

There is a wide range of sustainability information available online, a few key websites are listed below.

[Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs \(Defra\)](http://www.defra.gov.uk) is responsible for embedding, monitoring & reporting on sustainable development across the UK. Their website is very useful and gives examples of a number of case studies to learn from.

www.defra.gov.uk

www.sustainable-development.gov.uk

Securing the Future—UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy

www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/publications/uk-strategy/index.htm

The **London Sustainable Development Commission** was established in 2002 to develop sustainability in London. It has developed a number of policies & projects to further sustainability and support London-wide and local initiatives. More information can be found on their website:

www.londonsdc.org

The UK Sustainable Development Commission is the Government's independent watchdog on sustainable development.

www.sd-commission.org.uk

The Mayor has launched a **DIY Planet Repairs** campaign that you may have seen advertised throughout London. The website below offers lots of practical information as well as a link to the Carbon Calculator which allows you to measure your carbon emissions and personal impact on the environment

www.london.gov.uk/diy

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BRENT Sustainability FORUM

A Guide to Working Together Towards a Sustainable Brent



What is Sustainability?

The idea that we should live “sustainably” has become a common notion in current affairs. But what does it mean?

It is a term that encompasses many meanings and has been widely interpreted. Although no one consensus on the definition has been reached, it is generally associated to sustainable development, which has been described as:

“development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

(Gro Harlem, Brundtland, 1984)

Sustainability represents both a challenge and an opportunity. A challenge in that sustainability and climate change are redefining how Governments, Councils, businesses and communities function. An opportunity as this allows all involved to take hold of this growing momentum and provide leadership and inspiration to others.

How can I find out more?

This forum will be facilitated by Brent Council’s **Environmental Projects & Policy Team**. This is a recently established team that aims to work alongside Brent’s community & interest groups to take sustainability forward. This team aims to support the establishment of the Forum thus enabling all members to become as fully involved as possible.

For any further information please contact:

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Website: www.brent.gov.uk/greenbrent.nsf

Brent Council’s Carbon Management Strategy and Implementation Plan 2006–2011 is a key document for building a better, more sustainable borough.

This document can be found on the Brent Council website and by searching for ‘Carbon Management’

www.brent.gov.uk

Why Join?

Membership to the Sustainability Forum is voluntary and the success of the group will partially depend on the involvement and participation of a wide range of groups and organisations. The forum will provide and encourage the development of a sustainable network for individuals and groups alike to flourish

A sustainable Brent is a more able Brent, a Brent that can deal with the changes that are happening around us and will enable Brent to prosper and thrive into the future.

What is this Forum for?

The ambition of this Forum is to bring together the vast array of sustainability based projects, initiatives and efforts that are taking place in the borough of Brent and concentrate efforts.

The Forum would provide the support network to assist businesses, community groups and individuals that are either currently taking action, would like to take action or feel they have a role to play in driving sustainability forward in Brent.

The key focus will be to;

- Bring forward experiences, both good and bad
- Share knowledge & information
- Meet other like minded individuals, organisations and businesses
- Encourage best practice and share lessons learnt
- Discuss barriers or problems that need to be overcome
- Investigate opportunities and support to take forward ideas & projects

Who is this Forum for?

This Forum is for everyone who lives, works or has links within the borough of Brent. The Forum aims to be a meeting place for all public, private, community, voluntary groups & individuals. The interest in sustainability may not be direct but all sectors of society are linked to the sustainability principles.

If you are a:

- Business in Brent
- Organisation based or with activity in Brent
- Community group
- Voluntary group
- Resident of Brent
- or just interested in sustainability issues

Then this Forum is for you!

How would this Forum work?

How would you like this forum to work?

It is envisaged that this Forum would be a formal group, run by a core or executive group. Depending on membership and the needs of the group, smaller more focused sub-groups or theme groups could be formed to tackle more specific areas.

This forum is intended to provide easy and accessible information to interested parties. Whether this information be in the form of technical workshops, promotional and awareness raising events, live internet forums or an online environment one stop shop, the extent of possibilities are up to the members of the forum.

One of the first roles of the group would be to establish the ground rules for the Forum, this would involve the development of the Terms of Reference to ensure the successful coordination of the Forum.

Whilst this Forum may not be able to provide everything that is requested, it is hoped that this Forum will be able to provide the linkages required to ensure that we have a cohesive approach to building a better borough.