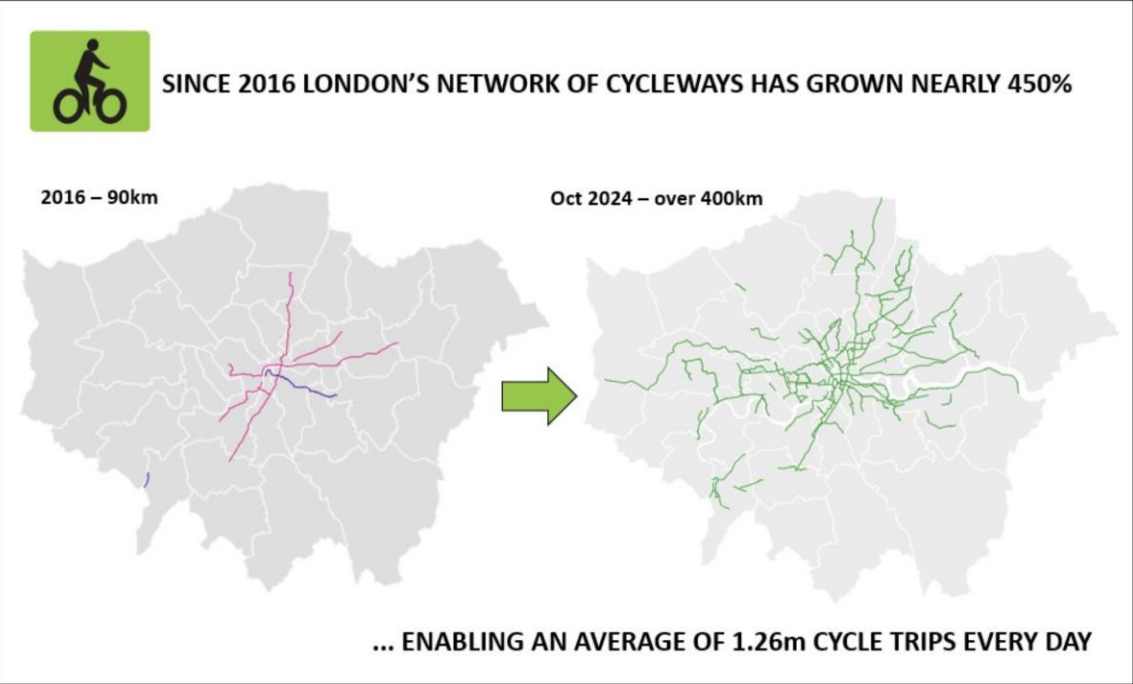


# 2: Local policy matters

- £70 billion spent in 2021
- Low carbon procurement
  - Set context of climate change in pre-amble
  - Embedding into contract (materials, promises)
  - Trialling with existing suppliers
  - Social Value
- Adding Key Decisions requirements

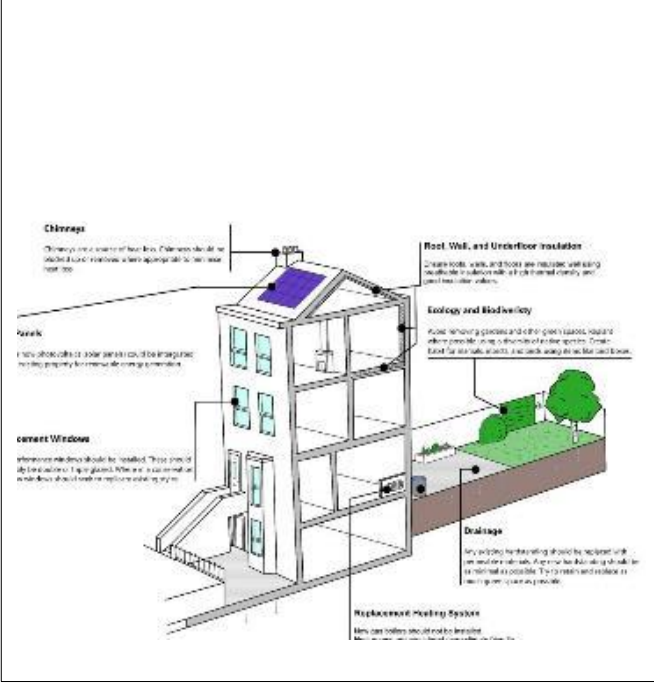


# Local policy

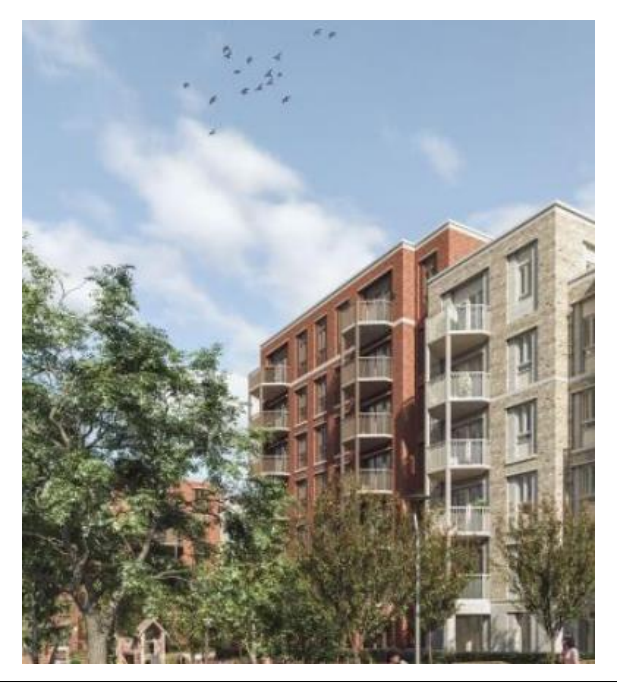


Source: London walking & cycling commissioner

## Transport powers



## Planning



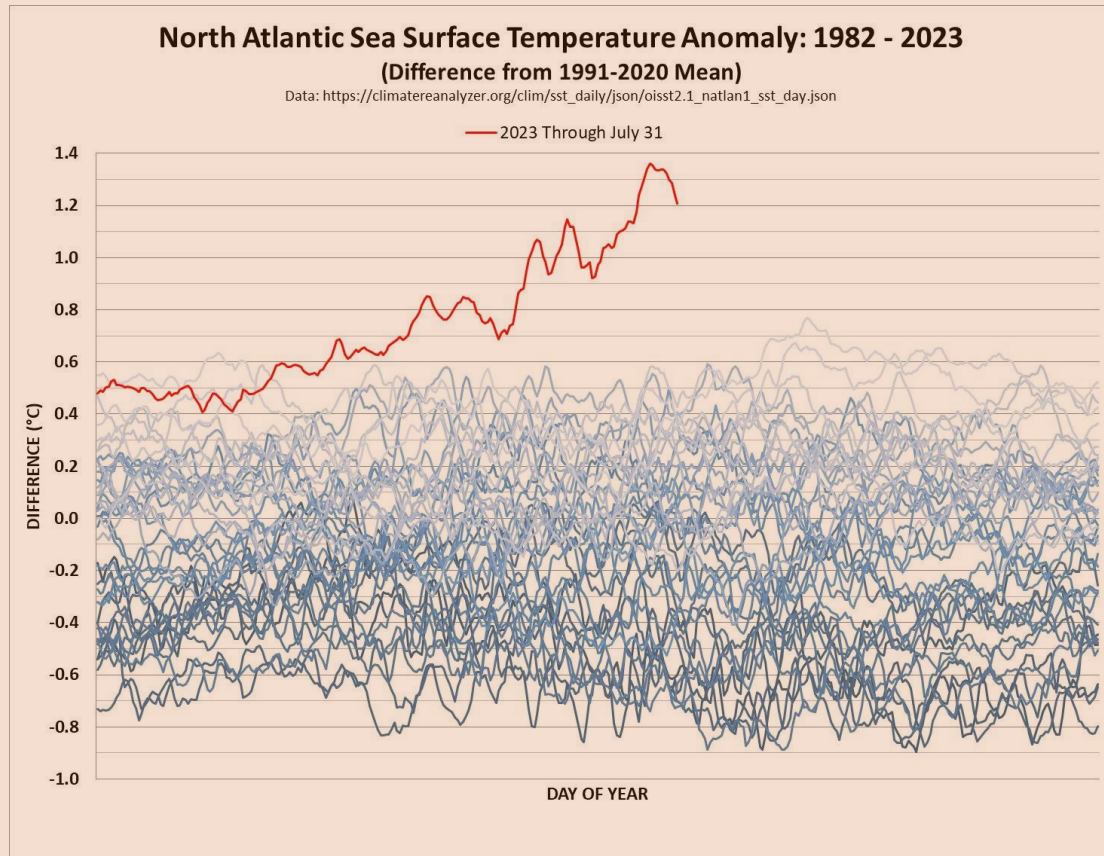
## By example

# 3: Local enabling is key



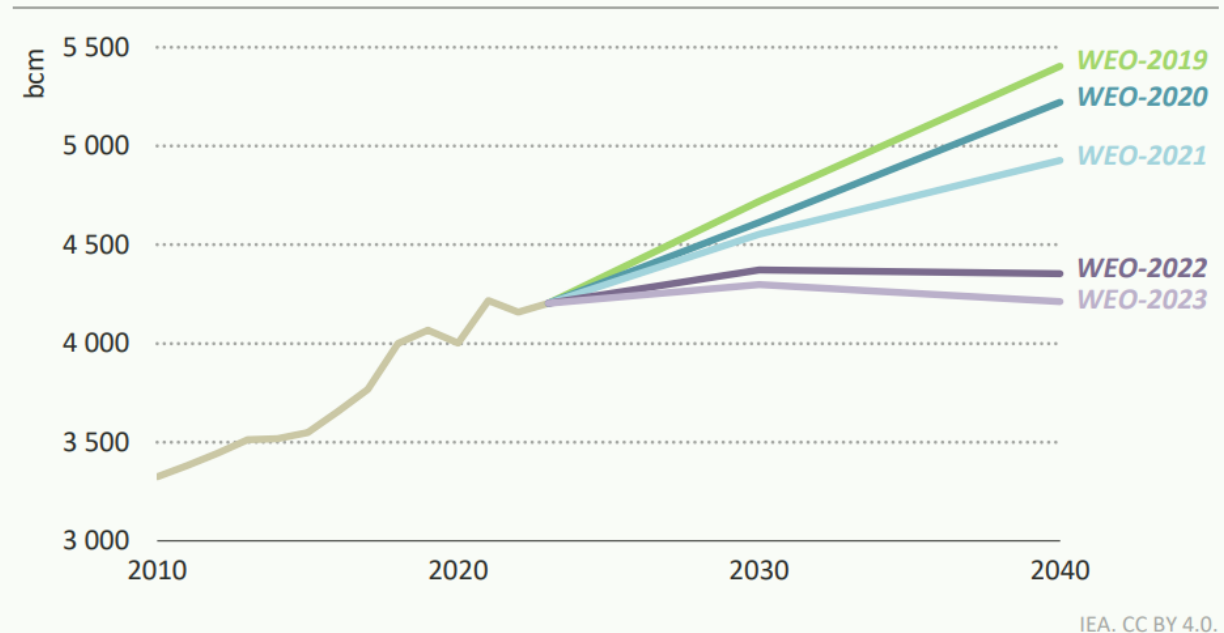
# What drives action?

## Fear



## Hope

**Figure 1.35** ▶ Natural gas demand projections in the STEPS to 2040 in five editions of the *World Energy Outlook*



*Upward revisions to renewables have chipped away at long-term natural gas projections, but the sharpest reduction came in 2022 following the global energy crisis*

# Stories of action drive action

- Don't ask:



Inspire!



# Our influence is the big enabler

## We can:

- Convene

### Local

- Voluntary sector
- Community and neighbourhood groups
- Major local employers

### Public sector

- Blue light services
- NHS Trusts (GPs, community care, hospital)
- Transport for London
- Thames Water
- Environment Agency
- Academia

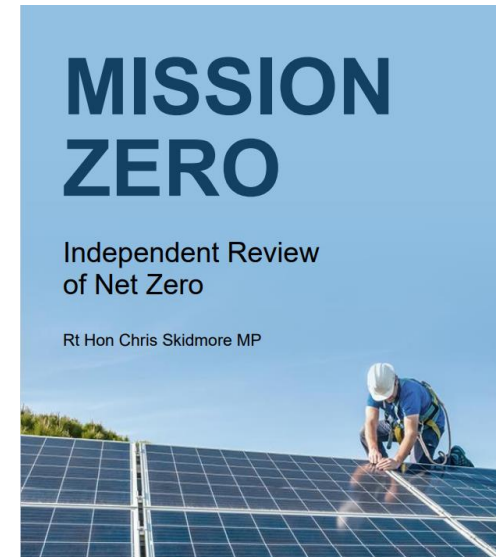
### Regional

- GLA
- London Councils
- West London Waste Authority
- West London Alliance

# Our influence is the big enabler

## We can:

- Convene
- Offer local leadership
- Remove barriers
- Provide skills
- Build social norms



“47% of people feel that there is so much conflicting information that it can be difficult to know what to believe”  
-para 888

# Local stories, local action

## Climate Community Grants

- Up to £10,000 for medium scale energy projects



## Climate Action Microgrants

- Up to £500 to get a project off the ground, form networks





# Community energy – related opportunity

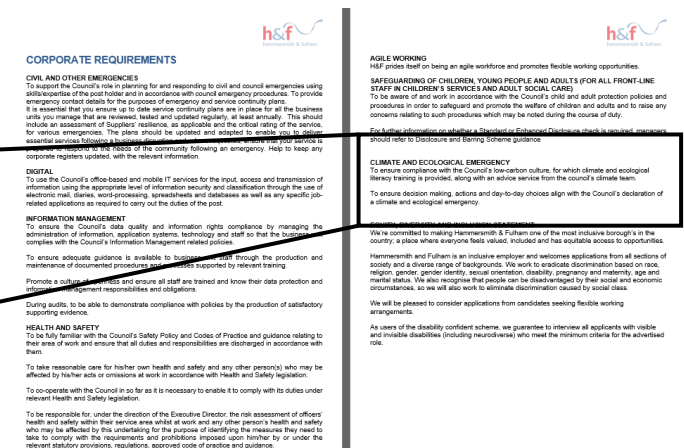
- Councils can multiply the impact of local groups with:
  - seed funding
  - Access to assets
  - Legitimacy



# Staff are people, too!

- Create a staff network
- Provide carbon literacy training
- Embed net zero in standard role description templates

*"To ensure decision making, actions and day-to-day choices align with the Council's declaration of a climate and ecological emergency."*



# Some ships will make it anyway

But that isn't good enough, and local govt has to rally the rest

