

# CLIMATE ACTION PLAN



22/23



## 02

**OPENING STATEMENT**

Located in both Lambeth and Southwark, WeAreWaterloo Business Improvement District (BID) is a non-profit organisation governed by the local business community, supporting over 450 businesses in the area. The BID strives to ensure Waterloo is a great place to work, visit, study and live. The climate emergency remains one of the biggest threats we face on both a local and global level. As we continue to recover from COVID-19, we must embrace a new normal that puts tackling the climate emergency at the heart of everything we do. This Climate Action Plan (CAP) pulls together our existing work and forms a statement of intent and framework for WeAreWaterloo (with the support of our business-led Climate Action Group) to play our part in ensuring the area becomes a Net Zero Neighbourhood by 2030 in alignment with the Mayor of London's targets.

**How is Waterloo directly impacted by climate change?**

- Waterloo is 3.5 degrees centigrade hotter than rural areas, which is above the London average
- Waterloo has disproportionately low levels of tree canopy cover for a Central London location, increasing local temperatures
- Waterloo suffers from poor air quality, particularly high levels of NO<sub>2</sub> & PM<sub>2.5</sub>

In May 2022, WeAreWaterloo developed a Placemaking Strategy for the area, which highlights the importance and direction for WaW's sustainability agenda. This CAP serves to build upon those themes whilst remaining closely aligned with the priorities of our partner organisations including the **GLA, LB Lambeth, LB Southwark, TfL and SoWN (South Bank and Waterloo Neighbours)**. We will do all we can to empower our members' journey to net zero by providing new, free and subsidised services, whilst improving the air quality and climate resilience of the public realm. Many of our ambitions rely on partnership with with our local authorities to enable the positive change we need to see locally, which is detailed further on in the CAP.

## 03

## WHAT OUR MEMBERS SAY

In January 2022, WeAreWaterloo partnered with King's College London to survey our BID members and understand their motivation for tackling the climate crisis. Here are a selection of quotes from those interviewed:

"Concern for and love of our planet"  
**Eden Caterers**

"We have been sustainable at our core for over a decade. It's the reason for our existence"  
**Rivers' Remedies and Make Space Studios**

"Doing the right thing even if that costs us more"  
**Dan's Barbershop**

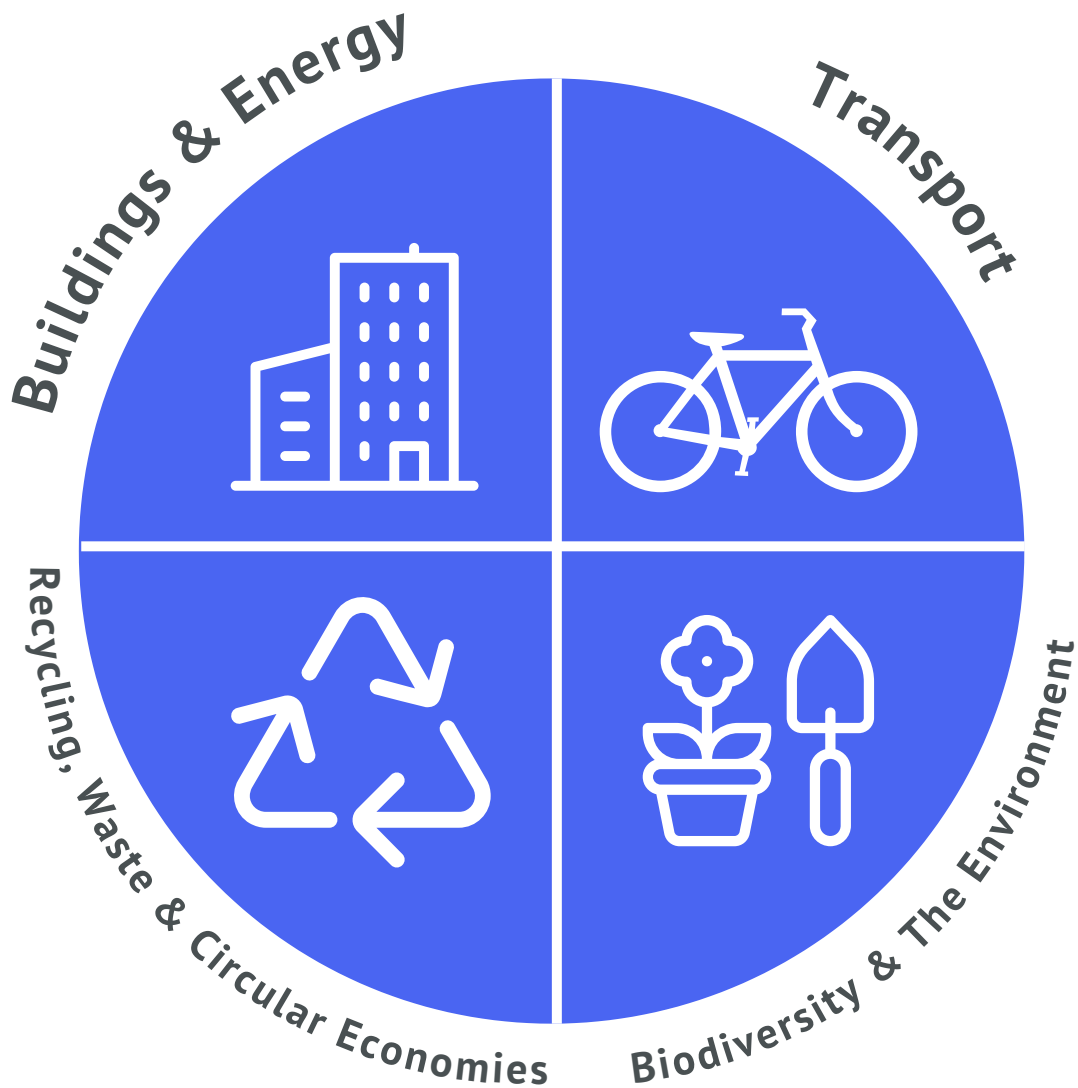
"Our own personal vision as a company to be carbon neutral"  
**Bobtail Fruit**

"The climate crisis and the fact that we actually would like to see the world survive despite everything"  
**Candiero Gelateria**

With a firm understanding of our business community's priorities regarding tackling climate emergency, we are able to tailor our support effectively. This engagement has helped to form the CAP's **Four Key Pillars**.

## 04

## FOUR KEY PILLARS



Our **Four Key Pillars** include three areas of **action, influence and partnership**.

- 1) WeAreWaterloo takes independent **action** directly
- 2) WeAreWaterloo **empowers** BID members to make positive change towards their net zero goals
- 3) WeAreWaterloo must **partner** with local authorities and key community groups to deliver shared objectives

# 05

## OUR VISION STATEMENT

### **Vision**

A net zero carbon Waterloo by 2030, where those who live, work, study and visit Waterloo are able to experience an improved public realm with biodiversity and planting, daily sustainable active transport practices, buildings which run on clean energy and circular economies operate as part of embedded practices.

### **Mission**

Improve Waterloo's air quality, natural environment, resilience to climate change, whilst catalysing business transition to more sustainable and cost effective practices. Our focus is to drive down carbon emissions locally with offsetting as a last resort.



The following pages outline our core goals in relation to the Four Key Pillars.

## 06

## OUR CORE GOALS

**Transport**

Transport creates a quarter of our total emissions locally. Within this key pillar, we will look to support and encourage businesses to prioritise walking, wheeling and cycling. To achieve this, we will subsidise the use of services which support active transport and improve the public realm to make Waterloo a safer place to walk, wheel and cycle.

**We Will:**

- **Support those travelling to and from Waterloo by bike by offering free bike maintenance sessions, subsidised secure on street storage, bike marking kits and by installing tools and pumps on all new and existing pocket parks**
- **Provide a subsidy for all businesses that switch to using cargo bikes for deliveries, collections or pedal-powered passenger services**
- **Provide practical guidance and support to allow businesses to consolidate freight with a goal of achieving zero emissions by 2030**
- **Provide support and guidance to encourage businesses and their staff to make better use of sustainable active transport methods**
- ★ **Work with partners to create robust, functional and inviting infrastructure that supports an increase of walking, wheeling and cycling throughout Waterloo**
- ★ **Work with LB Lambeth to support and action their CAP goal to redistribute 25% of kerbside space to community and business uses (e.g. outdoor seating, tree planting, SuDS etc)**
- ★ **Support the implementation of Zero Emissions Zones within LB Lambeth and LB Southwark, including an increase in electric vehicle charge points in appropriate locations**

# 07



## Recycling, Waste & Circular Economies

Our existing partnership with First Mile (free and subsidised recycling for local businesses) is one of the key services that we provide as a BID and exceeds the Mayor of London's recycling rate target of 65% by 2030. However, we need to increase the effectiveness of this service, and reduce the amount of waste generated locally to support Waterloo's transition to net zero. Circular economy principles and practises adapted from other areas of London and major cities, applied in Waterloo will prevent waste going to landfill or incineration.

### We Will:

- **Increase our First Mile waste consolidation points, reducing the number of vehicle trips throughout the area**
- **Continue to increase our total area recycling rate with First Mile by 3% year on year (74% in 22/23)**
- **Create bespoke recycling schemes to allow the reuse of difficult materials, for specific industries**
- **Introduce a Library of Things containing core items essential to our business community and a localised reuse platform where businesses can list items that they no longer need, but could be reused elsewhere**
- **Empower businesses to make sustainable choices that reduce consumption**
- ★ **Introduce and partner with local organisations on schemes to prevent and divert food waste including Too Good To Go, The Felix Project and the Oasis Community Fridge**
- ★ **Work with local partners on community-led initiatives to facilitate repair and reuse workshops**







# 08



## **Biodiversity and the environment**

Over the last four years, WeAreWaterloo has built brand new green spaces in Waterloo year on year. We will continue to build and maintain green infrastructure throughout the area, with a specific focus on sustainable drainage and increasing canopy cover, whilst empowering local businesses to build and maintain their own greenery. This will be achieved through skills-led workshops but also direct support that funds and preserves new green space.

### **We Will:**

-  **Enhance and promote our “greenways” network by creating wildlife corridors and introducing new planting initiatives**
-  **Provide direct support to businesses in applications for grant funding aimed at building and maintaining new green spaces**
-  **Tackle areas of low canopy coverage and high air pollution by introducing trees and planting, with a view to work with local partners to make such changes permanent by embedding green infrastructure in local development plans**
-  **Grow a gardening and volunteer workshop programme to recruit local workers who will look after Waterloo’s green spaces**
-  **Work with local partners to increase the amount of resilient, green coverage by building a significant, new green space in Waterloo each year (supporting LB Lambeth’s ambition to increase green coverage in Lambeth by 15% by 2028) with a priority focus on Waterloo Road, St George’s Circus, Baylis Road, and Lambeth North. Such green coverage will include pocket gardens, parklets, SuDS, trees, outdoor community spaces and planters**
-  **Partner with Eden Caterers and key stakeholders to prioritise the planting and preservation of trees in areas of low canopy coverage**








# 09



## **Buildings and Energy**

Buildings and Energy is the most challenging pillar for WaW to impact directly, and yet a third of all emissions locally derive from commercial and public buildings. We must work closely with our local partners and businesses in order to affect positive change, improve building energy efficiency and transition to more sustainable and localised sources of energy.

### **We Will:**

-  **Conduct a feasibility study of renewable and localised energy sites within Waterloo**
-  **Introduce a preferred energy supplier scheme for renewable energy**
-  **Support all buildings with an Energy Performance Certificate rating of D or lower to retrofit their buildings to achieve an EPC of C or higher by 2028**
-  **Provide education through energy and building audits and direct support to local businesses about the environmental and economic benefits of retrofitting and water efficiency**
-  **Work with LB Lambeth through the Future Neighbourhoods 2030 programme to engage with local organisations, landowners and partners to comprehensively understand Waterloo's built environment emissions and create a prioritised list of costed, local projects to reduce emissions**

## 10

## WAW'S JOURNEY TO NET ZERO

WeAreWaterloo's operations will achieve zero carbon emissions from Scope 1 & Scope 2 sources (direct emissions controlled by WeAreWaterloo) by 2023, and Scope 3 sources (indirect emissions through services procured by WeAreWaterloo) by 2028.



## PLAY YOUR PART

Find out more about WeAreWaterloo's CAP and get involved in the BID's initiatives by emailing **Head of Public Realm, Alex Butt:** [alex@wearewaterloo.co.uk](mailto:alex@wearewaterloo.co.uk).