

# Camden Climate Alliance

## ANNUAL REPORT 2023



# 2023 – A SNAPSHOT

The Camden Climate Alliance (CCA) has continued to evolve throughout the post-pandemic era with an increased focus on collaborating with community and project delivery support for businesses, helping to drive practical solutions for a sustainable Camden.

Two key programme areas continue to be of great importance to the work of the Alliance: **enabling decarbonisation efforts** and **empowering local action**.

Energy data from the CCA's 2023 carbon footprint has highlighted continued progress with **84 per cent** of reporting members decreasing their emissions, up from 52 per cent the year previous. The average reduction of members remains steady but has slowed to 15 per cent this year.

The Mayor of London's Business Climate Challenge (BCC) supported **46** Camden businesses with free energy efficiency support. Analysis of 22 participating businesses with more than 9 months of comparable data from 2022 and 2023, found **9 achieved energy reductions**. Increased activity in sectors such as hospitality, culture, and office working post-pandemic may have impacted overall energy consumption trends for businesses seeing increases which were not accounted for in the final analysis.

To continue this important work the CCA secured £640,789 from the **UK Shared Prosperity Fund** to expand the programme and partner with Brent Council and The Fitzrovia Partnership. The Camden and Brent Business Climate Challenge will support more

than **125 businesses** with **energy audits and trainings**. The mixed results from the BCC analysis and the proportion of emissions which businesses in Camden account for, emphasises the need to take continued action and monitor energy data closely.

The CCA concluded a second round of **Climate Connectors** in 2023 with partners Think and Do and launched a third iteration with Camden Clean Air Initiative in tow. The 2023–24 connectors programme is on track to deliver £20,000 in funding and £15,000 in corporate volunteering for climate projects. [Read more on page 4.](#)

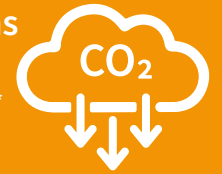


We have been hit by the increased cost of energy – so anything we save has helped us maintain our services and the school. We have tried to limit this impact to services by being more conservative with switching off lights, turning down thermostats, reducing the timer and getting staff ownership of this. I encourage you to get involved, attend CCA events and webinars.

**SANJAY DESANI; The Place**



Borough wide emissions have reduced by 49% from the 2008 baseline\*



\*includes commercial, industrial and public sector e.g. NHS Trusts, universities



**15%** Av. carbon footprint reduction achieved by those who reported

**84% of reporting members have decreased their footprint year on year\***



\*based on a sample of 44 members

**Businesses exceeding the BCC 10% energy reduction target**







Green Dragons Den, April 2023 at Troup Bywaters + Anders



Camden Leaders Summit, March 2023 at 5 Pancras Square



Students pitch at Green Dragons Den, April 2023 at Troup Bywaters + Anders



Camden and Brent Business Climate Challenge launch, Dec 2023 at 5 Pancras Square



BCC Workshop with Shakespeare's Globe, May 2023 at The Wesley



BCC 2022-23 Recognition Event, Nov 2023 at the British Library



# SPOTLIGHTING THE NETWORK

In 2023, schools, businesses, and community partners collaborated on groundbreaking initiatives. We celebrate their achievements in promoting sustainability, reducing emissions, and collectively driving a greener and more connected Camden.

Year 8 students from [La Sainte Union](#) turned their passion for sustainability into a fun, educational board game teaching players about **consumption emissions** and sustainable solutions. They workshopped the idea with [Think and Do Camden](#), who connected them with **on-IDLE** to bring their designs to life. [Phoenix Court](#) funded the **printing of 50 copies** and the game is being played by students all over Camden.

[Gentrack](#), a new addition to the borough in 2023, wasted no time in joining the CCA and locally championing a campaign they were passionate about – **single-use plastic**. With support from Camden Friends of the Earth and Think and Do, they've

rallied **70+ businesses** to pledge their commitment to cut back on plastic waste, by engaging proprietors, consumers, and employees to act. Owing to a first wave of success, plan to revisit this campaign for [Plastic Free July](#) in 2024.

[Troup Bywaters + Anders](#) (TB+A) developed the “**Sustainability Superheroes**” presentation to inspire primary school children about sustainable building design. The interactive story, created with teachers and a creative agency, highlights the teamwork and collaboration required to create eco-friendly structures, the importance of **sustainability and STEAM careers** within the construction industry. After great success in Camden, TB+A is **expanding** the program across the UK.

[Doughty Street Chambers](#), a participant on the BCC 22–23 installed **96 solar panels** in November across their 4 premises in Doughty Street, with support of a **£10,000** business grant from the Camden Climate Fund. The system is expected to generate approx. **35,000 kWh** per year, with a carbon saving of 3.5t per year, generating savings of £27,479 over three years.

[Anthesis](#), eager to make their mark since becoming a member in 2023, hit the ground running with a team of **40 volunteers** to help transform [Collective Infants School](#). The team repurposed materials and built planters, planted **over 90 variations** of plants, and crafted colourful bird boxes, to prepare for the reopening of the school as a climate-tech hub.

[BMA House](#)' 2023 renovation of its iconic Great Hall prioritised sustainability. The project minimised waste by deconstructing the old carpet and **recycling the yarns** for new products and donating existing chairs to [Business2Schools](#). Their holistic approach continues to win the venue a suite of [sustainability accolades](#).



# 2024 – ACCELERATING ACTION

The CCA has already been making great strides in 2024, and we're excited to continue to support and watch the network thrive. Here are a few highlights of what we're looking forward to delivering over the course of the next year:

**Continued support for businesses from the Mayor of London's Business Climate Challenge (BCC):** Monitor progress and support businesses with funding opportunities to deliver retrofit upgrades to their workplaces so savings and emissions reduction can be further realised over the coming years.

**Camden and Brent Business Climate Challenge:** Continue to support more than 200 businesses through a combination of energy audits, 1:1 support from consultants WSP and Turner & Townsend and access to an energy management dashboard, fostering a long-term approach to decarbonising workplaces.

**Green Dragons Den 2024:** Supporting the 12 primary school projects come to life over the summer term, which received a total of £5900 in funding from local businesses. Students pitched their projects to a panel of dragons at Collective Infant School in March 2024. [Watch highlights from the day here.](#)

**Business Sustainability Series:** Rollout a dedicated training series aimed at equipping businesses in the climate space with the tools and knowledge to understand energy management and its links to behaviour change, carbon literacy, and sustainability communication.

**Climate Friendly Schools:** We've partnered with Arup as part of the pioneering [Somers Town Future Neighbourhood 2030](#) to develop climate adaptation plans for four schools, and source funding to support with green infrastructure, shading mechanisms and sustainable drainage systems.

**Shaping the New Climate Action Plan:** Contributing to the development of Camden's new [Climate Action Plan](#) 2025–2030 and reaffirming the role required of businesses to reduce the 66% of emissions they are responsible for.

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The conversations we had during the BCC site audit helped us understand quick wins which we were able to action immediately. The final report encouraged us to pursue or accelerate certain ideas we had already been discussing and helped hone our thinking to create a long term and ambitious strategy.

**RUTH MARSH**

Head of Sustainability at Sheppard Robson

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Saving energy and money for businesses



# Camden Climate Alliance

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or reach out to us via the details below.

Website: [camdenclimatealliance.org.uk](http://camdenclimatealliance.org.uk)

Email: [climatealliance@camden.gov.uk](mailto:climatealliance@camden.gov.uk)

Twitter: [@camdenclimate](https://twitter.com/camdenclimate)

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**TACKLING THE  
CLIMATE  
CRISIS**