



**THE  
GLOBAL  
CITY**

# **City of London Corporation** Climate Action Strategy Guide and Glossary





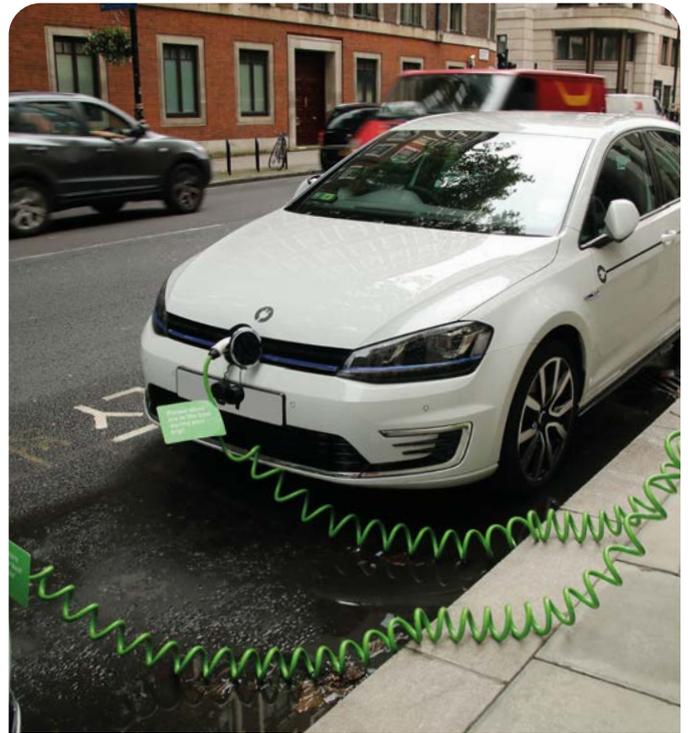
## What is **climate change?**

Describing the science of climate change and action can be complicated. These two articles by the BBC provide an easy-to-understand overview of the processes involved in climate change and the terms used to understand them.

What is Climate change?  
A really simple guide [here](#)

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Climate change: What do all the terms mean?  
[view here](#)



## What is **climate action?**

Goal 13 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals is Climate Action. Goal 13 calls for urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. It is intrinsically linked to all 16 of the other Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To address climate change, 196 parties adopted the Paris Agreement in 2015 to limit global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius.



## What is the **UK Government** doing?

The Climate Change Act 2008 introduced the UK's first legally binding target for 2050 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% compared to 1990 levels. On 27 June 2019, the UK government amended the Climate Change Act and set a legally binding target to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions from across the UK economy by 2050. This world-leading target will bring to an end the UK's contribution to climate change.

More on UK Government action on climate change [here](#)



## What is the **City of London Corporation** doing?

The City of London Corporation adopted its Climate Action Strategy with science-based targets in October 2020. It aims to reduce carbon emissions, build climate resilience, and champion sustainable growth.

### **Through the strategy, the City Corporation commits to achieving:**

- Net zero by 2027 in the City Corporation's operations
- Net zero by 2040 across the City Corporation's full value chain
- Net zero by 2040 in the Square Mile
- Climate resilience in our buildings, public spaces and infrastructure

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**Climate resilience in our buildings, public spaces and infrastructure**

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## What do these **targets mean?**



**Operations** refers to the 650 sites, owned and operated by the City Corporation, which include offices, residential housing, open spaces, schools and markets.



**Full value chain** refers to the City Corporation's investments, tenanted properties, purchased goods and services, and capital assets.



**Square Mile** refers to the City of London which is London's financial district. It is the ancient core from which the rest of London developed. It has been a centre for settlement, trade, commerce and ceremony since the Roman period. In just 1.12 square miles, the City of London counts around 8,000 residents, 513,000 daily commuters and 10m annual visitors. The City of London boundaries stretch from Temple to the Tower of London, on the River Thames including, from west to east Chancery Lane and Liverpool Street.



**Net zero emissions** are achieved when emissions of greenhouse gases caused by human activity to the atmosphere are balanced by removals by human activity over a specified period



**Climate resilience** is the ability to prepare for, recover from and adapt to the impacts of climate change. For the City this will mean hotter drier summers, warmer wetter winters, more extreme weather events and sea level rise.



## What is **being measured?**



### GHGs

Are greenhouse gases, the emissions responsible for global warming. These include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and fluorinated gases amongst others.



### ktCO<sub>2</sub>

Is the unit of measurement for GHG emissions. It standardises greenhouse gases into units of kilo-tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (ktCO<sub>2</sub>e).



# How can an organisation group its emissions in order to understand and reduce them?



*Grouping emissions into common types or 'scopes' helps an organisation such as a local authority to understand which areas result in highest levels emissions. Targeting these areas will result in the most effective reduction of emissions. Using scopes also ensures a common language to compare data and results across all areas of climate action.*

**Scope 1** means emissions from activities owned or controlled by an organisation that release emissions into the atmosphere. They are direct emissions. Examples of scope 1 emissions include emissions from combustion in owned or controlled boilers, furnaces, vehicles, emissions from chemical production in owned or controlled process equipment.

**Scope 2** means emissions released into the atmosphere associated with consumption of purchased electricity, heat, steam and cooling. These are indirect emissions that are a consequence of the organisation's activities, but which occur at sources not owned or controlled by the organisation.

**Scope 3** means emissions that are a consequence of an organisation's actions, which occur at sources which not owned or controlled by the organisation and which are not classed as scope 2 emissions. These are also indirect emissions. Examples of scope 3 emissions are purchased goods and services and financial investments.

**Science-based** - GHG emissions reduction targets are considered "science-based" if they are in line with what the latest climate science says is necessary to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement (2015); to limit global warming to well-below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C.

## How can emissions for a city be grouped in order to understand and reduce them?



A similar approach can be taken to grouping a city's emissions to those within an organisation, recognising that the sources of emissions and their control may belong to multiple owners and operators.

**Scope 1** means GHG emissions from sources located within the city boundary

**Scope 2** means GHG emissions occurring because of the use of grid-supplied electricity, heat, steam and/or cooling within the city boundary

**Scope 3** means all other GHG emissions that occur outside the city boundary because of activities taking place within the city boundary.

**BASIC** and **BASIC+** are two terms used by cities when describing the emissions included when reporting greenhouse gases resulting from a city's activities.

**BASIC** focuses on reporting emissions within the city's geographical perimeter from stationary sources like buildings that burn gas and other fuels for energy, and mobile sources, such as petrol and diesel used to power vehicles. It also includes purchased energy like electricity.

**BASIC+** which the City Corporation uses, also includes other emissions that are caused by the city but occur outside it, such as business travel and emissions from those travelling into and out of the city (such as from visitors and commuting). **BASIC+** also goes further to capture emissions from industrial, agricultural forestry and land use emissions.

## What actions are planned to reach these goals?

The City Corporation's Climate Action Strategy sets out the actions that will have the biggest positive impact in reducing carbon emissions and ensuring climate resilience. Listed here are some technical terms grouped around subject area and in alphabetical order:

*The City Corporation is developing areas of meadow and wood pasture within our Open Spaces in place of arable farmland to aid removal of carbon from the atmosphere. This will increase biodiversity and resilience to climate change.*



**Biodiversity** refers to the variety of plants and animals and other living things in a particular area or region. It includes habitat diversity, species diversity and genetic diversity. Biodiversity has its own value and has social and economic value for human society.



**Carbon sequestration** is the process by which a carbon sink, such as forestry, reduces the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.



**Ecosystem services** are benefits to humans from the natural environment and from healthy ecosystems.



**Wood pasture** and parkland refers to land that has been managed through grazing.

*The City Corporation is reducing carbon emissions and increasing resilience across its property portfolio. Our approach will inform planning guidance for major City developments.*



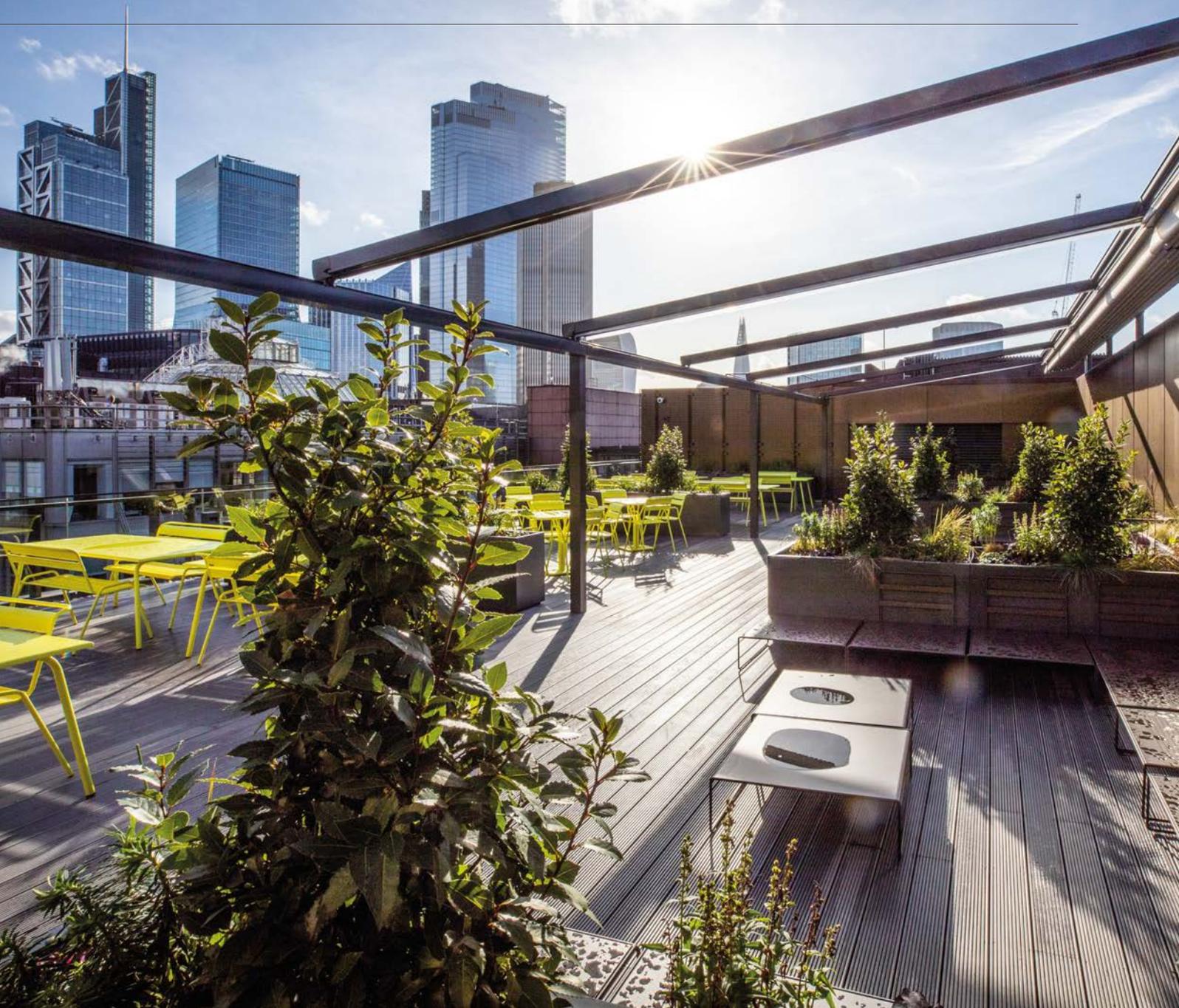
**BREEAM** (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) is a sustainability assessment method for planning projects, infrastructure and buildings. It assesses an asset's environmental, social and economic sustainability performance.



**Circular economy** refers to an economy which keeps resources in use for as long as possible, extracting the maximum value from them whilst in use, then recovering and regenerating products and materials at the end of each service life.



**Embodied carbon** is the carbon footprint of a material. It considers how many greenhouse gases (GHGs) are released throughout the supply chain and is often measured from cradle to (factory) gate, or cradle to site (of use).



**EPC** (Energy Performance Certificate) is a certificate that shows how energy-efficient a property is. The document includes estimated energy costs, as well as a summary of energy performance-related features.



**Hard FM** refers to Hard Facilities Management. These are the physical materials of a building such as lighting and heating.



**NABERS** (National Australian Built Environment Rating System) is an approach used to measure a building's energy efficiency, carbon emissions, the water consumed and the waste produced and compare it to similar buildings.



*Through our resilience projects, the City Corporation will install measures to cool, green and manage surface and flood water in the public realm.*



**Green corridors** are almost continuous areas of open space which are linked. They can act as wildlife corridors and serve amenity, landscape and access routes.



**Green infrastructure** is a strategically planned, designed and managed network of green spaces and other features vital to the sustainability of any urban area. This includes trees, green roofs, green walls and green corridors.



**Urban greening** is a process for delivering additional green infrastructure in the City of London. Due to the morphology and density of the built environment in the City, green roofs, green or living walls, street trees, and techniques such as soft landscaping, are the most appropriate elements of green infrastructure.



**Urban Greening Factor** refers to a model to assist boroughs and developers in determining the appropriate provision of urban greening for new developments.



**SUDS** (Sustainable Drainage Systems) are a range of sustainable measures for surface water management which reduce the amount, flow or rate of surface water discharge into sewers.

*The City Corporation will work together with our suppliers of good and services, to set targets to reduce emissions and increase resilience through sourcing and production.*



**KPIs** (Key Performance Indicators) are measures used in project and contract management. KPIs are usually quantifiable giving an indication that something is or is not going well.



**WLC** (Whole Life Costing) means measuring the cost of an asset over its entire life including maintenance, repair, operational cost and potential disposal cost.



*The City Corporation will target small businesses based in the Square Mile to reach net zero by 2040.*



**SMEs** are small and medium-sized enterprises. The City Corporation has partnered with Heart of the City to provide tailored support for SMEs to develop climate plans.



## About the Global City campaign:

The Global City campaign is The City of London Corporation's overarching initiative to promote the UK as a world-leading international financial centre. It showcases the UK as a great place for financial and professional services firms to invest, locate and grow.

[theglobalcity.uk](http://theglobalcity.uk)



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## About the City of London Corporation:

The City of London Corporation is the governing body of the Square Mile dedicated to a vibrant and thriving City, supporting a diverse and sustainable London within a globally successful UK.

We aim to:

- Contribute to a flourishing society
- Support a thriving economy
- Shape outstanding environments

By strengthening the connections, capacity and character of the City, London and the UK for the benefit of people who live, work and visit here.

[www.cityoflondon.gov.uk](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk)