

Brent Climate Adaptation and Resilience Framework



Easy read



Brent

London Borough of Brent

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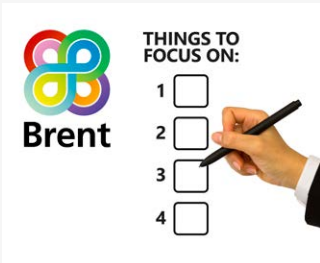
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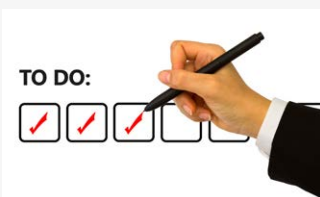
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1 Why do we need this Framework?



Climate change is making the weather more extreme and unpredictable.



This affects us here in Brent.

We need to prepare so that our people and places stay safe and healthy.



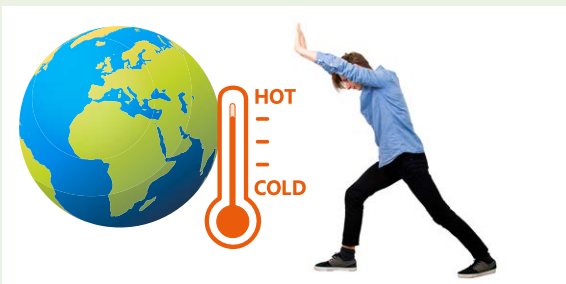
This framework explains how Brent Council will help the borough get ready.

2

What is 'Adaptation and Resilience'?



Adaptation means getting ready for the effects of climate change.



Resilience means being able to cope with...



...and recover from climate problems.



Adaptation and resilience help protect homes, services, businesses, nature and communities.

3

How will climate change affect Brent?



Climate change means Brent will have:

- more heavy rain and flooding, especially in winter,



- hotter and longer heatwaves, which happen more often,
- drier summers,



- and more extreme weather that can change suddenly and be hard to predict.



Brent is a busy part of London with lots of buildings, roads, and people.



This can make the effects of hot weather and heavy rain worse.



Our population is also growing, which means more people need water, cool places, and safe homes.

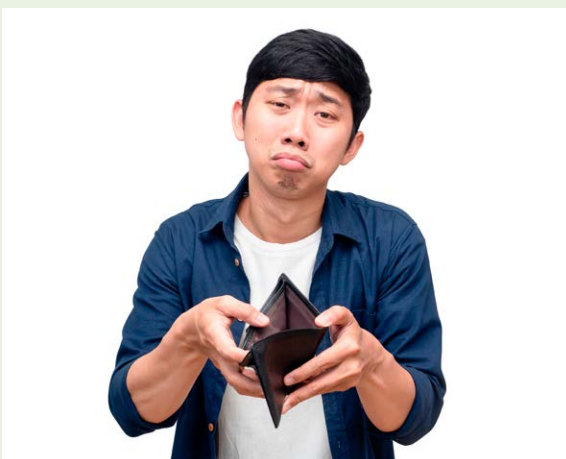
4 Who is most affected?



Some people will be more affected by climate change than others.



Older people, young children, and people with health problems often need extra help.



People with less money, or who live in crowded homes, may find it harder to cope.



People who live in areas with fewer trees or parks may also be affected more.



Some people face extra challenges, like not speaking English well, or not being able to use the internet.

These things can make it harder to get help during emergencies.



People who face several of these challenges may need the most help.

5 The Key Climate Risks



Brent faces many risks from climate change. The main ones we want to address are:

- **Flooding**



- **Extreme heat**



- **Drought and water shortages**

There are also **other risks** that are more unpredictable or less direct.

Flooding

What is flooding and why does it matter?



Climate change is likely to bring heavier rain here in Brent.



Heavy rain can cause flooding, especially in areas with lots of concrete and not enough plants and trees.



Brent has had serious floods in the past, and they are likely to happen more often in future.

Flooding

What are the impacts of flooding?



There are different types of flooding, including:

- from rain,
- from rivers,
- and from underground water rising.



Flooding can damage homes, roads, hospitals, schools and businesses.

It can also affect people's health and mental wellbeing.



Nature can suffer too, with some plants and animals struggling to survive in very wet conditions.

Flooding

What can you do to help?



Keep drains and gutters clear so rainwater can flow away.



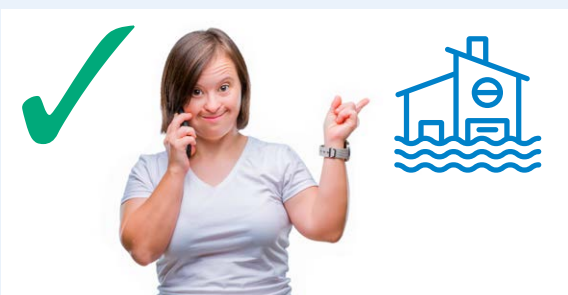
Use a water butt to collect rainwater for your garden.



Plant trees and flowers to soak up water.



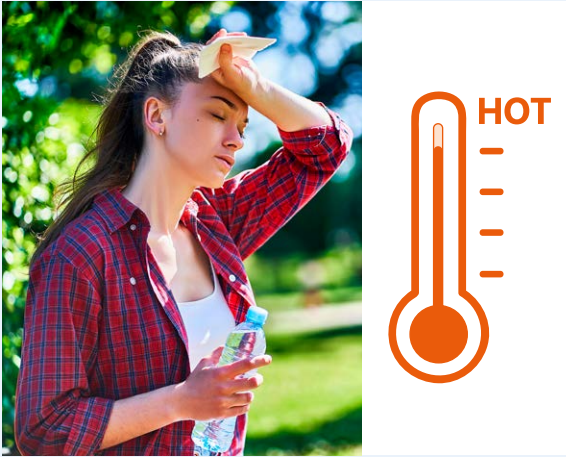
Use gravel or decking instead of concrete in your garden.



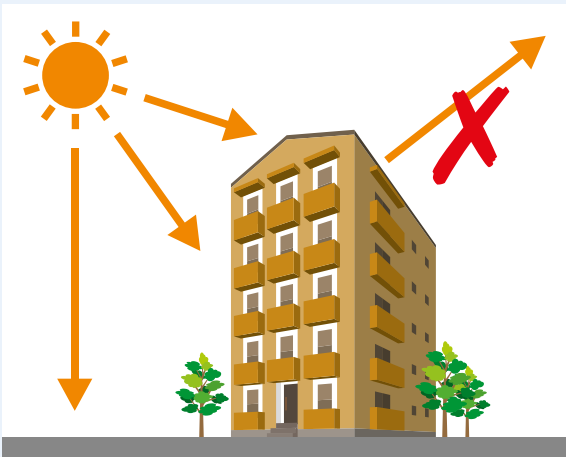
Report blocked drains to Brent Council. If you see flooding, call Floodline on **0345 988 1188**.

Extreme heat

What is extreme heat and why does it matter?



Extreme heat is one of the main climate problems facing Brent.



Brent gets very hot in summer because buildings and roads trap heat.



Heatwaves are becoming more common because of climate change and can be dangerous for people and nature.

Extreme heat

What are the impacts of extreme heat?



Heat can cause health problems like dehydration, heatstroke, and poor sleep.



It can also damage roads, railways, and power supplies, and make it harder for businesses to keep workers safe.



Parks and green spaces can dry out, and wildfires may happen.

Extreme heat

What can you do to help?



Keep blinds closed during the day to block out heat...



...and open windows at night when it's cooler.



Plant trees and flowers in your garden or use light-coloured paint on the outside of your house or on your roof. This helps cool your home and environment.



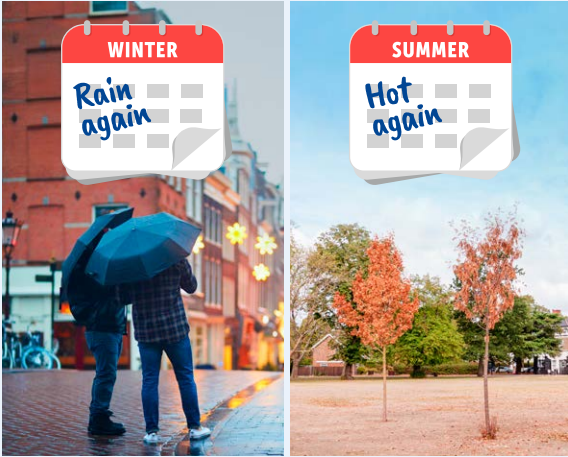
Join a local gardening project to help green your area.



If you are a business or organisation, see if you can register your building as a 'cool space' – a place where people can go to cool down.

Drought and water shortages

What is drought and why does it matter?



Winters in Brent are getting wetter, but summers are becoming drier.



London's water supply is already under pressure. If we have an unusually dry year, there might be less water to go around.



This can lead to drought, making it harder for people, plants, and animals to get the water they need.

Drought and water shortages

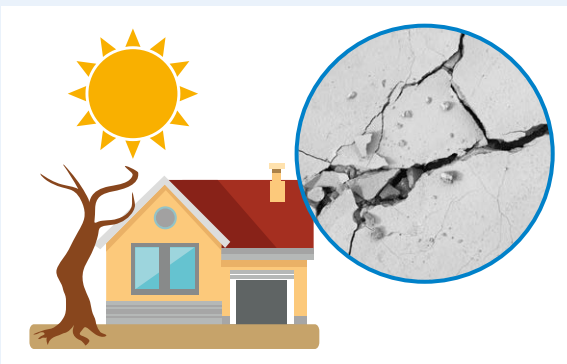
What are the impacts of drought?



Drought can affect hygiene, health, and food supply.



Businesses that use a lot of water may struggle to stay open.



It can damage buildings and roads by drying out the ground and leading to cracks or other problems.



Parks and rivers may dry up, harming plants and animals.

Drought and water shortages

What can you do to help?



Collect rainwater in a water butt and reuse water from cooking or washing to water plants.



Only run your washing machine when it's full.



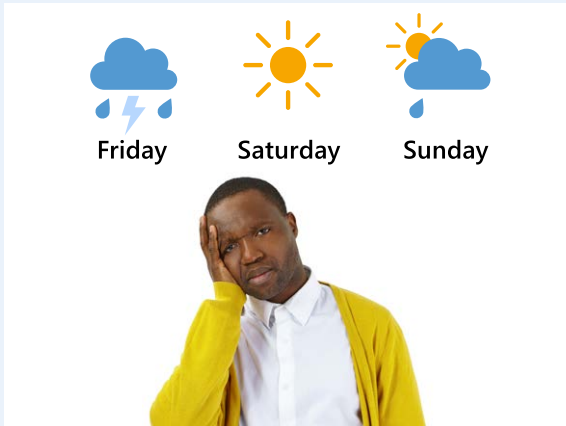
Take shorter showers to save water.



See if you can get a water meter to track your usage.

Other climate risks

Surprising weather and extra problems



The weather can still surprise us. Cold snaps, storms and other extreme weather may still happen. These affect people's health and wellbeing.



Sometimes one problem can cause another. For example:

- a heatwave might lead to power cuts,
- and make pollution worse,
- and affect hospitals.



Brent needs to plan for these kinds of risks, even if they are harder to predict.

Other climate risks

...continued



Climate change in other parts of the world can also affect Brent.



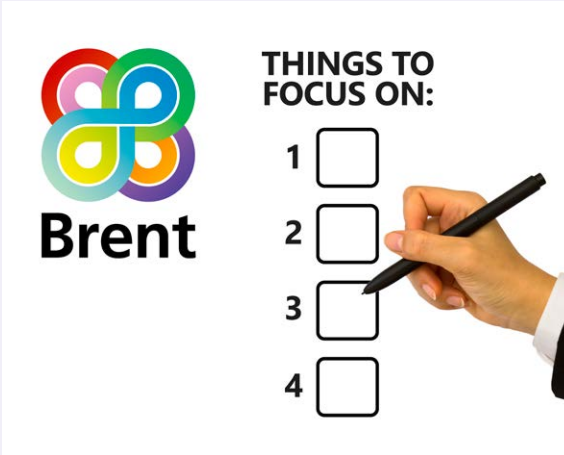
Some people may have to move here because of climate disasters.

That means more people might need homes, schools, and healthcare in Brent.



Food shortages or higher energy prices in other places can make life harder for people in Brent.

6 Our Main Priorities



Brent has **four main priorities** to help everyone deal with climate change.

These are the most important long-term things we need to focus on.



We developed these priorities by listening to experts and following the most recent guidance and information.



How these priorities will look in real life will be shaped by listening to local people and working with communities.

Priority 1

Supporting People & Communities

THINGS TO
FOCUS ON:

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4



We want everyone in Brent to be safe and healthy during extreme weather. Some people need more help than others.



We want to share clear advice and information so everyone knows what to do in hot weather, floods, or other emergencies.



We will also work with schools, community groups, and local businesses to help them get ready for climate change.



We will focus on supporting people who are most at risk.

Priority 2

Making Homes & Buildings Safer

THINGS TO
FOCUS ON:

1

2

3

4



Homes and buildings need to be ready for more heat, floods, and dry weather. We want to make sure everyone has a safe place to live and work.



We want to improve homes and buildings, so they stay cooler in summer and are protected from floods.

We also want new buildings to be designed with climate change in mind.



We will work with our partners to help keep roads, railways, and utilities working during extreme weather.

Priority 3

Protecting Nature & Green Spaces

THINGS TO
FOCUS ON:

1

2

3

4



Trees, parks, and green spaces help keep Brent cool and healthy. They also give people and wildlife places to enjoy.



We want to plant more trees and create more green spaces, especially where they are needed most.



We also need to look after parks and nature so they can cope better with floods and heatwaves.

Priority 4

Making Council Services Ready

THINGS TO
FOCUS ON:

1

2

3

4



Brent Council needs to be ready for the changes ahead.

This means planning for emergencies and making good decisions for the future.



We want to train council teams to understand climate risks and plan for emergencies.

We will also work with other organisations to make sure Brent is prepared for big changes.



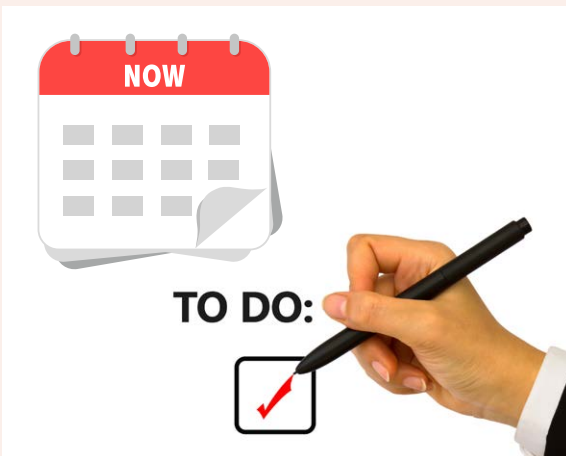
We will think about climate risks when we make decisions and future plans.

7

How will we deliver these priorities?



We have told you about our **four big priorities**. Now we will show you what actions we will take to make them happen.



Some actions start now...

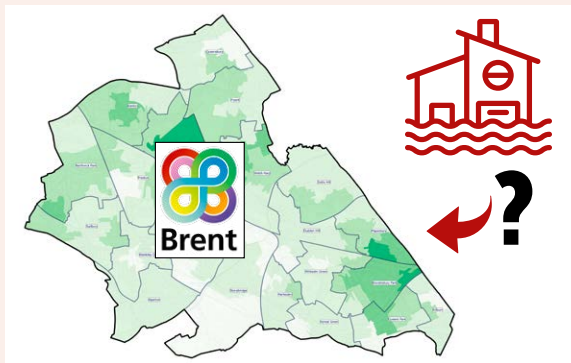


...and others will need to happen later, but these need more money and support.

On the next few pages are some examples of what we want to do.

Supporting People & Communities

What will we do now?



Study which neighbourhoods are most at risk from heat and flooding.



Support a new Community Flood Action Group in Kilburn.



Share advice to help people stay safe in hot weather and floods.



Find and promote more 'cool spaces.'

Supporting People & Communities

What will we try to do next/later?



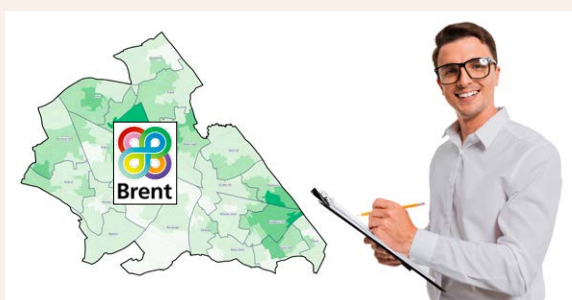
Train local groups and volunteers to prepare for extreme weather.



Create more cool spaces.



Help schools, businesses and organisations to plan for heat and floods.



Make a borough-wide plan.



Set up a fund for community projects.

Making Homes & Buildings Safer

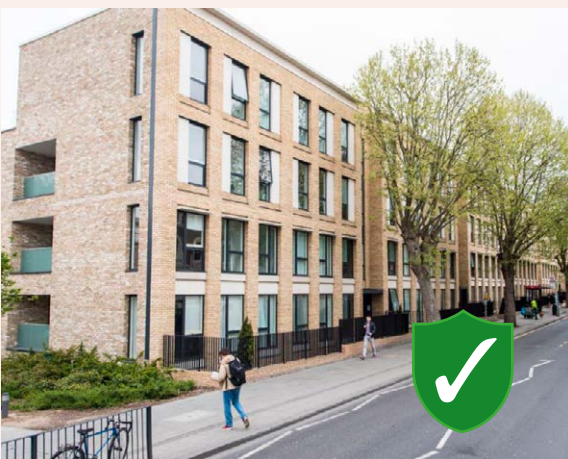
What will we do now?



Explore how to make homes safer from heat and floods when we improve them.



Check which care homes are most at risk of overheating.



Look to include climate resilience in new building plans, for example in South Kilburn.

Making Homes & Buildings Safer

What will we try to do next/later?



Test 'Climate Resilient Streets' with shade and better drainage.



Improve council homes and buildings so they are prepared for extreme weather and don't overheat or flood.



Build all new homes and roads to be ready for future climate risks.

Protecting Nature & Green Spaces

What will we do now?



Keep planting trees and improving parks.



Plan new projects that help nature soak up rainwater and look for funding.



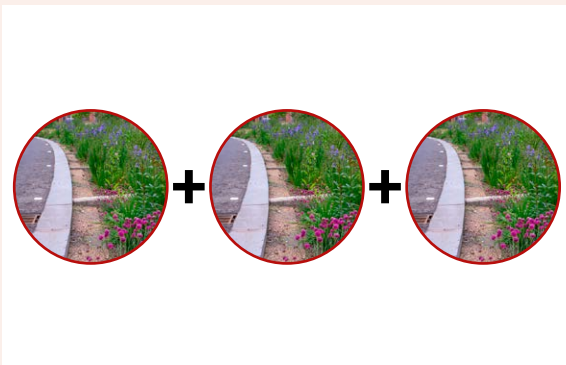
Support local gardening and greening projects.

Protecting Nature & Green Spaces

What will we try to do next/later?



Link parks and green spaces to make a big green network.



Do more nature projects that help soak up rainwater across the borough.



Make sure all new big building and street projects include nature and green space like trees for shade or green walls and roofs.



Support and train local people to look after green spaces.

Making Council Services Ready

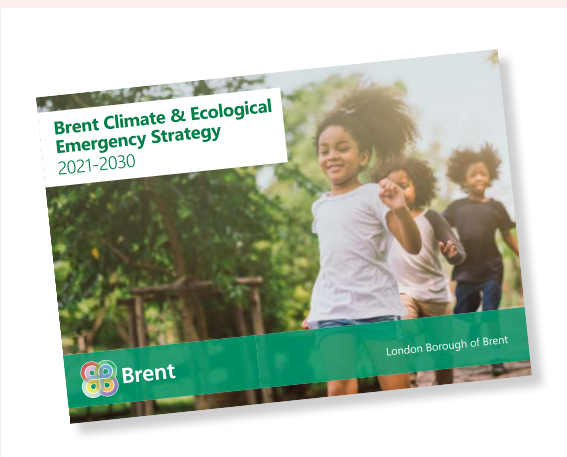
What will we do now?



Run a big practice exercise to test how council services cope with extreme weather.



Set up a working group to make sure climate risks are part of all council plans and to support each other.



Add this plan into the council's wider climate programme so everyone works together.

Making Council Services Ready

What will we try to do next/later?



Add climate resilience to all council plans and decisions.

Make climate safety part of buying, planning, and managing council services.



Work with other councils, local organisations, and government to get more funding and prepare together.



Create a big partnership with health, housing, and businesses to help Brent prepare for climate change.

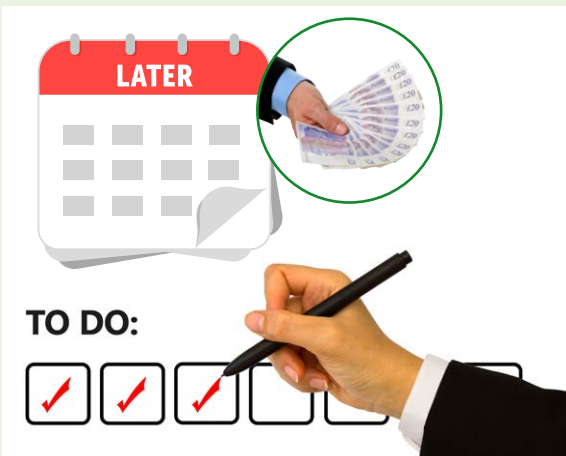


Make a long-term funding and spending plan.

8 What happens next?



We will start with actions we can do now.



Add more actions if we get more funding.

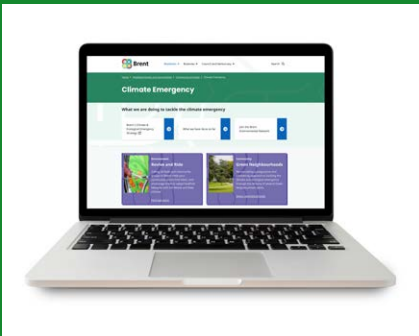


Keep learning and update the plan as things change.

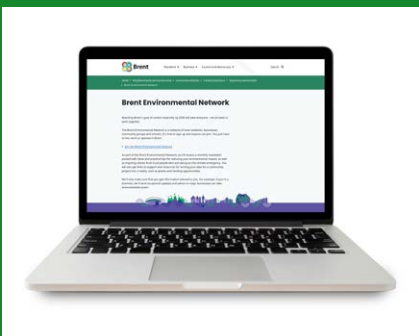
For more information



For more information about this plan,
please send an email to:
climateemergency@brent.gov.uk



Or to learn about our wider work on
climate change, please visit our website:
www.brent.gov.uk/climateemergency



Or join the Brent Environmental
Network by visiting:
<http://bit.ly/4gjG0UZ>