

Dear Wandsworth Councillor

We are writing to you, and to all Wandsworth Councillors, as residents who are deeply concerned about the climate emergency and its impact on the planet, the UK and the borough where we live, and also as members of Extinction Rebellion Wandsworth.

We could not have been more pleased when Wandsworth Council declared a climate emergency in July 2019, and recognise that, since May 2022, the Council has taken many positive actions in relation to the climate and ecological emergency. However, the pace and breadth of action does not remotely match the urgency of the crisis which now faces us all. We face multiple emergencies, including: the impact on public health of air pollution; too few green spaces, which exacerbates biodiversity loss and poor air quality and disproportionately affects poorer communities; and the imminent threat of extreme weather events with all that entails in terms of food security, its impact on infrastructure, and local biodiversity. Public engagement on all three issues remains low.

In light of this lack of progress, you will find attached our demands in the three areas referred to above, which we believe are reasonable and achievable. Meeting them would signal a renewed commitment on the part of Wandsworth Council to its stated environmental ambition of Wandsworth being 'a community of global citizens living within environmental limits' and which 'places sustainability at the heart of everything it does'. Over the next year we will continuously highlight these three key areas of concern and review the Council's progress against these demands. We ask that they be met in full by 7th May 2026, the date of the next local election. We have no doubt that all the potential for progress outlined in this document could be achieved by that date, with sufficient will on the part of Wandsworth Council, and hope that you will do everything in your power as a representative of the people in this borough to support these goals.

We should stress that our three demands are in no way comprehensive. Housing, for example, accounts for 43% of Wandsworth's carbon emissions, but it is not included because the issues around housing are complex and potential actions very expensive.

As a first step, we would like to request a meeting with Wandsworth Councillors – we'd suggest the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for the Environment – to discuss our demands and how they can be met.

We look forward to sharing the Council's successes with the electorate in the run up to the next election of Wandsworth Councillors in May 2026

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