

# **Ealing Council's draft climate adaptation and resilience strategy 2026-2038**

## **Short summary**

# Why do we need this strategy?

## A changing climate, a shared challenge

The borough is already feeling the effects of climate change. Floods, heatwaves, and storms are becoming more frequent and more intense.

Even if global emissions stopped today, these impacts will continue for decades. That means we must adapt how we live, work, and build our borough to stay safe and healthy.

This draft strategy sets out how Ealing Council, local organisations, businesses, and residents can work together to build a borough that is ready for these impacts, and becomes more equal at the same time.

It focuses on protecting the most vulnerable people and places, and making sure everyone benefits from the changes we make.

## Why this matters for everyone

Everyone will be impacted by climate change including through travel disruptions, higher food prices and periods of considerable discomfort. But for some people climate change poses a serious threat to health, particularly for the elderly and those with pre-existing physical and mental health conditions.

The strategy outlines the opportunity to create a more equal borough by building climate resilience.

- **Everyone is affected**, but not equally. People with lower incomes, elderly adults, children, and those with health conditions are more at risk.
- **Climate change worsens inequality**. Poor housing, lack of green space, and limited access to support make some areas more vulnerable.
- **Adapting well helps everyone**. It improves health, saves money, creates jobs, and builds stronger neighbourhoods.

# What are we trying to achieve?

We want to be ready for extreme weather and long-term changes in our environment. We want to make the borough more equal as we do this. Actions include:

- Making homes and public spaces more comfortable during heatwaves.

- Reducing flood risk through clever drainage and green spaces, reducing hard surfaces including on private property
- Helping community groups, faith groups and others support the most affected people to stay healthy and safe
- Creating good jobs and stronger communities through climate action.

### **Building a fairer borough**

A climate-resilient borough is also a fairer, greener, and healthier borough. By focusing on the people and places most affected, we can:

- Improve housing and health.
- Create safer, greener streets.
- Make sure everyone has a voice in shaping the future.

### **What we need to do**

The draft strategy sets out a 12-year action plan with practical steps to help people and places adapt, showing how buildings, communities, neighbourhoods, and the wider borough can become ready for a changing climate.

Many actions will be led by professionals such as housing providers, developers, and public bodies, but there are ways for everyone to play a role. Below are example actions for different stakeholders to take, categorised according to the benefits they can bring:

#### **1. Healthier lives**

- Train health and care professionals on climate-related health risks. For example, the difference between a 22 degree day and a 32 degree day is a doubling in the risk of suicide.
- Raise community awareness of climate-health impacts through local champions.
- Expand access to green spaces and tree canopy in heat-vulnerable areas.

#### **2. Comfortable spaces**

- Share guidance on how to keep homes cool during the summer and warm during the winter; support cooler community spaces to welcome people during heatwaves. For example, things many people learned growing up, like opening a window, actually make places hotter during more severe heatwaves.

- Ensure new buildings and public spaces are built for year-round comfort.

### 3. Greener borough

- Maintain and enhance existing green spaces
- Avoid paving over front gardens, keeping them beautiful and green to make cooler streets that also reduce flood risk
- Implement nature-based solutions like rain gardens and green roofs

### 4. Financial resilience

- If you are an organisation or business, ensure you have a plan to keep operations running during severe weather to avoid financial losses
- Adapt infrastructure to reduce damage from flood and heat
- Use natural instead of energy-hungry methods for cooling where possible

### 5. Good jobs

- Promote green skills training
- Embed learning opportunities for young people in adaptation projects
- Maximise opportunities for adaptation innovation

### 6. Social connection

- Facilitate buddy schemes for vulnerable residents during extreme weather.
- Support community-led greening and food-growing projects.
- Develop community resilience plans in high-risk areas.

## How can we mobilise collective action?

### Creating a climate resilient borough

We want to make it easy for communities and council partners to become involved in building a more resilient borough. People can read the action plan in the draft strategy for ideas on what to do. Additionally, the council will convene stakeholders to share resources, best practice, and solutions.

We will use an evidence-based and inclusive approach to:

1. **Inspire** – engage and communicate
2. **Enable** – remove barriers
3. **Mobilise** – work and partner with others